

Questions & Answers on California's Stay at Home Order

as of March 27, 2020

The City of Newport Beach will update this list of questions and answers as we receive new or clarified information that helps residents and businesses to better understand Governor Newsom's executive order requiring residents to stay at home.

About the Stay at Home Order

What did Governor Newsom sign?

Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order requiring all California residents to stay at home. Residents are permitted to access essential services such as health care, groceries, take-out food, laundromats, banking, pharmacies and gas stations. You can find more information on the [State's Covid-19 response website](#).

Also, those that work in certain private sector jobs and in government are permitted to provide essential and critical services. More information is provided below.

Will the City of Newport Beach, County of Orange, or State of California enforce the Governor's Order?

No. Our understanding from the governor's comments is that he expects Californians to do the right thing and follow the order. He also expects Californians to "self-regulate", noting its incumbent on all us to change our behaviors.

City staff, including Newport Beach Police Department personnel, will continue to encourage the public to follow the order through direct contacts and our website, social media posts, and signage.

Where can I get more information? (updated March 27)

- The California Department of Public Health has information on COVID-19 and the Stay at Home Order, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and more at covid19.ca.gov.
- You can also find information on the [Orange County Health Care Agency's Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](#), including details about the County Health Officer's Order.
- The County of Orange Hotline provides recorded information about resources available to county residents. 1-833-426-6411
- The City website also has information at newportbeachca.gov/covid19.

When does the Stay at Home order end?

The governor has not announced an end date.

Industry / Business / Employee Information

Is the City of Newport Beach closed? *(updated March 26)*

No, the governor's order permits local government agencies to continue to provide essential services and we are doing so. Our public safety personnel (police, fire, lifeguards) are on duty and we have personnel working in technical and field operations (water, wastewater, harbor, inspectors, etc.) to provide services to our community. Certain administrative personnel are also working as they are needed to support those essential service areas.

However, City buildings including City Hall, OASIS Senior Center, libraries and recreation centers, are closed to the public through April 12.

Should I open my business / go to work?

To enable residents access to essential services, gas stations, pharmacies, banks, laundromats/laundry services, grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, and take-out and delivery restaurants are permitted to remain open.

In addition, the Stay at Home Order exempts activity necessary for maintaining "the continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors", including critical government services, schools, childcare, and construction, including housing construction.

The State released [additional information](#) that provides more details about "essential critical infrastructure workers" to assist those businesses and employees trying to determine if the stay-at-home order applies to them.

The State has more information and a list of questions and answers here - <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

We encourage business owners to review the information provided by the State and determine if your business fits one of the categories provided. The City also provides information here – <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/city-manager/economic-development/small-business-support>

All businesses continuing to operate should practice social distancing (maintain six-foot distance from others) and other preventive measures.

Is construction work allowed?

Yes. It is one of the work sectors permitted to operate.

What help is there for small business?

Please visit our website for a list of local, state and federal resources available to help small businesses –

<https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/city-manager/economic-development/small-business-support>

I'm now out of work, what should I do?

Please visit our website for the resources available from the State and others to assist those that whose hours have been reduced or are out of work-

<https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/city-manager/economic-development/support-for-employees>

Recreational Activities/Dining/Tourism

Can I go outside to exercise or walk my dog?

Yes, but you must maintain a social distance of six feet or more from people who aren't part of your household. Gyms and fitness studios are closed.

Are the beaches and parks closed? *(updated March 23)*

No. Beaches, parks and hiking trails in Newport Beach remain open. Users must follow social distancing guidelines and maintain a six-foot separation from people that are not part of their households.

What recreation-related limits or closures are in place in Newport Beach? *(updated March 26)*

The City has taken the following actions to further discourage gatherings of any size and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Closures

- **Park amenities closed** - Though City parks are open, on March 23, the City closed amenities within the parks including playgrounds, fitness equipment, fields (baseball, soccer, multi-use), all courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, handball and volleyball) and the dog park.
- **Bayside Drive closed to motor vehicles** - On March 23, the City closed Back Bay Drive to vehicular traffic, providing more room for recreational users, such as bicyclists, runners and walkers to maintain at least six feet of separation from others.

- **Ocean Front Boardwalk closed to all users** – From approximately mid-day on Friday, March 27 until the morning of Monday, March 30, the Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula will be closed to all users.
- **City Buildings** – City Hall, OASIS Senior Center, and City libraries and recreation centers are closed to the public through April 12.

Limited Use or Access

- **Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway limited to one-way traffic** – From Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29, the Bayfront Walkway will become a “one-way” sidewalk, with signs directing pedestrians to walk in a single direction.
- **Entryway to Balboa Island** - To reduce crowding on Balboa Island, the City has combined temporary traffic diversion with messaging noting “No Island Parking, Stay Home – Stay Safe”. The traffic diversion prohibits access to the island directly from Jamboree Road. Those needed to access Balboa Island, such as island residents and businesses, may do so via Bayside Drive. The traffic diversion is in place through the weekend of March 27-March 29.

Additional Signage in Other Areas

The City is adding more signs that encourage social distancing along Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar.

Additional signage has also been placed in our community’s most popular recreation areas to remind users of the social distancing directive and the importance of maintaining at least six feet of separation from others.

Are the parking lots located by the beach open? *(updated March 26)*

On March 25, City-owned beachfront parking lots and its two piers were closed, in alignment with the most recent guidance from Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office to limit public gatherings and reduce the spread of COVID-19. City beaches remain open. The State has closed of Crystal Cove State Beach’s parking lot.

Why is the six-foot separation important?

According to the [Centers for Disease Control website](#), the virus is thought to mainly spread between people who are in close contact (defined as within about six feet). It spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The now airborne droplets can land in the mouths or noses or possibly be inhaled into the of those nearby.

What is the City doing about people who aren't following the six-foot-separation directive?

Our response is in line with what neighboring cities are doing and more importantly, it is in line with Governor Newsom's expectations. He has not called for enforcement of the social distancing directive. Rather, he is asking Californians to self-regulate, use common sense and change our behaviors to conform with the Stay at Home order and social distancing directive.

To reinforce the importance of social distancing, the City is closely monitoring high-visibility and popular areas like the boardwalk and beaches and increased the presence of Newport Beach Police Department personnel. Officers are explaining the Governor's Executive Order and encouraging the public and businesses to follow it.

The City placed more signage in and around our community's most popular recreational spaces this week to reinforce the importance of social distancing and we're also increasing the messages we distribute through our website and social media channels.

Are Newport Beach restaurants closed?

Many remain open for takeout and delivery and we encourage those that can, to support our local restaurants. The Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Newport Beach Restaurant Association have assembled lists of the restaurants offering takeout and delivery.

Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce list – <https://www.newportbeach.com/newportdelivers/>

Newport Beach Restaurant Association list – <https://www.visitnewportbeach.com/newport-beach-dining-alternatives/>

Corona del Mar Chamber of Commerce list – <https://www.cdmchamber.com/business-discounts-and-promotions/>

Are Newport Beach hotels closed?

No.

Is short-term lodging still allowed?

Yes. City staff is coordinating with the agents to ensure that anyone who is staying in a short-term lodging receives notice of the State order.

Is fishing allowed on the beach or the jetty?

Yes.

Is boating allowed in the harbor?

Yes, boating is allowed. Please limit occupants to family and those living in the same house. Observe the 6-foot social distance rule whenever possible.

COVID-19 Information

I saw that Newport Beach is among the cities with highest number of COVID-19 cases. What does this mean?

There are several important things to keep in mind about the number of local cases.

1. The city-by-city figures reflect the place of residence for those who have tested positive, not necessarily where the transmission occurred.
2. The data provided does not reflect all COVID-19 cases in a given community because testing is prioritized for those at greatest risk, or who are the most sick. Those who are asymptomatic and have mild cases may not be tested, and therefore not reflected in the data.
3. The city-by-city numbers should not be interpreted to reflect where transmission is geographically focused or not, because COVID-19 is present in all communities in the county.

It is essential for all Orange County residents to practice social distancing as directed by the Governor and the Orange County Health Officer regardless of case count in their city. Doing so will help to reduce the spread of infection, ease the burden on our hospital and healthcare system, and protect those most vulnerable in our county.

The County provides updated information daily at <https://occcovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc>