



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung  
July 2, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, July 3**  
[Holiday Closure](#)

**Friday, July 3**  
[Monthly test of City's outdoor warning notification system](#)

**Wednesday, July 8**  
**Harbor Commission Meeting**  
[\(See Agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)  
5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, July 9**  
**Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, City Council Chambers  
100 Civic Center Dr.  
[\(See Agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)  
6:30 p.m.

Community members,

This has been a busy week with many fast-changing directives surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 response, as cases and hospitalizations increase throughout the state and County of Orange.

On Wednesday, our City Council approved a full closure of all beaches on Saturday, July 4, after two seasonal lifeguards employed by the City tested positive for COVID-19, and more than 20 placed in quarantine. This followed L.A. County's decision to close beaches over the July 4 weekend, which is traditionally the busiest summer weekend for beach goers throughout Southern California.

Then, on Thursday, the City added an additional closure on Sunday, July 5 to maintain consistency with beach closures throughout Orange County. The closures apply to Newport Beach's ocean-facing beaches as well as bay beaches.

City crews are now setting up barricades, signs and other notifications prior to the closure at 10 p.m. on Friday.

The Oceanfront Boardwalk will also be closed to secure access to the beach. Beach serving parking lots will be closed. Newport Pier will be closed. For FAQs on the July 4 weekend, visit [this link on our City website](#).

Meanwhile, the State of California issued a directive that closes several business sectors that had recently been allowed to reopen. Indoor and outdoor bars are closed by order of the State Governor, as are indoor restaurants, for at least three weeks. Restaurants with outdoor seating are permitted to serve dine-in customers.

In addition to the public health response, we are taking all the usual July 4 public safety measures to protect our neighborhoods. Our Police Department, with support from neighboring public safety agencies, will be maintaining a strong presence near the beaches to enforce the closure, manage traffic and enforce our local anti-fireworks law.

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

In the West Newport safety enhancement zone, fines for violations such as loud music, unruly parties and drinking in public will be increased to as much as triple the usual amount.

There will be no professional fireworks displays and street parades or festivals on July 4, in alignment with State guidance that restricts large gatherings.

With Orange County experiencing a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, we are urging the public to act responsibly over the holiday weekend and limit contact to those within your immediate household.

All of us at the City wish you and your families a safe July 4 holiday.

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

The number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach as of July 2 is 334 and the total cases in Orange County is 15,065. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of July 2 is 7,862.

Statewide there has been a steady increase in the number of new cases, hospitalizations and ICU hospitalizations. While the State and County are now better prepared to handle the increase – and currently have adequate hospital capacity, ventilators and PPE available – the upward trend is concerning. The Governor and health officials continue to strongly emphasize the necessity of proper social distancing, the wearing of masks when in public and the importance of regular handwashing.

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

The County of Orange continues to add new COVID-19 data and information to its website at <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc>.

The County of Orange Healthcare Agency has a new COVID-19 Hotline, (714) 834-2000, and email address, [ETeam@ochca.com](mailto:ETeam@ochca.com). County staff will monitor the hotline and email box and answer questions about industry reopening and activity resumption, current guidance and more.

The County also maintains a growing 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.

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. 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. You can also follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and look for alerts from our City staff on [Nextdoor](#).

### **Request for Legislative Assistance Answered**

The City drafted proposed changes to state law that would significantly reduce barriers for Newport Beach to achieve the State of California's ambitious housing goals set forth in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element. As previously reported, Newport Beach is set to receive an RHNA allocation of 4,832 units that must be planned for and accommodated during the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle planning period covering 2021-2029. On June 29, 2020, [Assembly Bill No. 1063](#), was introduced proposing several of the drafted changes. Some important changes included in the bill are:

- Allow more flexibility to get credit for the rehab or conversion of existing units;

- Count ADUs as affordable units by establishing an accepted assumption for estimating ADU production and affordability levels; and
- Present clear, objective standards to meet the “substantial evidence” requirements for site selection.

Additional information related to AB 1063, including draft support letters, can be accessed at the City’s 2020 Housing Action webpage:

[www.newportbeachca.gov/housingactionplan](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/housingactionplan)

### **Homelessness Update**

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City’s ongoing COVID-19 response, working closely with contractor City Net and regional partners throughout the county and state. Recently, people in Newport Beach experiencing homelessness have been placed in motels through Project Roomkey, a state initiative to provide shelter during COVID-19. Newport Beach staff and City Net staff are collaborating with the Illumination Foundation, a local non-profit agency working with the state to implement Project Roomkey.

### **Success Stories:**

- Three people staying by the Newport Pier were placed in motels under the Project Roomkey program.
- Two people were placed into the Santa Ana Armory temporary shelter. One is a man who had been staying under a bridge after losing his restaurant job in Newport Beach. Another is a woman who had been living in her car after she could no longer afford rent due to increasing medical bills. The Orange County Emergency Shelters, located in Santa Ana and Fullerton, are operated by Mercy House. Mercy House, established in Orange County in 1987, provides comprehensive services for people experiencing homelessness.
- Staff completed five Vulnerability Index Intake Assessments with people staying in Newport Beach. The assessment is used to screen clients to determine proper placement in the County’s Continuum of Care system. Some assessment factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered. Case managers will follow up with the clients to provide housing assessments and prepare documentation for housing.
- Staff connected a veteran staying by the Newport Pier to Veteran Administration services for case management.

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. For immediate assistance call the County’s Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747. To enroll in Project Roomkey, call (714) 834-3000.

