

November 24, 2020 City Manager's COVID-19 Update

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

This week has brought more challenges to all of us as new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise at alarming rates in Los Angeles County and across the state. This has been troubling and disappointing news because of the increased risk to the health of our community and our economy – and the potential impact on our children returning to the classroom.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's reporting](#) of record numbers of new COVID-19 diagnoses in recent days led to an amended [Public Health Order](#) that goes into effect at 10 p.m. tomorrow. The order seeks to reduce the possibility for crowding and the potential for exposures in settings where people are not wearing their face coverings. It will eliminate all in-person dining at restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars in Los Angeles County. That includes Hermosa Beach restaurants, breweries and bars.

Restaurants, breweries and bars will only be able to offer take-out, drive thru and delivery services. Wineries and breweries may continue their retail operations by adhering to current protocols. In-person dining will not be allowed for at least the next 3 weeks.

Pasadena has its own health department, so it has chosen to keep its outdoor dining open at this time. But it also said it is continuing to closely monitor the data and may re-consider this decision.

Hermosa Beach does not have its own health department, and our businesses rely on licenses from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to operate. That means our businesses risk citation or revocation of licenses from Public Health if they choose to ignore the Public Health Orders.

This is truly disheartening news for our local businesses. Our restaurants and City staff have worked diligently to offer outdoor dining to protect the public's health during the pandemic.

The restaurant owners have invested in outdoor decks, heaters and other facilities to meet the public health order that required outdoor dining, and many of them had stocked up on food in anticipation of the long Thanksgiving weekend.

If you have the means, please help support our local restaurants by ordering food to go or for delivery. You may also wish to consider purchasing gift cards to help them pay their staff.

We have also asked the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to make financial aid available to our small businesses from the CARES Act funding they have received from the federal government. We will share that information with our businesses and information about any funding that becomes available for local businesses.

Recent alarming increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are reminders that we must all do our part to slow the rapid spread of COVID-19. Los Angeles County Public Health announced yesterday that another Safer at Home Order is being considered because the County has surged past a five-day average of 4,500 new COVID-19 cases per day in just one week.

We don't yet know for certain what that order will say. But at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting today, public health officials discussed that the new order may include closing outdoor playgrounds again – which we know is very important to our local families – and prohibiting public gatherings of non-household members, as well as other restrictions.

The best way to support our businesses and school re-openings is for each of us to take immediate action and personally commit to diligently follow the public health precautions, which include:

- Wearing a face covering every time you leave home
- Avoiding gathering with people and avoid non-essential trips outside your homes
- Staying home when you are ill or if you have been exposed to COVID-19
- Getting your flu immunization
- Washing your hands frequently
- Quarantining for 14 days if you have been in crowds of people without face coverings or engaged in other risky behaviors

We can also adopt new traditions for this year's Thanksgiving celebrations. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is asking everyone to rethink their Thanksgiving plans because of the dangerous surge in COVID-19 cases.

The Department is asking us to celebrate with just our immediate household members and to gather online, saying this is the best way to prevent spreading the virus. If you do see friends or family members in person, please observe Public Health's earlier recommendations by meeting outside, limiting the duration of your time together to 2 hours or less and limiting the number of people involved to no more than 15 from no more than 3 households.

While this is not the way we wanted to celebrate Thanksgiving, celebrating virtually and with the appropriate precautions will help us get our businesses and schools reopened – and ensure we can celebrate Thanksgiving with all our friends and family members next year.