

Date: September 18, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Board of Health and Human Services Recommendation – Masking Enforcement**

As specified by Long Beach Municipal Code Section 2.24.050, the Board of Health and Human Services for the City of Long Beach submits the attached recommendation.

This recommendation was approved by the Board of Health and Human Services at their regularly scheduled meeting of September 11, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-4016.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
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DEPARTMENT HEADS

September 11, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Thomas B. Modica, City Manager

The members of the Board of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services believe it is time to strengthen our battle against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Europe brought the pandemic under control by a complete shutdown, social distancing, personal sanitation and wearing masks. Today, even though their incidence numbers are low, and they have reopened to a great degree, they continue to require social distancing and mask-wearing.

We believe the most effective step to containment and to gradual reopening is to enforce the existing health order that wearing masks in public, when around people, is required.

This health order has the same effect as an ordinance or a law, but in many jurisdictions, including Long Beach, this order is not being enforced. Some exceptions, right here in our County, are the Cities of Glendale, Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach – to name a few.

They are enforcing the law.

Most have a tiered administrative fine schedule. People not wearing a mask in public are first cited and provided a warning and a mask and then with additional violations may be fined. (Those unable to pay fines will be provided with a community service option in lieu thereof). This would require careful planning to ensure fair and equitable implementation across the City, so it doesn't disproportionately affect some areas over others.

While it is heartening to see more and more of our residents wearing their masks, there are still areas where large numbers of people are not.

If the City agrees to move forward with this recommendation, the Board will be happy to participate in developing guidelines for enforcement.

Thank you for considering our concern.

Respectfully,

Long Beach Board of Health and Human Services