

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 CITY MANAGER COVID-19 UPDATE

Please note that statement delivered during Council Meeting may vary due to frequent changes in COVID-19 information and restrictions.

We thank all of you who followed Public Health Orders over the Labor Day weekend by avoiding parties, wearing face coverings when you went out, washing your hands and staying home if you were ill. Your continued efforts will make a difference in reducing the number of new COVID-19 diagnoses in our County and allowing us to move forward safely in re-opening additional business sectors, schools and recreational amenities.

With the hot weather, our beach and downtown were busy. We had additional Hermosa Beach Health Enforcement Officers working over the weekend to protect public health. They were busy enforcing the urgency ordinance the Council enacted on July 28 that requires face coverings at all times in Downtown, all City parks, on the Strand, Pier Plaza, the Greenbelt and the beach when out of the water. These are places where it is often not possible to maintain the 6 feet of physical distance at all times from others who aren't members of your household – as is required by public health orders.

The City's urgency ordinance imposed administrative fines for violations, which are \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for a second offense and \$500 for all subsequent offenses within a 12-month period. Over the three-day Labor Day weekend, the Health Enforcement Officers contacted 346 people. They distributed 100 masks and issued 221 citations.

Before and throughout the weekend, we also had extensive news coverage of the face covering requirements and enforcement to help remind residents and visitors to wear their masks in Hermosa Beach. If people missed the news accounts, they could see one of the more than 250 signs and decals posted around town by our City Staff about the face covering requirements. We have street banners over Pier Avenue and Pier Plaza and banners at our busiest parks. We have messages on our mobile changeable message boards. We have signage on the sidewalks, on the Strand, and Pier Plaza, as well as yard signs at other busy locations throughout the City.

We also have a dedicated page on our website that has information about wearing face coverings and the City's face covering requirements. It can be accessed at hermosabeach.gov/facecoverings. This page is also linked in multiple locations on our website, including the page banner and home page.

As we continue our path to recovery, we are pleased to announce that the Hermosa Beach Skate Park will re-open on Monday, September 14, with new protocols in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Current Skate Park members will be able to use it

for limited periods of time. All will be required to follow the Public Health Orders requiring face coverings and social distancing, and there will be additional steps to sanitize the site. For more information, please visit our website: hermosabeach.gov/skatepark.

For our business community, we are continuing to work with restaurants and retail outlets so that they can safely operate outside, as required by public health orders. We are moving ahead with the implementation of the temporary closures of one lane of traffic on each side of Hermosa Avenue to accommodate outdoor dining, services and retail during the pandemic. The City Council approved these temporary closures, and we will provide proposals later tonight for making similar changes to help businesses on Pier Avenue in Downtown Hermosa Beach.

We also responded to requests from local businesses by issuing supplemental guidance for temporary outdoor business permit holders. We provided guidance on the overnight storage of furniture and use of overhead power sources to provide lighting. The local businesses had asked to enhance their temporary outdoor spaces with more durable furniture that can be secured and left out overnight and for increased lighting for diners as the days get shorter in the fall.

Local business owners can view the [Supplemental Temporary Outdoor Permit Guidelines](#) on the City's website, and contact the City with any questions or proposed changes to outdoor spaces based on this new guidance.

We also want to remind businesses, tenants and landlords that Hermosa Beach's emergency moratorium on all residential and commercial evictions for tenants who experience COVID-19 related disabilities to pay rents remains in effect.

The City Council enacted the moratorium to protect tenants experiencing a loss of income because of the pandemic. To avoid eviction, tenants must notify landlords in writing and provide documentation within 30 days of when rent is due. Commercial tenants experiencing only a partial loss of income are required to pay a pro-rata share of rent corresponding to reduced income. The rent is still due after the local emergency declaration ends. It must be repaid within 6 months of the local emergency's expiration. We are pleased to see some of our local hair salons and barbershops beginning to reopen after the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors, announced last Wednesday that it had revised the Health Officer Order to allow for limited indoor operations of hair salons and barbershops.

Hair salons and barbershops are able to re-open for indoor services at 25% of their indoor occupancy provided they are in full compliance with the [Health Officer's protocols for hair](#)

[salons and barbershops](#). The Order encourages these businesses to continue outdoor operations when possible and to offer indoor operations for those services that cannot be provided outdoors.

Resuming business operations safely is essential to our local economy and the quality of life we all enjoy in Hermosa Beach. We thank our local businesses who are striving to operate safely, and our visitors and residents who are following the public health protocols. By doing our part, all of us can contribute to lower infection rates and that will help our children safely return to their classrooms and our extended families to safely celebrate holidays together again. Thank you!