



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung  
May 15, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

**City Facilities Closed Through May 17, 2020.** City Staff Will Continue to Provide Services by Phone, Email and Through the Web.

**Thursday, May 21  
Finance Committee Meeting**  
City Council Chambers  
100 Civic Center Drive  
(See agenda for instructions on how to participate)  
**3 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 21  
Planning Commission Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m. - Canceled**

## To Our Community:

The City is taking a cautious, phased approach to reopening parks, recreational facilities and City Hall. We reopen facilities and amenities in steps and in alignment with other coastal cities and counties throughout the state. Here is our plan for the next two weeks.

The phased reopening of City Hall begins on Monday, May 18. Strict social distancing practices will be in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All members of the public visiting City Hall will be required to wear a face covering, and the number of people entering the building will be limited and managed by City staff.

On May 18, the Permit Center will open to walk-in customers. On May 26, the Building and Safety Counter will reopen. And, on June 1, all City Hall services will be open to the public.

City libraries, the OASIS Senior Center and community centers will remain closed until further notice.

Meanwhile, City beaches remain open for “active recreational use.” This includes swimming, surfing, walking and running. Fishing off the jetties is allowed. You can find more information on [permitted uses on the City website](#).

Public restrooms are open, and the Peninsula Boardwalk is open as part of the “active recreational use” of the beaches.

The City’s public safety officers will strive to educate the public on “active recreation” use and we are hopeful that citations will be unnecessary.

Finally, we have started to open some of the smaller beach parking lots. Additional beach amenities including the larger parking lots and pier will reopen slowly over the next few days and weeks.

Visit the City’s website for a complete listing of meetings and events at [newportbeachca.gov/events](http://newportbeachca.gov/events).

## **COVID-19 News and Resources**

Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/covid19](http://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](#).

## **COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach**

The County of Orange posts reported COVID-19 cases by city at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>. The number as of May 15, 2020 is 132 cases in Newport Beach out of 4,125 cases total in Orange County.

A temporary spike in the number of Newport Beach cases was observed last week due to, in large part, outbreaks inside a small number of local care facilities where patients and staff have tested positive. Since these facilities are located in Newport Beach, the County assigns the cases to Newport Beach. County public health officers and Newport Beach Fire Department officials have met with the CEOs, head nurses and other top staff at the facilities to ensure that best practices are in place to mitigate further spread of the virus.

## **OC COVID-19 Screening and Testing Network**

The Orange County Health Care Agency has released a list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. If you are showing symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider for testing information first. If you do not have a healthcare provider, visit <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing-and-screening> for testing information. The SOS Health Center in Newport Beach is an approved community testing site. Call (949) 270-2100 for an appointment

Newport Beach works in partnership with the County of Orange and its testing, tracking and contact tracing program. This coordinated, centralized approach under County oversight is an effective way to monitor and control the spread of the coronavirus in our communities.

## **RHNA Update**

At its May 7 meeting, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council approved the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation appeals procedures, but delayed the final RHNA allocation for an additional 120 days until the SCAG Regional Council can adopt the Connect SoCal plan. Therefore, the window to file the RHNA appeal will NOT start on May 15, 2020.

## **Homelessness Update**

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) response. 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. 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 those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach. Staff distributes personal protective equipment during street outreach and helps people find shelter and healthcare through the City Net case managers. Regardless of housing status, everyone is encouraged to practice social distancing, ensure proper hygiene, and avoid congregating.

### 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 Index Intake Assessments with a man who spends his days at the Newport Transportation Center and a man who stays near the Newport 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. The case managers will follow up with the men to provide housing assessments.
- Enrolled an older man experiencing homelessness by the Newport Pier into Project Roomkey. Project Roomkey, a State of California program, provides motel stays to allow people experiencing homelessness to shelter in place during the COVID-19 situation. The case managers collaborated with staff from Illumination Foundation. Illumination Foundation is the lead agency for the County to access the program. Illumination Foundation, founded in 2008, provides targeted services for the most vulnerable homeless clients. Those needing shelter can call (714) 834-3000 to enroll in Project Roomkey.
- Accepted a referral from Family Assistance Ministries in South County to meet with a new client. Case managers enrolled the client into City Net services and are assisting with finding employment. Founded in 1999, Family Assistance Ministries is a faith-based charitable non-profit organization assisting those in need in Orange County with resources for food, shelter, and personalized supportive counsel and aid, helping clients bridge the gap from dependency to self-sufficiency.
- Navigated the housing process for a veteran client who was previously staying near the Newport Transportation Center. His new apartment was approved during the required inspection and he will be moving in this week.
- Provided hygiene kits, food packs, clothes and supportive services for clients.

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.

### Newport Coast – Canary Island Palm Replacements

Last year, the Public Works staff discovered several of the Canary Island Palm trees on Newport Coast Drive near the intersection of Ocean Ridge were in decline due to wilt disease. Wilt disease, also known as Fusarium, is lethal in nearly 100% of infected trees and there is no chemical treatment to prevent or eradicate this pathogen.

The Newport Coast Community Association arranged for the removal and replacement of the 11 dying/infected trees. Last week, workers dug around the infected palms in advance of the crane work necessary to remove the large and heavy palms. The crane was onsite this week, and due to the location of the work and the size of the crane, extensive traffic control was necessary. The removal and replacement work is ongoing.

Eleven Date Palm trees will be planted, a species less prone to Fusarium infection, and all of the irrigation and landscaping impacted by this extensive work will be replaced.

