



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
April 17, 2020

Upcoming Events

City Facilities Closed Through May 3, 2020. City Staff Will Continue to Provide Services by Phone, Email and Through the Web.

**Monday, April 20
Board of Library Trustees Meeting**
[\(Instructions for participating remotely\)](#)

**Thursday, April 23
Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
6:30 p.m.
[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate remotely\)](#)

To Our Community:

As the weather improves, we expect more people to be outside getting exercise and fresh air. Please stay in your own neighborhood to avoid overcrowding in other neighborhoods. Continue to practice safe and responsible social distancing when outdoors. We are all feeling the pressures and frustrations – but our efforts are paying off and must continue for a while longer. We are successfully “flattening the curve” and helping our communities stay healthy. The weeks ahead will be difficult, but we must continue to be responsible and save lives.

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, and county resources available to help [small businesses](#) and [workers](#) that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis. We also have a [page of free resources](#) available through the Newport Beach Public Library and local organizations like SCORE, including online learning and business databases.

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?

The County of Orange posts reported COVID-19 cases by city at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>. The number as of April 17, 2020 is 90 cases in Newport Beach out of 1,501 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

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at newportbeachca.gov/events.

reflect all COVID-19 transmissions 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.

Face Coverings Strongly Recommended

Public health authorities are recommending that everyone wear a face covering when going out in public. Face coverings are strongly recommended for all residents engaged in essential activities outside their homes, as well as for workers in essential jobs.

The cloth face covering is meant to protect others in case you are infected. Please use a cloth face covering and not a mask meant for healthcare workers.

Health officials emphasize that face coverings are not substitutes for physical distancing (keeping at least six feet away from others) and regular hand washing.

While face coverings are not mandatory in Orange County, the City of Newport Beach is supporting the County and strongly advising all residents to take this additional precaution to protect their community and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Areas that Are Closed or Have Limited Access

The Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula remains closed, as well as the Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway.

The City has prohibited surfing at the Wedge between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and closed the adjacent beach area to discourage public gatherings at one of Newport Beach's most popular surf spots.

Blackball flags are being flown in the Wedge area during the restricted hours. City crews have installed temporary fencing from the West Harbor Jetty to M Street to discourage spectators from gathering in violation of the Governor's "stay at home" order.

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. The Buck Gully trail was closed last week after social distancing became a challenge.

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, with the exception of West Jetty Park. Park amenities are closed, however, including playgrounds, fitness equipment, fields (baseball, soccer, multi-use), all courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, handball and volleyball) and the dog park.

Short Term Lodging Ban

The Community Development Department reminds everyone that on April 3, 2020, the City Council approved Emergency Ordinance 2020-1 banning Short Term Lodging (STL) activities until May 20, 2020. Short Term Lodging is considered the rental of any lodging unit for a period of thirty days or less. An exception allowed in the ordinance is renting an STL unit to anyone in the medical profession or emergency responder. There are fines to violating the Emergency Ordinance: First Violation - \$1,000 fine; Second Violation – Suspension of STL permit for one

year; and Third Violation – Revocation of the STL permit. If you believe someone is violating the Emergency Ordinance please contact our Code Enforcement Division at 949 644-3215.

April 20, Board of Library Trustees Meeting, 5 p.m.

Given the health risks associated with COVID-19, the City of Newport Beach has decided to proceed with the Board of Library Trustees meeting while strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines. To this end, the meeting will be conducted in the Newport Beach Central Library, which is currently closed to the public. Trustees will attend remotely via telephone. Staff will be required to maintain a minimum of 10 feet separation. Based on recent guidelines from the OC Health Agency, face coverings are strongly recommended. You can participate via the following options:

1. You can call 213-306-3065 (Access code: 969 895 609) and you will be able to participate in the hearing with others that use this method. If using this option, please mute microphone or cover your receiver until you are asked if you wish to make a comment. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
2. You can submit your questions and comments in writing for the Board of Library Trustees to consider. Please send them by email to the Library Services Department at LibraryAdminTeam@newportbeachca.gov by Friday, April 17, 2020, at 4 p.m. to give the Board of Library Trustees time to consider your comments. All emails will be made part of the record.

NBPL Poetry Contest – April 19 - 29

Join our Poetry Party! It's National Poetry Month and we're rockin' some stanzas at Newport Beach Public Library (NBPL) eBranch! Children ages 2-12 are invited to submit original poems to juvref@newportbeachca.gov as a photo, document, or audio recording until April 29. By submitting a poem you give NBPL authorization to share your work on our social media and Poetry Party webpage for other NBPL Poets to enjoy. Three lucky Poets will receive a \$20 eGift card to Barnes and Noble! See complete details on our Poetry Party webpage. Happy writing, Poets!

The NBPL Poetry Contest is generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Online Recreation Center – New Programs Added

Be sure to visit the Online Recreation Center hosted by the Recreation & Senior Services Department. We continue to add new resources and update our growing list of virtual offerings in this web-based environment. New programs to include art, theater, dance, music, virtual travel, sports, fitness, STEM+ and more. Check out our Virtual Class Calendar for free workshops or fee-based classes in a variety of topics. Also, we'd love to hear from you about what you're looking for when it comes to virtual programming. Please visit www.newportbeachca.gov/ORC now and click on the link to take our survey. Call (949) 644-3151 or email recreation@newportbeachca.gov with any questions. Stay well Newport Beach!

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's 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 distributes personal protective equipment during street

outreach to ensure people maintain public safety. 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.

The County of Orange operates emergency shelters in Fullerton and Santa Ana. The City Net staff makes referrals to these shelters as well. Last week, the County's Coordinated Entry System case managers housed four military veterans and their families.

Success Stories:

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

- Placed a family into shelter through the County's COVID-19 motel project. The County of Orange has secured 500 motel rooms to provide shelter-in-place space for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 emergency. The family is currently safe in the motel and is continuing to receive supportive services from City Net and Families Forward. The family is currently working with Families Forward to secure a unit based off their housing voucher. Families Forward, based in Irvine, has been providing housing navigation, food bank items, and job training for Orange County families since 1984.
- Housed a newly enrolled client who was staying at the Newport Transportation Center into a sober living home in Fullerton. The man is now safe and City Net is continuing to follow up with him daily.
- Enrolled a Veteran client who is staying at the Newport Transportation Center into City Net services. The client has an existing relationship with Volunteers of America's short-term rental assistance and services program and City Net is working to reconnect him with that group.
- Completed a new Vulnerability Intake assessments (VI-SPDAT) with a man who spends his days at the Newport Transportation Center. 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. The case managers will follow up with the man to provide a housing assessment.
- Assisted a man at the Newport Transportation Center apply for a State-issued Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. The EBT system is used in California for the delivery, redemption, and reconciliation of issued public assistance benefits, such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, and other food and cash aid benefits. The program, established in 2004, provides up to \$125 a person per month to purchase food.

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.

