

Questions & Answers Related to California's Stay at Home Order as of June 19, 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.).

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

The State is lifting restrictions when certain [health and safety criteria](#) are met. Some counties have been able to ease restrictions faster than others, under variances from the State, based on local health conditions.

As of June 12, 2020, Orange County has entered early Stage 3, which allows for some higher-risk workplaces to reopen.

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

What types of businesses are open and what types of activities are permitted?

Essential service industries have remained open throughout the COVID-19 response, such as gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies.

Stage 2 businesses opened in late May and early June, including dine-in restaurants, retail outlets, offices, shopping malls, day care facilities, outdoor museums, car washes, and pet grooming. Houses of worship were also permitted to reopen.

Orange County officials have authorized reopening of the following additional industries as of June 19, 2020:

- Nail salons
- Tattoo and piercing shops
- Body waxing
- Skin care and cosmetology
- Day camps, campgrounds, RV parks and outdoor recreation
- Organized youth sports (practices without spectators)
- Cardrooms, satellite wagering facilities and racetracks
- Movie theaters and family entertainment centers
- Gyms and fitness facilities
- Hotels for leisure travel and tourism
- Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums
- Bars and wineries
- Pools

The following businesses/industries are **NOT** yet permitted as of June 19:

- Outdoor playground equipment
- Indoor playgrounds such as bounce centers, ball pits and laser tag
- Live theater
- Saunas and steam rooms
- Nightclubs
- Concert venues
- Festivals
- Theme parks
- Higher education

What are the latest rules on face coverings?

The California Department of Public Health on Thursday, June 18 released [updated guidance that requires Californians to wear a face covering in high-risk settings](#). A growing body of scientific research has shown that people with no or few symptoms of COVID-19 can still spread the disease and that the use of face coverings, combined with physical distancing and frequent hand washing, will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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.

What is the local 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 order remains in place until it is terminated by the City Council.

Where can I get more information?

- The California Department of Public Health provides information at covid19.ca.gov.
- You can also find information on the [Orange County Health Care Agency's Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](#).
- The Orange County Health Care Agency's coronavirus hotline is 714-834-200.
- The City of Newport Beach website has information at newportbeachca.gov/covid19 and an email signup for COVID-19 information.

Recreational Activities/Dining/Tourism

Are the beaches open and under what conditions?

Newport Beach has fully reopened its beaches and most beach-related amenities. Parking lots, restrooms, the Peninsula Boardwalk, and the Newport and Balboa piers, are now open to the public.

Face coverings are not required on the beaches, but social distancing is strongly encouraged.

City fire pits remain closed.

What recreational activities are permitted?

Most recreational activities are allowed with social distancing. This includes harbor activities such as boating, kayaking and paddleboarding.

On June 15 the City began reinstalling basketball hoops and volleyball nets on City courts.

Hiking trails and the dog park are open.

Tennis and pickleball courts are open.

What recreational activities are not permitted?

Playground equipment remains closed under the State and County orders.

Will there be July 4th fireworks this year?

Unfortunately, under the State guidelines for large group gatherings, the City is unable to issue permits for 4th of July fireworks and special events. The one exception is the “Old Glory” boat parade in the Newport Harbor, which is a permitted event.

What is the status of the Senior Center and City Libraries?

The OASIS Senior Center and all library branches remain closed to the public.

The Senior Center continues to deliver meals and provide assistance to our senior community.

Library curbside pickup and online services are available at www.newportbeachlibrary.org.

How can I access online recreation and library programs?

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.

What is happening with summer camps and the Junior Lifeguard program for 2020?

Outdoor day camps and the Junior Lifeguard program will proceed this summer, with modifications.

For more information on summer recreation programs visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/cnbreg/Home>

For information on Junior Lifeguards visit <http://nbig.net/>

Is short-term lodging allowed?

Yes, with a temporary restriction: Renters must stay for a minimum of three nights. The three-night minimum will end when the City lifts the local Emergency Order.

Is fishing allowed on the Piers and the jetty?

Yes.

Industry / Business / Employee Information

Is City Hall open?

Yes, City Hall is open to the public, with modifications. 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?

We encourage business owners to review the information provided by the State and determine if your business fits one of the categories provided. We recommend that businesses [review the guidelines](#) for the State's "Resiliency Roadmap" and follow key safety advice.

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

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>

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 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.

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

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

In Orange County, face coverings are strongly recommended, but not mandatory, in public spaces. However, individual businesses may have policies making face coverings mandatory inside those establishments.

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. Public health officials emphasize that face coverings are not substitutes for physical distancing – keeping six feet away from others – and regular hand washing.

Community-Specific Matters

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

The County provides updated information daily at <https://occovid19.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. 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?

The City live streams meetings through its website (www.newportbeachca.gov) and broadcasts the meetings on 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 is open for members of the public to attend, comment and watch the broadcast.