

OCTOBER 13, 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.

Playground Protocol

We know how important outdoor activities are to families – especially now with distance learning and the many other changes in their children's lives because of the pandemic.

We were pleased to get the state's and county's approval to reopen outdoor play structures, fitness stations and beach swings throughout the City.

We appreciate the hard work of our Public Works Department and other members of our City Staff to get the equipment cleaned up, fencing removed and new signage in place so that we could safely reopen the playgrounds and fitness stations on Friday. We saw many of our families enjoying the playground equipment since it reopened, and we appreciate all of you who followed the public health protocols to keep you and your children safe.

As a reminder: [Playground protocols](#) require face coverings to be worn for everyone over the age of 2. Children and adults are required to sanitize their hands before and after using the play structure and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from non-household members.

The protocols also prohibit food and drink within the playground to ensure masks are worn at all times. They also limit play to 30 minutes when others are waiting. Parents and caregivers are required to supervise their children on the play structures to ensure these protocols are followed.

We ask all of you to work together so that all children can be safe when they play and each has an opportunity to enjoy the play structures. As you may know, children are at risk of COVID-19 too, and there have already been 41 cases of a very serious illness among children in Los Angeles County that is caused by COVID-19, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. The L.A. County Department of Public Health reports this condition has led to hospitalizations for all the children in the county who have developed it, and about half of those children were admitted to the ICU.

Following the protocols on the playgrounds – and any time you are in public – will help us slow the rate of infection. They will help us keep our children healthy and make it safe for our children to return to in-person instruction in their schools.

Dog on the Beach

We also need to continue to follow local ordinances during the pandemic. Several members of the community have reported seeing more dogs on the beach in the past few months. We would like to remind pet owners that dogs are not allowed on the beach at any time. There are [dog-friendly beaches](#) in the region where your pets are welcome.

Also please remember that City ordinances require all dogs to be on a leash when they're not on their own property, and anyone walking dogs to clean up after them. Please see the City's [animal control website page](#) and [animal licensing and permit website page](#) for more information on City ordinances regarding pets.

Update on Temporary Lane Reconfiguration Project

As you may know, we have been working with our local businesses to help them during the pandemic by creating dining decks on our streets, Pier Plaza, sidewalks and parking lots. Part of this effort includes a Temporary Lane Reconfiguration Project on Hermosa and Pier Avenues to help facilitate the expansion of businesses into the public right of way. This project will provide additional options to businesses that have had indoor activities limited due to emergency health orders.

Our staff has been hard at work and will be advertising this week to secure a contractor to perform the work. As you may recall, this project will close one lane of traffic in each direction along the downtown sections of Hermosa and Pier Avenues. The project will consist primarily of removing some existing pavement markings and restriping and sign installation to implement the lane closures.

The final plans will look very similar to the concepts that have brought to Council previously with the notable exception of removing all proposed reverse-angle parking. This change was made in an effort to maximize available parking and reduce disruptions to normal vehicle movements. The addition of bike lanes in both directions along these stretches will help to facilitate non-vehicular traffic and overall accessibility of the downtown area.

Once a contractor is secured, the City will be scheduling the work and notifying all affected businesses and the community of the project's schedule. The work is not expected to last more than 10 working days. Disruptions resulting from the project will be minimized as much as possible, and staff will be in communication with the surrounding properties to address any issues.

The Great Shakeout

A reminder that this Thursday, October 15th is the 2020 Great Shakeout earthquake drill. This annual exercise will be a little different this year because so many people are working from home. So please practice with your family what to do during an earthquake. While the ground is shaking, remember to:

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy table or desk, and
- **HOLD ON** to a leg of the table to prevent the table from moving.

Stay indoors until the shaking stops and it is safe to exit. In most buildings, you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then **Drop, Cover and Hold On**. Stay there until the shaking stops.

If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. When and where possible, avoid parking or stopping next to buildings. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

Halloween in Hermosa

As we all begin to plan for the upcoming holiday season – which many people feel begins with Halloween – we want to remind the community that this year will be different because of the pandemic. Our team has been hard at work with developing alternatives for celebrating the season, and we continue to remind the community that we must celebrate safely to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While many of our favorite Halloween celebrations involve large gatherings and close contact, the City's Community Resources Department and several of our community organizations have come up with some creative and safe ways to celebrate Halloween in Hermosa. We have a [list of these activities](#) on our website.

L.A. County Department of Public Health is not recommending door-to-door trick-or-treating this year because of the virus. The [L.A. County Public Health Protocols for Celebrating Halloween](#) do not allow Halloween gatherings, events or parties with non-household members. Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment and haunted house attractions are also prohibited.

In place of these types of celebrations, our Community Resources Department has developed several fun activities, including a Home and Business Halloween Decorating Contest, an online Pumpkin Carving Contest and a Drive-By Costume Reveal with our mascot Sunny. Please visit our City website for more information.

Veteran's Day Celebration

The City of Hermosa Beach has also developed a special honor for Veterans Day. With the pandemic preventing the traditional ceremony at the Veterans Memorial, the City is hosting a Veterans Are Timeless Campaign. We invite veterans and their friends or family to submit information about our City's veterans on the [Veterans Day webpage](#) on the City website by October 25.

The City will share the submissions on the Community Resources Department's social media channels, on the Veterans Day page on the City website beginning November 1st, and on our local access channels from November 1 to November 11. On Veterans Day, which is November 11, the names of each veteran submitted will be showcased near the Veterans Memorial located on the east lawn of the Hermosa Beach Community Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please stop by to honor our veterans.

As always, during your Halloween celebrations and in honoring our veterans, please wear a mask over your mouth and nose when you leave your home. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from non-household members when in public, wash your hands frequently, stay home if you're ill and avoid crowds. Working together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 will help us be able to safely return to trick-or-treating and the many other holiday traditions and gatherings we enjoy with friends and family.