



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
April 3, 2020

Upcoming Events

Closure of City Facilities Extended Through April 12, 2020. City Staff Will Continue to Provide Services by Phone, Email and Through the Web.

To Our Community:

The City of Newport Beach continues to monitor our outdoor spaces for compliance with social distancing directives, and we are taking additional steps as needed to help limit the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please know that the City's response is carefully considered and adheres to the direction provided by the State of California and Orange County public health authorities. However, the key to "flattening the curve" is for each of us to stay

home except for essential activities and strictly adhere to social distancing when we do go out.

COVID-19 News and Resources

Please visit newportbeachca.gov/covid19 for the latest City news and useful web resources, including information about the federal, state, county resources available to help [small businesses](#) and [workers](#) that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

Visit the [Orange County Health Care Agency's COVID-19](#) web page for countywide information, including the number of local cases. You can also follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and look for alerts from our City staff on [Nextdoor](#).

How many COVID-19 cases are there in Newport Beach?

Beginning last week, the County of Orange began posting reported COVID-19 cases by city at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>. Previously only countywide figures have been made public. The number as of April 3, 2020 is 60 cases in Newport Beach out of 656 cases total in Orange County.

The County has informed cities that this information reflects the place of residence for those who have tested positive, not necessarily where the transmission occurred. Also, the data does not reflect all COVID-19 transmission in a given community because testing is prioritized for those at greatest risk, or who are the most sick. Those who are asymptomatic and have mild cases may not be tested, and are therefore not reflected in the data.

The data shows transmission is occurring throughout Orange County. Regardless of the case count in any particular city, it is important for all residents to practice social distancing as directed by the Governor and the Orange County Health Officer. Doing so will help to reduce the spread of infection, ease the burden on our hospital and healthcare system, and protect those most vulnerable in our county.

Areas that Are Closed or Have Limited Access

Following last weekend's closure of the Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula, the City will extend the closure to fulltime until further notice as of today, April 3. Crews have reinstalled barriers along the Boardwalk's access points and posted temporary closure signs.

The Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway remains a "one-way" sidewalk, with signs directing pedestrians to walk in a single direction. This is intended to help walkers maintain at least six feet of space from other users along the narrow pathway. To reduce vehicle traffic congestion on the Island, the southbound Jamboree Road through lane at Bayside Drive remains closed.

In Corona del Mar, the City closed off the typically congested grassy areas along Ocean Boulevard, including Inspiration Point and Lookout Point. The Goldenrod footbridge is also closed as its narrow walkway makes social distancing difficult. Buck Gully trail is narrow and social distancing became a challenge. The City closed it today until further notice.

All beachfront parking lots and piers remain closed. Back Bay Drive also remains closed to vehicular traffic, providing more room for recreational users to maintain at least six feet of separation from others.

City parks remain open and but park amenities including playgrounds, fitness equipment, fields (baseball, soccer, multi-use), all courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, handball and volleyball) and the dog park are closed.

Additional information related to the City's response efforts begins on page 4.

Harbor Department Update

Patrol Activities Continue with Extra Emphasis on Safety and Monitoring Condition of Property

Harbor Department staff are continuing regular patrols of the Newport Harbor mooring fields, including the two fields typically monitored and managed by the Balboa Yacht Club and Newport Harbor Yacht Club (with their operations currently limited). The focus of these patrols is heavily geared towards monitoring the condition and safety of boats in the mooring fields, with staff on the lookout for signs of listing, changes in waterline, worn or poorly tied off lines securing vessels to moorings, potential squatters, etc. This is needed as community members are less able to regularly check on their vessels due to the State's stay-at-home order, leaving their property in the harbor more susceptible to developing problems.

This operational strategy is proving effective, with staff having identified and responded to several situations just within the past few days (including a vessel taking on water with the potential of sinking - due to a dead battery and inactive bilge pumps). These situations observed by Harbor Department staff were caught early, but without their 'extra set of eyes' could have led to more serious safety and environmental issues for the harbor.

Serving Newport Harbor's Live-Aboard Community

During the on-going COVID-19 event, Harbor Department staff are continuing to monitor and are regularly "touching base" with the harbor's live-aboard community members, who reside aboard their vessels in the harbor. There are currently 45 vessels in the City's mooring fields with approved live-aboard permits. These outreach efforts have been well received by these local residents.

The Harbor Department has also temporarily extended permitted live-aboard community members with access to the Marina Park shower facilities (which are traditionally used exclusively by boaters staying in the facility's short-term guest slips). Some of our live-aboard residents traditionally use health clubs, college campuses, or other facilities for showers – all of which are currently closed. This offering has been well received, with 17 live-aboard boaters having accessed the facilities since the temporary service started on March 23.

On-Going Communication Efforts with Mooring Permit Holders

A Harbor Department email will be sent to all mooring permittees within the next few days, informing/reinforcing the message that the Harbor Department's office remains open for business via telephone, email, and web-based services, and that patrols and on-the-harbor requests for service are also continuing without interruption. This email will also encourage permittees to familiarize themselves with recently updated and City Council approved Title 17 provisions (with a link provided to the updated municipal code), as many of these updates are associated with mooring permits and general use of Newport Harbor.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Appeal Update

On March 5, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council adopted the Final RHNA Methodology. The next step scheduled for the RHNA process was for the SCAG Regional Council to adopt the draft RHNA allocation (the formal allocation assigned to each local jurisdiction) at its April 2 meeting. Newport Beach is estimated to receive a RHNA allocation of 4,832 dwelling units. Once adopted, SCAG would formally notify each jurisdiction of their allocation (originally estimated to be April 10). A local jurisdiction's receipt of draft allocation would then begin the 45-day filing period where a jurisdiction could submit an appeal of their RHNA allocation. A subsequent 45-day comment period and subsequent public hearings would follow accordingly throughout the summer.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a public health crisis that every level of government is mobilizing to address. Stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders have been issued by the Governor as well as by several mayors and counties within the SCAG region. As a result, the April 2 SCAG Regional Council meeting has been cancelled, delaying the adoption of the draft RHNA allocation and start of the appeal filing period. SCAG staff has indicated that they anticipate rescheduling the Regional Council meeting to adopt the RHNA draft allocation to April 30. Accordingly, the appeal filing period will likely begin in early May, with the subsequent comment period and public hearings extended accordingly.

Homelessness Update

As concerns over COVID-19 (coronavirus) increase throughout the community, City Net, the City's contracted social services provider, continues to assist people experiencing homelessness. Their outreach efforts, coordinated with the City and County's resources, provide housing, health care and other opportunities. The City Net case managers practice proper social distancing and take protective measures to protect the health of the community.

The City's Homeless Liaison Officer and the Homeless Coordinator continue to interact with our people experiencing homelessness. Staff actively encourages people to seek proper shelter and healthcare through the City Net case managers. People, regardless of housing status, are mindful to practice social distancing, ensure proper hygiene, and avoid congregating.

Please refer to the following links for additional information: newportbeachca.gov/covid19, ochealthinfo.com, and covid19.ca.gov. The County of Orange operates emergency shelters in Fullerton and Santa Ana. The City Net staff makes referrals to these shelters as well.

Success Stories: Last week, the City Net case managers connected several people experiencing homelessness to appropriate social services agencies in Orange County, including:

- Completed two new Vulnerability Intake assessments (VI-SPDAT) at both the Newport Transportation Center and the Balboa Pier. City Net utilizes the Vulnerability Index intake assessment to screen clients on a number of factors to determine proper placement in the County's Continuum of Care system. Some factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered.
- Referred a new client to the Salvation Army's Hospitality House in Santa Ana. The Hospitality House, located in Santa Ana since 1964, provides emergency shelter for up to 75 men. Services for shelter guests include case management, clothing, special programs, spiritual growth opportunities, access to showers and laundry facilities, and breakfast and dinner services.
- Referred a client to the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Canyon. The Friendship Shelter, operating since 1988, provides year-round shelter and rehabilitation services to homeless adults.

- Provided a screening for a new client for the State of California Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). The HDAP gives highest priority to chronically disabled homeless people to secure permanent housing and medical benefits.
- 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. If immediate assistance is needed, people are advised to call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747.

Additional Information Related to the City's COVID-19 Response

Status of City Hall, Library and Public Safety Facilities

All City facilities remain closed at least through April 12. Our public safety, public works, utilities and other essential services continue to function.

We encourage you to take advantage of our many online Library resources at www.newportbeachlibrary.org or visit [our e-Branch](#). And, our Recreation & Senior Services Dept. developed an [Online Recreation Center](#) with classes, workshops and activities.

Our staff is still here to serve you by phone and email. If you need anything, please give us a call at 949-644-3000.

What's Allowed, What's Suggested?

The City has a graphic summary of the allowable activities during the Governor's "Stay at Home" order. [Click here to view the graphic.](#)

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Update

The City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains open as a central hub for our response efforts. The EOC gives us the ability to coordinate our response more effectively among multiple City departments, and document staff activities for the eventual reimbursement of state and federal emergency funding.

Senior Services

State and county guidelines strongly recommend that people 65 and older, and those with chronic health conditions, should stay at home. We realize that presents an extreme hardship for many of our residents. Our meal delivery program will continue, and we are ready to provide special services, such as grocery shopping, by request. Newport Beach seniors who are homebound and require special assistance are encouraged to call the City's Senior Services Dept. at 949-644-3244 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tap Water Safety

We can assure you that the City of Newport Beach's water is clean, safe and reliable. The coronavirus has no impact on the quality or supply of your tap water. We use chlorine to disinfect the water before it enters the distribution system to protect against microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and fungus. This ensures safe drinking water for all our customers. There is no need to stock up on bottled water.

Trash Pickup and Street Sweeping

Trash and recycling pickup continue as scheduled.

Planning Services

Planning and Zoning information will be provided by telephone and email. Please call 949-644-3204 or your planner ([for a roster, please follow this link](#)).

If you wish to file a planning application, please complete the [application](#) and mail it with all supporting design plans, reports, title report, mailing labels for notices and a check for the appropriate fee by mail. Alternatively, you can drop off your application in a bin that will be located outside the permit center at City Hall (Bay C). Drop off times are available Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Alternatively, you can upload your materials [electronically here](#). ([see instructions](#)).

Building Plan Check Applications

Obtaining information relating to plan check submittals can be done by phone or email. Please call 949-718-1888, or contact directly from this [link](#).

Plan check and planning submittals will be via [EMAIL HERE](#) for small tenant improvements, small projects or revisions (\$100,000 in value).

For new construction or larger projects (\$100,001 or greater), you may drop off the plans in a bin located outside the permit center at City Hall (Bay C). Drop off times available Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. All submittal plans shall include all necessary documentations such as [plan submittal form](#), completed [permit application](#), soil reports, structural calculations, energy calculations, water quality reports, etc.

For plan check fees, please contact the Permit Center at 949-718-1888 to obtain information regarding the required fees to be paid. Payments may be made over the phone with a credit card, or with a check.

Standard plans can be found [here](#).

Permit Issuance and Revisions

Permits may be submitted via [EMAIL HERE](#) or fax 949-644-3250, provided it can be processed for payment authorization and signature by the contractor, or owner. Permits will be issued electronically. For new construction projects, appointments will be established to come to City Hall and pick up the approved set of plans. For minor permits such as reroof, window change out, EV charging stations, water heater replacement, we encourage applicants to utilize the [iPERMIT](#) system.

For permit fees, please contact the Permit Center at 949-718-1888 to obtain information regarding the required fees to be paid. Payments may be made over the phone with a credit card, or with a check.

Inspections

Inspections will continue. Please continue requesting online inspections [here](#), or call for inspection at 949-644-3255. Inspectors are physically entering commercial buildings and new construction. Inspectors are not entering existing residential homes. For existing residential homes, we are utilizing all mobile technology such as FaceTime, Skype, and photos to conduct and complete the inspections remotely.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement will continue to provide inspection services. Please contact Code Enforcement 949-644-3215.