



ENTERTAINMENT

San Diego Comic-Con 2020 canceled due to coronavirus concerns

The annual nerd-media blowout would have occurred July 22-26



BY **SUSANA POLO**

Apr 17, 2020, 1:21 PM EDT

Susana Polo is a senior entertainment writer at Polygon, with a primary expertise in comic books and a diverse body of work across all other facets of pop culture and genre fare, from *The Lord of the Rings* and *Dune* to *Batman* and *Star Trek*. She...



This article is part of a directory: [Coronavirus is causing huge changes in the comics industry](#) →

← PREVIOUS

Comics will start shipping to shops again on May 20

NEXT →

New DC comic books return to stores on April 28

Comic-Con International, the organizing body of San Diego Comic-Con, announced Friday that the annual media expo will be canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Recognizing that countless attendees save and plan for its conventions each year,” the convention’s statement said, “and how many exhibitors and stakeholders rely upon its events for a major portion of their livelihood, [organizers] had hoped to delay this decision in anticipation that COVID-19 concerns might lessen by summer. Continuous monitoring of health advisories and recent statements by the Governor of California have made it clear that it would not be safe to move forward with plans for this year.”

Organizers plan on San Diego Comic-Con returning on July 22-25, 2021.

According to the statement from organizers, “Individuals who purchased badges for Comic-Con 2020 will have the option to request a refund or transfer their badges to Comic-Con 2021.” Exhibitors who bought space on the convention’s expo floor will be given the same offer of refund or transfer. All badge holders and exhibitors will receive an email with instructions “within the next week.”

Comic-Con International’s decision comes after several other high-profile event postponements and cancellations, including the Game Developers Conference, South by Southwest, and E3. It also came after its home state of California extended its statewide shelter-in-place order through May 3 and further tightened its social-distancing rules.

As recently as April 1, convention organizers tweeted that they were hopeful SDCC would still happen in July:

Eyes turn to SDCC every year as the summer destination where movie and TV studios plug their upcoming genre blockbusters. (Sometimes there's even a little comic-book news, too.) But this year, with TV productions on hold, theaters closed until further notice, and tentpole after tentpole postponed to August at the earliest, studios are tightening their belts.

And while the show wouldn't have opened its doors until July 22, the convention's massive annual housing lottery is usually launched in March or April. During the lottery, attendees queue for the chance to get a reasonably located hotel room, and are also asked to put down a 50% deposit. At the moment, many hotels in San Diego are shuttering due to low occupancy, including the convention center-adjacent Grand Hyatt.

According to the statement from organizers, "In the next few days onPeak, Comic-Con's official hotel affiliate, will be canceling all hotel reservations and refunding all

deposits made through them.” No action will be necessary on the part of those who had already reserved hotel rooms.

2020 is the first time San Diego Comic-Con has missed a year since it was founded as the Golden State Comic Book Convention in 1970.

Note

Coronavirus/COVID-19: What you need to know

The spread of the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19, has unfortunately been characterized by an abundance of misinformation about the virus and xenophobia pertaining to its origins. To help educate our readership, we’ve compiled helpful explanations from our sibling sites The Verge and Vox.com. You can find answers to the most common questions in the links below:

Everything you need to know about the coronavirus

Coronavirus, explained: Evidence-based explanations of the coronavirus crisis

9 questions about the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak, answered



Google is changing how it surfaces content. Prioritize our high-quality guides and industry-leading coverage in search results by [setting Polygon.com as a preferred source](#).

← PREVIOUS

Comics will start shipping to shops again on May 20

≡ ALL

Coronavirus is causing huge changes in the comics industry

NEXT →

New DC comic books return to stores on April 28

Entertainment

Movies

TV



Like



Follow



Share



Add Us

🔥 RECOMMENDED



New DC comic books return to stores on April 28



16 years later, a Let's Play classic returns on Steam with 750K wishlists



The Witcher dev reveals why CD Projekt Red doesn't like doing crossovers in its own games

What To Play

What to Watch

Gaming



Entertainment



Guides



Videos



Polygon.com

Part of the [Valnet Publishing Group](#)

SUBSCRIBE

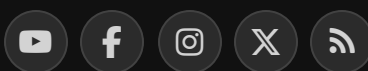
The best of Polygon.com, directly in your inbox.

Email Address



By subscribing, you agree to receive newsletter and marketing emails, and accept our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). You can unsubscribe anytime.

FOLLOW US



ABOUT

[Join Our Team](#) | [About Us](#) | [Press & Events](#) |
[Editorial Ethics and Guidelines](#) |
[Community Guidelines](#) | [Media Coverage](#) |
[Subscribe to Premium](#)

CONTACT

[Contact Us](#) | [Careers](#) | [Advertising](#) |
[Have a News Tip?](#)

LEGAL

[Terms](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Policies](#)

Copyright © 2026 Valnet Inc.