



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung

January 29, 2021

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 30 City Council Planning Session – Special Meeting

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3 Library Lecture Hall Design Committee Meeting (virtual)

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

1 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3 Housing Element Update Advisory Committee Meeting (virtual)

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

6 p.m.

Community members,

After weeks of rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, there was some good news this week. Orange County's average daily cases per 100,000 population, which had been as high as 67.8 in mid-January, are down to 46.6. The testing positivity rate dropped from 16.7% to 12.9%, and the health equity metric is also down this week, from 21.2% to 16.6%.

Those numbers are part of a statewide trend that prompted the California Department of Public Health to lift the regional stay-at-home order on Monday, January 25. In Orange County, we have returned to the Purple Tier restrictions: Indoor hair and nail salons can reopen, along with outdoor dining and outdoor gyms, among others, under the state's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

Orange County opened a second super vaccination site at Soka University in Aliso Viejo on Saturday, January 23, increasing the County's ability to accommodate the high demand for COVID-19 vaccines. The County reports that the Soka and Disneyland sites are now each administering 240 vaccines an hour, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, to those in the 1A priority category (65 or older and healthcare workers).

So far in January, more than 493,000 people have registered with the Othena.com appointment scheduling platform, 81,324 people have received a vaccination, and 93,633 have scheduled vaccination appointments.

Still, we know that many residents throughout the County are frustrated with the challenges of scheduling an appointment through Othena. County officials are asking for patience as they improve the registration system and obtain more vaccine supply. Appointments are scheduled for no more than three days out as the County depends on the State for its supply of vaccine doses.

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

Here is some key information and resources as of January 29:

- The County has developed a weekly e-newsletter dedicated to vaccine information. You can sign up to receive the OC COVID19 Vaccine Facts newsletter [at this link](#). Scroll down until you see the subscribe button and enter your email.
- To make a vaccine appointment, visit Othena.com and register to be placed in a “digital waiting room.” Appointment notifications to those in the “digital waiting room” will be prioritized based on factors including age, time of registration and available vaccine supply. Eligible individuals will be notified to schedule an appointment by email or notification through the Othena app.
- Eligible individuals who received their first vaccine dose through the Othena system will automatically receive their second dose appointment confirmation through Othena.
- Anyone 65 and older can make an appointment and receive the vaccine. If you are under 65, please do not make an appointment or download the app.
- You must make an appointment to be vaccinated. Vaccinations will only be administered to those who have an appointment. This means that no walk-ups are being allowed at the vaccine distribution sites.
- If you have questions and technical assistance call 714-834-2000, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email Othena at support@compositeapps.net. This is for support with the Othena system, not to schedule appointments.
- Newport Beach has submitted a formal request to the County of Orange seeking authorization to host community clinics once the larger, County distribution sites have been established and additional vaccine doses become available. Newport Beach has more than 115 paramedics and EMTs trained to administer the vaccine, along with dozens of lifeguards and other City staff members trained to assist with the distribution effort. Newport Beach Fire Department staff successfully assisted with the one of the initial vaccine distribution sites in Huntington Beach, which vaccinated more than 10,000 people in late December and early January.

COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach

As of January 28, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach was 3,249 and the total cases in Orange County was 228,297. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of January 28 was 170,229. These figures are provided to Orange County by the California Department of Public Health.

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. 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.

Success Stories:

- Two people who are sleeping in their cars were enrolled into City Net services. One person fled a domestic violence situation and is seeking shelter, and the second lost her apartment after her partner passed away from COVID-19 and she could no longer pay the rent on one income. City Net is working with her to locate appropriate housing.
- Thanks to generous donations from the Newport Beach community, a newly housed woman was able to pay January rent and stay in her home. The woman's hours were reduced at work due to COVID-19 and she could not pay her full rent. She became homeless and lived in her car for two years after a divorce. She continues to work in Newport Beach and is interviewing for a second job to supplement her income.

- City Net staff continues to provide food gift cards, support, and case management to several people sheltering in motels while they await placement into permanent, supportive housing.

Housing Element Update Advisory Committee (HEUAC) Meeting Next Week: February 3

On Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 6 p.m., the City's Housing Element Update Advisory Committee (HEAUC) will hold a meeting virtually via Zoom. The HEUAC is anticipated to do the following:

- Hear updates from the active subcommittees.
- Go through the various sites that have been reviewed by the subcommittee charged with identifying potential housing redevelopment sites within the 65db Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) contour areas. Viability of housing in these areas will also be discussed given current General Plan policy.
- Receive an overview from staff on approaches for using accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to count towards the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation for Newport Beach.

The agenda for this meeting will be posted online [here](#). The public is welcomed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The HEUAC is scheduled to meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month on an as-needed basis. For more information on the HEUAC, please check out its webpage [here](#).

As a reminder, you can also check out www.newporttogether.com to help stay informed and to participate in the update process through interactive activities and engagement opportunities.

Recent Storm Event

The recent storm event produced strong winds, with gusts up to 50 mph. Public Works Department crew and contractors were called out to several tree-related calls and wind-blown sand on boardwalks, plazas, parking lots, and street ends.

Public Works Trees Maintenance crew and contractors responded to seven fallen trees; one was a private tree that was blocking public right-of-way. This storm event shows that the City trees are able to withstand strong winds as a result of the preventative maintenance performed by the City.

Our Beach Maintenance crew started the cleanup of the boardwalks and plazas for the bicyclists, and then proceeded to the parking lots and street ends. This clean-up usually takes up to two weeks. Filled sandbags are available the day before rain events at the Corporation Yard for our residents. There is a limit of 10 per residence, with proof of Newport Beach residency. Hours for pick up and sandbag availability can be confirmed by calling 949-644-3055.

January 23, 2021 Shred Event

The City held a shredding event at the City Corporation Yard on Saturday, January 23. The event took place from 8 a.m. until noon. Despite the rain, bags and boxes of documents were collected from 476 vehicles, with a total of 18,000 lbs. of paper collected for on-site shredding services. Staff welcomed residents, checked identification, and inquired where residents learned of the event. The information can be helpful for effectively communicating with residents regarding these types of events in the future.

The next shred event will be April 24 at the Harbor Day School parking lot located at 3300 Pacific View Drive, 8 a.m. to noon. The event will include the collection of e-waste material.

Making Progress in Residential Refuse and Recycling

On January 26, City Council approved staff to proceed with the preparation of an amendment to the residential solid waste franchise contract with CR&R to replace the two existing contracts for residential refuse. The amendment will combine the Newport Coast residential area with the rest of the City area. Additionally, the amendment will extend recycling service and introduce organic diversion to our

residents. With the implementation of a full diversion program of source separation at the curb, the City will remain in compliance with the States mandatory recycling standards.

Fire Station No. 2 Groundbreaking

On Tuesday, January 26, four Newport Beach City Councilmembers broke ground at the new site of Fire Station No. 2. Councilmembers Will O'Neill, Diane Dixon, Joy Brenner and Noah Blom joined Public Works Director Dave Webb, Deputy Director Jim Houlihan and Fire Chief Jeff Boyles for the short groundbreaking ceremony. The new station will be located at the corner of 2807 Newport Boulevard and 28th Street and will replace the old Lido Fire Station No. 2 currently located at 32nd Street. The new station is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2022.

