

Questions & Answers on California's Stay at Home Order as of March 22, 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?

- 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](#), including details about the County Health Officer's Order.
- 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.

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

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?

No. Beaches and parks 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. Additional signage will be placed in our community's most popular recreation areas to remind users of the social distancing directive.

What 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 6-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 Californian's 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 will be placing 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/>

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.