

## **City of Tacoma Special Events Office message to event producers regarding COVID-19**

*To prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in Tacoma and the Puget Sound region, Washington Governor Jay Inslee has issued a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order that bans public gatherings. These suspensions will remain in effect until at least May 4, pending updated public health guidance.*

*Tacoma Venues & Events' top priority is the health and safety of our guests, clients and employees. We will adhere to this mandated order and follow the expert guidance of public health authorities.*

*We are reviewing each scheduled event due to happen in the near future and will provide an update on cancellations or new dates for these events as quickly as possible. To subscribe to weekly updates, [use this link](#).*

The City and Metro Parks are working together to establish helpful communications – along with many other Puget Sound cities. For information about Washington State event expertise, consider contacting [Washington Festivals and Events Association](#). This membership-based program is offering free webinars to regions in Washington State that are affected by the event suspensions.

No one can yet say what size limits or gathering capacities will be set for this summer's events. Smaller events or virtual events may be a short-term answer for some. New best practices are being rolled out weekly.

Events that are considered essential services, such as Farmers Markets, will be required to follow all of the social distancing and sanitization practices set by the Health Department.

This is a highly unusual situation for event producers due to the nature of events: they naturally encourage gathering and close contact with others. In order to serve you better, the City is being flexible about refunding permit application fees during this time. We are gathering information about how to prepare for the short-term future of events. Let us know if there is something you need from us, and we will strive to find answers for you.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance as we all find ways to get through this difficult time.