

Questions & Answers Related to California's Stay at Home Order as of May 13, 2020

The City of Newport Beach updates this list of questions and answers as we receive new or clarified information from the Federal, State and County governments or as we make changes locally.

The questions and answers are categorized as follows:

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About the Stay at Home and Emergency Orders

Is the Governor's Executive Order Still in Effect?

Yes. Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order that went into effect March 19, 2020, requiring all California residents to stay at home except for essential errands (groceries, pharmacies, gas stations, etc.).

On May 8, 2020, the Governor began to modify the Executive Order to permit certain businesses to operate under strict guidelines, such as curbside pickup. This is expected to be the beginning of a staged, ordered, reopening of businesses, sector by sector.

The State's process for easing the Stay-at-Home order spans four separate stages:

- Stage 1 focuses on safety and preparedness
- Stage 2, divided in two phases, provides the first opportunity for non-essential businesses to open, with operational modifications
- Stage 3 allows for the reopening of higher risk workplaces
- Stage 4 lifts all restrictions

"Early Stage 2" began on May 8. It permits retail, manufacturing and logistics businesses to open, if they can meet the public health guidelines provided by the State. Business owners should make their own determinations, based on the State's guidance, as to if, how and when they can open their stores or facilities.

On May 12, Governor Newsom announced additional businesses that may reopen, including car washes, pet grooming and dog walking. Outdoor museums and botanical gardens may also reopen.

For more information on the phased reopening plan, please visit the [City's web page on business reopening](#) and the [State's Covid-19 response website](#).

When does the Stay at Home order end?

The governor has not announced an end date.

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

The Governor has asked Californians to follow the order to keep our communities healthy and to keep hospitals from becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. He also expects Californians to "self-regulate," noting that it is incumbent on all of us to adapt our behaviors to the evolving coronavirus response.

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.

What is the Emergency Order?

On March 15, City Manager Grace Leung, serving in her capacity as the City's director of emergency services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency. It was ratified by the City Council on March 18. This action enables the City to access federal and state resources if needed and to potentially recoup City funds spent responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The Proclamation and the City's activated Emergency Center enable us to respond quickly and efficiently to assign personnel and procure needed materials, equipment and services. The order remains in place until it is terminated by the City Council.

Where can I get more information?

- 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](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19).
- You can also find information on the [Orange County Health Care Agency's Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](https://www.ocphd.org/coronavirus), 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.

Industry / Business / Employee Information

Is the City of Newport Beach closed?

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.

City buildings including City Hall, OASIS Senior Center, libraries and recreation centers, have been temporarily closed to the public as part of the COVID-19 response.

The City will begin a phased approach to reopening facilities on May 18, beginning with the Permit Center. Members of the public who wish to enter City Hall will be required to wear a face covering and abide by physical distancing protocols.

How do I know if my business can reopen, and under what conditions?

The City has received requests from businesses and residents seeking clarification on the status of businesses reopening in light of various statements, orders, and resolutions adopted by the State of California and County of Orange.

We first recommend that requests for clarification be directed to the agency that created the rules addressing specific businesses. Both the State and the County have enforcement capabilities and it would be prudent for businesses to seek clarification where questions arise.

To the extent that questions of enforcement of other agencies' or governments' orders or resolutions arise, the City will resolve ambiguities in favor of our local businesses. Where there is clarity of law, the City will first conduct education and seek voluntary compliance before enforcement.

We have seen that the overwhelming majority of Newport Beach businesses want to operate safely and encourage businesses to create environments that are both safe and create consumer confidence that the environment is safe.

To that end, we ask our businesses to please [review the guidelines](#) that the State released and we recommend following key safety advice. The City is committed to working with our businesses to help answer questions and we welcome feedback as well.

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 permitted to operate under the order should implement social distancing practices (maintaining six-foot distance from others) and other preventive measures.

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 whose hours have been reduced or are out of work -

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

Does the City have resources available to help employers and workers as they work from home or seek other employment?

Yes. We have a web page of free resources available from the Newport Beach Public Library and local organizations such as SCORE and the Small Business Development Center.

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

Recreational Activities/Dining/Tourism

Does the City have online recreation or library programs?

Yes. The City has established an [Online Recreation Center](#) that offers classes and activities.

The Newport Beach Public Library offers free resources at www.newportbeachlibrary.org and through its [e-Branch](#). NBPL card holders can place materials on hold and pick them up curbside. The service is available at all NBPL locations, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Can I play tennis?

Yes. The City has reopened tennis courts for singles play only.

Can I bring my dog to the dog park?

Yes. The dog park is reopened as of May 14. Humans using the dog park are asked to stay six feet apart.

Are the beaches and parks closed?

Beaches, parks and most hiking trails in Newport Beach are open, with conditions on their use.

Beaches are open for "active recreational use." Activities such as swimming, surfing, walking, running are permitted. Congregating in large groups is prohibited along with stationary and passive activities like sunbathing.

[Click here for FAQs](#) on permitted beach activities.

At parks and hiking trails, 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?

The City has taken the following actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Park amenities closed** - City parks are open, but most amenities within the parks are closed. This includes playgrounds, fitness equipment, fields (baseball, soccer, multi-use), most courts (basketball, pickleball, handball and volleyball).
- **Senior Center and Recreation Facilities closed** - The OASIS Senior Center and recreation centers are closed to the public.
- **City libraries closed** – Libraries are closed to the public, but curbside pickup and online services are available.

Additional Signage

Social distancing signage has 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.

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. Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

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 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 its beaches and other public spaces 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.

Do I need to wear a mask when I go out in public?

In Orange County, face coverings are mandatory for employees of essential businesses that may come in contact with the public, such as grocery store and pharmacy employees.

In addition, the Orange County Public Health Officer issued a recommendation strongly encouraging all residents to wear face coverings in public areas.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommends that everyone over the age of 2 should wear a cloth face covering – one that covers your mouth and nose - when going out in public. (There are exceptions – those having trouble breathing or are incapacitated should not wear a face covering.)

A face covering is meant to protect others in case you are infected. Please use a cloth face covering and not a mask meant for healthcare worker. Also, public health officials emphasize that face coverings are not substitutes for physical distancing – keeping six feet away from others – and regular hand washing.

The City of Newport Beach is strongly advising all residents to wear a face covering when out in public to help protect their community and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Under the phased reopening of City Hall, members of the public who wish to enter must wear a face covering and abide by physical distancing protocols.

Are Newport Beach restaurants open?

Newport Beach restaurants are not yet permitted to welcome dine-in customers under the Governor's phased reopening approach.

However, many remain open for takeout and delivery. We encourage residents to support our local restaurants. The Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, Corona del Mar 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?

There are hotels open, but occupancy is very low.

Is short-term lodging allowed?

Short-term rentals are prohibited until May 20. After May 20, short-term rentals are allowed, provided that renters stay for a minimum of 3 nights.

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.

Community-Specific Matters

Why doesn't the City establish a "residents only" parking permit system to save parking in the areas most impacted by visitors?

Some residents have asked the City to issue residential parking permits as part of its COVID-19 response, particularly in the congested beach and harbor areas. There are two main reasons why we haven't done so. Historically, the California Coastal Commission opposes such programs as they hinder coastal access to the public. We've tried and failed before to get resident parking programs permitted. Also, establishing a resident only parking permit system is complex and would take several weeks to properly implement, at a time when City staff must maintain focus on the priorities of emergency response, public safety, and essential services.

The City has taken a number of steps to reduce the number of visitors in the popular beach areas, including closing all beachfront public parking lots and popular attractions such as the Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula.

Why are the public restrooms still open?

Public restroom facilities remain open regular hours for sanitation and public health purposes. Citizens walking or exercising, visitors, City staff and contractors, homeless individuals, and employees of other agencies (County, SCE, Gas Co., etc.), all need to have access to a public restroom. Washing our hands well and often is an important factor in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Where can I get information on the number of local COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations?

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

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.

How can I get tested for COVID-19?

If you have a health care provider, contact your health care provider first.

If those who do not have a health care provider, the Orange County Health Care Agency has released a list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

Please visit the County's [web site at this link](#) for a list of approved testing locations:

How can I participate in a City Council meeting remotely?

The City will live stream meetings through its website (www.newportbeachca.gov) and will broadcast the meetings on its cable television channel NBTv (Cox Channel 852 and Spectrum Channel 3).

Members of the public may provide written comments prior to the meeting. You can submit your questions and comments in writing for City Council consideration by sending them in advance of the meeting (24 hours is preferred) to the City Clerk at cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov.

You can also participate via telephone. If you are watching the meeting on NBTv or via the livestream, phone numbers for the public to call and to comment on specific agenda items will be posted on the screen. The telephone numbers will also be listed after agenda item titles on City Council agendas.

Consistent with in-person Council meetings, callers will have three minutes to provide comments on an agenda item.

The Civic Center Community Room will be open for members of the public to attend, comment and watch the broadcast.