

From: [Tom Modica](#)
To: [CLB.CityWide](#)
Subject: Safer at Home
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 7:09:49 PM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)

Dear City Employees:

This week we took some dramatic steps to safeguard our community. As one of the largest employers in the City, it is important that we lead by example and make major changes to limit the spread of COVID-19 and encourage our community to stay home unless absolutely necessary. I'm very proud of our organization as we adapted this week to the closure of facilities to the public, transitioned to online and phone services, and embraced telecommuting and social distancing in the workforce, all the while continuing the most critical services our community depends on.

Today we took further action. We have issued a Public Health Order from our Health Officer Dr. Anissa Davis called *Safer At Home*. In general, it limits gatherings to 2-9 people, closes shopping centers, playgrounds, and non-essential businesses. Essential businesses, including grocery stores, restaurants (take-out or delivery), health services, pharmacies, banks and gas stations, and government services will remain open. Port operations, airport operations and critical transportation services will remain open, as will construction of residential and commercial buildings. The list of essential businesses is [outlined in the emergency order](#) below.

[City of Long Beach government services are exempt, so please continue to report to your work location tomorrow as normal if you are scheduled to work.](#)

More details are in the press release below. Please make sure you are aware of these changes and help us spread the word to our community. Thank you,

-Tom Modica
Acting City Manager

: PRESS RELEASE: Long Beach Institutes 'Safer at Home' Order

CITY OF
LONG BEACH

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

March 19, 2020
Contact: City of Long Beach Joint Information Center, 562.570.NEWS (6397), jic@longbeach.gov

For Immediate Release

Long Beach Institutes 'Safer at Home' Order *Travel for Providing or Receiving Essential Services Allowed*

Long Beach, CA — Today, the Department of Health and Human Services announced an [order](#) further restricting and limiting gathering among people to slow the spread of COVID-19. This new 'Safer at Home' order will begin at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, and continue until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, unless otherwise specified.

"We want to flatten the curve and slow the spread of this pandemic so that our hospitals are not overwhelmed by people who need treatment," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "Changing our daily routine is a difficult but necessary step in protecting our most vulnerable communities while also ensuring the overall health and well-being of our city."

Some people who contract COVID-19 have no symptoms, or have mild symptoms, and can transmit the disease without being aware that they carry the virus.

Thus, residents are to limit gatherings to 2 to 9 people and take steps to reduce the possibility of transmitting the virus, including:

- standing at least six feet apart.
- making hand-washing stations or hand-sanitizer available.
- covering one's cough using one's elbow or a tissue.
- not touching one's face with unwashed hands.

Essential businesses, including grocery stores, restaurants (take-out or delivery), health services, pharmacies, banks and gas stations, and government services will remain open. Port operations, airport operations and critical transportation services will remain open, as will construction of residential and commercial buildings. Non-essential businesses, playgrounds and enclosed shopping centers will close. The list of essential businesses is [outlined in the emergency order](#).

This order is based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within Long Beach and throughout the area. As of today, there are 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Long Beach, 675 in California and 10,442 in the United States. This constitutes a pandemic according to the World Health Organization and has been declared a public health emergency in Long Beach.

People may engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, and to the health and safety of their family members and pets. Outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running, are allowed; however, people should continue to follow social distancing guidelines for their safety and the safety of others.

The Health Department continues to urge individuals to contact their healthcare providers if they develop symptoms such as fever, shortness of breath or a dry cough, and providers are compelled to report any suspected cases of COVID-19 to the Health Department immediately.

This action is put in place by the City Health Officer Dr. Anissa Davis, and in accordance with the Emergency Powers granted to the City Manager through the [Proclamation of Local Emergency](#).

For the latest information on COVID-19, with details on all that the City of Long Beach is doing to keep its residents safe, visit www.longbeach.gov/COVID19 and

follow @LongBeachCity on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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