



CITY OF LONG BEACH

All Hazards Incident Management Team

Joint Information Center

March 20, 2020

CITY RESPONSE TO ENFORCEMENT OF HEALTH ORDER

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, 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 began at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, and continue until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, April 19, unless otherwise specified. For further on the “Safer at Home” order please visit: <http://longbeach.gov/press-releases/city-of-long-beach-provides-clarifying-information-for-safer-at-home-order/>

Essential businesses, including grocery stores, restaurants (drive-through, take-out, or delivery), health services, pharmacies, banks and gas stations, and select 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.

Enforcement Efforts

The City of Long Beach is asking all community members to voluntarily comply with the recent “Safer at Home” Health Department order in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Community members wishing to report violations of this order should contact the non-emergency line at the City’s Communications Center at (562) 435-6711.

The Long Beach Health Department, Police Department, City Attorney’s Office and Financial Management’s Business License Bureau are working in coordination to review all complaints and address violations by businesses.

California Health and Safety Code 120275 et seq. makes it a misdemeanor crime for any business to fail to comply with a local Health Officer’s Order. This may be punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both. If voluntary compliance cannot be obtained, a citation may be issued to the business staff/representative.

Businesses that violate or fail to comply with the Long Beach Health Officer’s Order may also be subject to civil enforcement, which includes but is not limited to, administrative penalties and revocation of a business and/or health permit.

If Long Beach police officers are dispatched to a call for service related to non-compliance with the order, officers have been directed to evaluate the totality of the circumstances and work to educate the persons involved to gain voluntary compliance.

Enforcement action should be the last option utilized, unless the circumstances pose an immediate threat of violence or other serious public safety concerns.

The Police Department continues to identify proactive enforcement and operational measures to continue to protect the Long Beach community during this public health crisis:

- To maximize available resources, portions of the department are being temporarily reorganized to support the citywide response to the COVID-19 situation.
- Officers from throughout the department have been reassigned to patrol duties and are specifically monitoring key resource locations, such as grocery stores and hospitals.
- All training and non-essential travel has been cancelled or postponed.
- No new holiday or vacation requests are being approved.
- Additional screening measures have been implemented for calls for service and public contact.

We encourage community members to stay informed and to take appropriate steps to prepare themselves and their families. The Joint Information Center is constantly providing updates on COVID-19. For more information on how the City is responding to this public health emergency, please go to <http://www.longbeach.gov/COVID19> or call (562) 570-INFO (4636).