



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung  
July 31, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

[City Council Nomination Period](#)  
July 13 – August 7 at 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 4**  
**Parks, Beaches & Recreation**  
**Commission Meeting**  
[\(See Agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)  
6 p.m.

**Friday, August 7**  
[Monthly test of City's outdoor warning notification system](#)

Community members,

While the ongoing increase in new COVID-19 cases throughout Orange County (and much of the State) continues to be a troubling trend, there was a bit of good news this week in other key metrics.

Hospitalizations rates are trending downward countywide, and the number of available ICU beds and ventilators shows adequate capacity to handle surges. As of July 30, the 3-day average number of hospitalizations was down by more than 8 percent. There are 38 percent of ICU beds available, and 57 percent of ventilators available countywide.

While this may seem incongruous with the rising number of cases and positivity rates (the percentage of positive cases of the overall number of people tested), it may be due to the younger average age of new patients. Our partners at Hoag Hospital tell us that younger patients are less likely to require hospitalization, and if they do, they tend to recover faster and spend less time in the hospital.

Meanwhile, City staff is continuing to work with local businesses to support safe and continued operations as the pandemic continues. The City's "Fast Track Back to Business" program has issued nearly 70 temporary permits to local businesses seeking to expand outdoor capacity.

City staff have also begun processing permits for hair and nail salons and massage services to operate outdoors. For applications and more information please visit: [www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness/](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness/).

On a separate note, the month of August is generally a quieter period around City Hall and in recent years, the City Council has opted to hold one meeting, instead of two, in that month. Thus, the Council's next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 25.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at [newportbeachca.gov/events](http://newportbeachca.gov/events).

## **COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach**

The number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach as of July 30 was 813 and the total cases in Orange County is 35,778. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of July 30 was 22,787.

## **COVID-19 News and Resources**

Gov. Newsom's office recently released a "COVID-19 Employer Playbook" that includes guidance for workplace safety, best practices for an outbreak, testing information for employees, and more. The document, [available at this link](#), provides useful information for business and industry to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and prepare for cases among employees.

The County of Orange continues to add new COVID-19 data and information to its website at <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc>.

The County of Orange Healthcare Agency's COVID-19 Hotline can be reached at (714) 834-2000, or by email at, [Eteam@ochca.com](mailto:Eteam@ochca.com). County staff monitors the hotline and email box and answers questions about industry reopening and activity resumption, current guidance and more.

The County also maintains a growing list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. If you are showing symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider for testing information first. If you do not have a healthcare provider, visit <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing-and-screening> for testing information. The SOS Health Center in Newport Beach is an approved community testing site. Call (949) 270-2100 for an appointment.

Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/covid19](http://newportbeachca.gov/covid19) for the latest City news and useful web resources, including information about the federal, state, and county resources available to help [small businesses](#) and [workers](#) that have been financially impacted. We also have a [page of free resources](#) available through the Newport Beach Public Library and local organizations like SCORE, including online learning and business databases. You can also follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and look for alerts from our City staff on [Nextdoor](#).

## **Interactive Short-Term Lodging Permit Dashboard**

The GIS Division has released another interactive dashboard to identify all of the active Short-Term Lodging Permits within the city. The map can be filtered by individual neighborhoods, Council Districts, or the total number of occupants allowed per permit. Custom areas can be selected using the "Selection Tool", or individual addresses can be searched to see if a particular property has been issued a permit. Each "blue" symbol on the map can be selected to provide more information regarding the permit. The application can be accessed from the Short Term Lodging [webpage](#) at or a direct link for the [Desktop Version](#) or [Mobile Version](#).

## **Back to Business Program Update**

The Back to Business Program has received substantial interest and attention from the business community, as well as religious institutions. The City has issued over 70 permits and 15 amendments to allow businesses the flexibility to expand outdoors. Permit applications are conveniently submitted online with many no-cost permits issued within 24 to 48 hours of filing a request.

For more information, please check out [www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness). City staff is here to help with any questions or even to assist with application preparation. We look forward to getting you *back to business!*

## **Treasury Report**

The June 2020 Treasury Report is available on the City's website at: [www.newportbeachca.gov/treasury](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/treasury).

As of June, the City's portfolio totaled just over \$315 million. Approximately \$85 million of the portfolio was invested in very liquid investments available for day-to-day operations and cash funding for major construction expenditures.

The short-term portfolio (\$210 million) had a weighted average effective maturity of 1.87 years. The trailing twelve months' total return was 4.36%. Our benchmark for the same period, the BAML 1-3 Year Treasury index, returned 4.07%. The income yield on the portfolio, a better measure of income derived from the portfolio, was 2.20%.

## **Homelessness Update**

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 response, and City staff continues to work closely with our contractor City Net and regional partners throughout the county and state. Recently, people in Newport Beach experiencing homelessness have been placed in motels through Project Roomkey, a state initiative to provide shelter during COVID-19. Newport Beach staff and City Net staff are collaborating with the Illumination Foundation, a local non-profit agency.

In June 2020, Governor Newsom announced the availability of \$600 million in funding for Project Homekey. At the Orange County Board of Supervisor's meeting this week, the Board voted to seek \$60 million in state funds to convert motels into permanent, supportive housing.

## **Success Stories**

- A woman who left her home and family in Kentucky several years ago after suffering personal loss was reunited with her daughter last week. Her family recently contacted the City's Homeless Coordinator with a request to help locate the woman in Newport Beach. In coordination with City Net's case managers, the woman was contacted, stabilized, and reconnected with her loved ones. She is now receiving psychiatric care through Vanderbilt University's healthcare system.
- A family that had been living in their car by the Newport Pier received housing this week through the County's Coordinated Entry System. The Coordinated Entry System matches veterans, individuals, and families to housing opportunities.
- A man staying by the Newport Pier enrolled into services with City Net. Staff connected him with the Cal-Optima medical team and he was referred to a health specialist. CalOptima, created by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 1993, administers health insurance to low-income people.
- A man was referred to the Santa Ana Armory and City Net provided transportation to the Armory. The Orange County Emergency Shelters, located in Santa Ana and Fullerton, are operated by Mercy House. Mercy House, established in Orange County in 1987, provides comprehensive services for people experiencing homelessness.
- City Net staff placed a man into Project Roomkey. Staff continues to provide housing assistance and case management with him.

The City Net hotline number is (714) 451-6198. Those who call the hotline may leave a detailed voicemail message for themselves or others in need and City Net staff will respond within 48 hours. For immediate assistance, call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747. To enroll in Project Roomkey, call (714) 834-3000.

## **General Aviation Improvement Program Update**

The City continues to closely monitor John Wayne Airport's General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP). On July 9, the County of Orange made certain materials related to the responses it received for its Request for Proposals for Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) available for public review. The Aviation Committee's GAIP Ad Hoc Committee evaluated each respondents' proposed plans according to how closely the plans align with the City's goals for the GAIP. The Ad Hoc's findings were reviewed by the Aviation Committee on July 27 and the City Council on July 28. The Aviation Committee and the City Council concurred with the findings and the City will communicate the findings to the County of Orange. (Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/gaip](http://newportbeachca.gov/gaip) for details.)

In addition, the City is strongly recommending that the County of Orange include language in the terms and conditions in the leases it negotiates with its selected FBOs that upholds the land use restrictions previously approved by the Board of Supervisors that preserve a significant amount of space at the airport for the smaller, quieter general aviation aircraft. And, that the FBO leases eliminate the ability of any lessee to construct and operate a General Aviation Facility (a space used for processing international general aviation passengers) or, at a minimum, restrict the hours of the GAF to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to select the Fixed Base Operators at its August 11 meeting. The item will first be considered by the County's Airport Commission on August 5. The Commission's agenda can be found [here](#).

