

## NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade Postponed

In a statement sent by the governor's office, Cuomo said: "I recommended and the parade's leadership agreed to postpone this year's parade due to the high density and the large volume of marchers and spectators who attend."

The parade draws about 250,000 marchers and 1 to 2 million spectators, Cuomo's office said.

A statement sent from Cuomo's office from Sean Lane, parade committee chairman, said the parade would be held at a later date but did not specify when.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in the New York area said in statement Wednesday night that the group was disappointed by the postponement of the March 17 parade, which has important economic consequences, but understood the need to be cautious.

"We certainly appreciate that people's health is concern Number One, and that the decision to postpone the March 17 parade must have been a difficult one," said the statement from country's oldest Irish Catholic fraternal organization. "It is nonetheless important to take note of the economic consequences, as many Irish American small businesses are barely hanging on and the parade is an important event for them. Many cultural non-profits, traditional musicians, Irish dance schools and pipe bands use funds from St. Patrick's Day shows to sustain them."

The possibility that the parade might be canceled first arose on Tuesday, when Cuomo said it was being considered. Mayor Bill de Blasio said later that day no decision had been made, but on Wednesday he said he had "real concerns" about the parade progressing. On Wednesday, Cuomo said canceling the parade "makes sense to me," although the governor wouldn't say who would make the decision to call it off.

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