

## **OCTOBER 27, 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 are entering the holiday season, starting with Halloween on Saturday. Traditionally, this is the season when we gather with our extended families and friends to celebrate.

But this year, we need to establish new traditions because our public health experts are warning that we must continue to be vigilant to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are seeing increases in COVID-19 diagnoses and hospitalizations in other parts of the country and, to some extent, here.

The L.A. County Department of Public Health [reports](#) that since mid-September, the daily number of cases increased to an average of about 1,000 new cases per day. In comparison, the average had been 800 new cases from the beginning of August through the beginning of September.

With more interactions between people as we re-open our economy, the Department said there is an increased risk of transmission that can result in people becoming seriously ill and tragically passing away.

While younger people are generally believed to be at less risk, parents should be aware that the Department also [continues to report cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome](#) in children (MIS-C). As of Friday, 43 L.A. County children had been diagnosed with this extremely serious illness caused by COVID-19. All 43 children were hospitalized and nearly half of them were treated in the ICU. No children have died from MIS-C in L.A. County.

The Department is not recommending door-to-door trick-or-treating this year because of COVID-19 and its [Protocols for Celebrating Halloween](#) don't allow any Halloween gatherings, events, haunted house attractions or parties with non-household members. The City's Community Resources Department and several community organizations have come up with a [list of creative and safe activities](#) to celebrate Halloween in Hermosa Beach. These include an online Pumpkin Carving Contest and a Drive-By Costume Reveal with the City's mascot Sunny.

The annual Veterans Day Commemoration and Candlelight Ceremony will not be taking place this year because of the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. The City is hosting the [Veterans Are Timeless Campaign](#) this year and encouraging the community to stop by the Veterans Memorial located on the Hermosa Beach Community Center's East Lawn

to give thanks to veterans on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11 from 11am to sundown.

In addition to a special showcase of “stars” featuring veterans whose names were submitted to the City’s Veterans Are Timeless Campaign, there will be other special additions to the site and an opportunity to submit letters to veterans to express the community’s gratitude and support. We are asking all attendees to wear a mask and maintain social distancing while visiting the Veterans Memorial.

In addition to offering creative alternatives for the holidays, our staff has been working with the business community to help our local businesses during these challenging times. Tonight, Council has a couple of items on the agenda for consideration including the Free Holiday Parking Program and an award of contract for the Temporary Shared Streets Project on Hermosa and Pier Avenues to help facilitate expansion of local business operations 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.

The Shared Streets project will close one lane of traffic and add bike lanes 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 reconfigurations. 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.

We were pleased to see more re-openings approved for businesses and schools. On Friday, the [L.A. County Department of Public Health announced](#) that it was revising the Health Officer Order to allow for the re-openings of additional personal care services indoors with modifications (in addition to hair salons and nail salons), as well as outdoor operations at go-carts, mini-golf and batting cages.

In addition, the percentage of high-needs students permitted at a school campus for on-site learning has been increased from 10% to 25%, allowing more students to return for in-person instruction and services.

As always, please remember to follow public health protocols as additional sectors re-open and when visiting our local businesses, including wearing face coverings over your nose and mouth. This will help us reduce the spread of COVID-19 as we head into the holiday season.

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