

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order Overview

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is calling on the public to help slow the spread of the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19). Public Health and its partners are taking aggressive steps to try to slow the spread of COVID-19, but despite these efforts, there continues to be community transmission within Los Angeles County. Without a vaccine or treatment, additional social (physical) distancing measures are necessary to slow the rate of new COVID-19 cases and protect both the public and the healthcare system.

The “Safer at Home” Health Officer Order (Order) was last amended on May 8, 2020. The Order is aligned with the Governor of California’s Orders, which require Californians to stay at home unless performing essential activities. The Order and additional guidance documents can be found on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 webpage: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>.

Overview of the Order

1. What is the “Safer at Home” Order?

The “Safer at Home” Order is a legal order issued by the Los Angeles County Health Officer to help slow the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

- The Order requires all businesses in the Los Angeles County Health Jurisdiction to stop in-person operations and close to the public unless they were: (a) defined as an Essential Business in the April 10, 2020 “Safer at Home” Order or (b) specifically allowed to be open, per the May 8, 2020 addendum (i.e., a Lower-risk Non-Essential Retail Business, a public or private golf course, or a new or used auto or car sales dealership or operations).
- Lower-risk Non-Essential Retail Businesses that can reopen can only provide goods to customers via curbside (outside of the store) pick-up or delivery.
- All businesses that are allowed to be open must follow infection control and social (physical) distancing requirements and implement the applicable Public Health Social Distancing and Reopening Protocol checklists that are attached to the Order. They also must give all employees whose duties require contact with other employees and/or the public a cloth face covering to use while in contact with others and require members of the public who enter the facility to wear an appropriate face covering.
- Indoor malls and shopping centers, swap meets and flea markets, and indoor and outdoor playgrounds remain temporarily closed.
- Businesses located within an indoor mall that can only be accessed by the public from the interior of the indoor mall must remain closed. Essential businesses and Lower-risk retail businesses that are located at an indoor mall, but that are normally accessed by the public from the exterior of the indoor mall may remain open or reopen, as applicable, while adhering to the applicable Social Distancing Protocol or Reopening Protocol for Retail Establishments.
- All restaurants can only offer food via delivery service, via pick-up for takeout dining, or via drive-thru. Restaurants may not provide indoor or outdoor table service.
- All public beaches and their points of access within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction are temporarily closed. People can engage in outdoor activities, such as jogging, walking, or biking, at sites that are open under the Order.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order Overview

- People can leave their homes to shop at businesses that are allowed to be open, as long as they practice social (physical) distancing and wear a cloth face covering. See [Guidance for Face Coverings](#) for information on how to safely wear face coverings when you need to leave the home.
- All indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings and events are prohibited.

2. What are the latest updates to the “Safer at Home” Order?

The “Safer at Home Order” was amended on May 8, 2020. As Los Angeles County moves into the second phase of a 5-stage [COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery](#), some “Safer at Home” requirements can be relaxed, while employees and the public continue to practice social distancing. Physical distancing and infection control measures remain in place to help keep workers and residents safe, protect healthcare capacity, and slow the spread of COVID-19.

The May 8, 2020 addendum to the Order allows some lower-risk retail businesses and public areas to reopen, as long as they meet the requirements outlined in the Order.

- Only certain types of Lower-risk Non-Essential Retail Businesses: bookstores, clothing and shoe stores, florists, music stores, sporting goods stores, and toy stores, may reopen for curbside pick-up or delivery only. In order to reopen, they must put into place certain measures to prevent disease spread that are specified in the Order's Reopening Protocol for Lower-Risk Retail Businesses.
- New or used car or auto sales dealerships or operations can reopen, if they put into place certain measures to prevent disease spread that are specified in the Order.
- Public trails and trailheads are reopened for use. All visitors must follow social (physical) distancing requirements, including wearing a cloth face covering while near others, and abide by any posted restrictions on access and use.
- Public and private golf courses may open, if they put into place certain measures to prevent disease spread that are specified in the Order's Reopening Protocol for Golf Courses. Members of the public must practice social (physical) distancing and follow all access and use rules when playing and on the golf course property. Clubhouses are closed. Pro Shops are not open for public entry. Golf course restaurants are available for takeout.

As we move through recovery, Public Health will monitor our local capacity to control the spread of COVID-19, track how well we are doing, and continue to revise the “Safer at Home Order” or issue new Orders to ensure that workers, residents, and our healthcare system are protected.

3. Will the Safer at Home Order be in effect after May 15?

Yes. As Los Angeles County moves through the stages of the COVID-19 [Roadmap to Recovery](#), Public Health will continue to monitor the rate of COVID-19 disease spread, the severity of the resulting illnesses and deaths, State and federal recommendations, and the Health Officer will extend, expand, or modify the Order, as needed, to protect the public's health.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order Overview

Why the Order Was Needed

4. Why did the Los Angeles County Health Officer issue the Safer at Home Health Officer Order?

The Order was issued to slow the spread of COVID-19 so that the healthcare delivery system would not be overwhelmed by extremely ill people who need high levels of care in our hospitals. Based on scientific evidence and best practices, and in the absence of a specific vaccine for, or treatment to prevent COVID-19, limiting the chances for close contact between persons is the best and only way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public.

5. Why does the Order include temporary closure of public beaches?

Public beaches initially remained open to the public for recreation and exercise. However, the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Los Angeles County increased significantly making the need for social (physical) distancing even more important. Groups of people had been crowding the beaches without practicing social (physical) distancing. Therefore, it was necessary to temporarily close public beaches, piers, public beach parking lots, beach bike paths on the sanded portion of the beach, and beach access points within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction.

What the Order Requires

6. What does the Safer at Home Order require the public to do?

Everyone must help to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social (physical) distancing and taking common-sense infection control precautions. Due to the continued rapid spread of COVID-19 and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, Public Health has called upon everyone to stay at home or in their place of residence, except when they need to work or shop at a business that is allowed to be open or engage in an Essential Activity. For members of the public, this means they should:

- Stay home as much as practicable (stay unexposed and do not expose others)
- Only go out for essential supplies or services or if they work at a business that is allowed to be open
- Stay six feet or more away from others
- Use a cloth face covering when they are a) in contact with other non-household members and b) when getting goods services at an open.
- Not gather in groups.

Individuals or members of the same household or living unit can participate in outdoor activities, such as walking, jogging, or biking, at sites that are not closed to the public, as long as everyone practices social (physical) distancing.

7. What types of businesses are able to be open to the public?

Only Essential Businesses that are normally open to the public and certain Lower-Risk Non-Essential Businesses that are listed in the May 8, 2020 addendum to the Order, may be open to the public. There are many types of businesses and services that may remain open to meet the needs of residents. Businesses and their customers need to practice social (physical) distancing. The Order requires all open businesses to implement specific infection control measures at their facilities help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. See the [Safer at Home FAQs for Businesses](#) for a list of businesses that can be open.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order Overview

Who the Order Applies To

8. Does the Safer at Home Order apply to everyone in Los Angeles County?

This Order applies to areas in the Los Angeles County Public Health Jurisdiction, which includes all parts of the County except the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena. The cities of Long Beach and Pasadena have their own city public health departments and have issued Health Officer Orders similar to the Safer at Home Health Officer Order. Businesses and organizations in these cities should check with their own public health departments for guidance.

9. Does the Safer at Home Order still apply if a city has also issued requirements?

All those under the Los Angeles County Health Jurisdiction (unincorporated areas and cities other than Long Beach and Pasadena) must comply with the Los Angeles County Safer at Home Order. However, the Order does not override any stricter restrictions put into place by a local jurisdiction, such as a City.

10. The Governor issued a Safer at Home order. Do I still need to comply with the Los Angeles County Safer at Home Health Officer Order?

All County residents must comply with the County's Order, the Governor's Order and any applicable laws and regulations. The Governor's Orders allow local health jurisdictions to implement Orders that are stricter than the Statewide Order. While the two Orders are largely consistent, if there is a difference between the Orders, the County's Order applies within the County's Public Health Jurisdiction.

11. What happens if I don't comply with this order?

Public Health trusts that residents will voluntarily follow the Order to protect loved ones, other residents, and our community. However, if you don't follow the Order, you can be fined, imprisoned, or both.

Information about COVID-19

12. What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that is caused by the novel coronavirus. It spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Some people with COVID-19 virus do not have symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means that they can spread it to others without knowing that they are infected. It may also spread when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus from the infected person on it and then touches their mouth, nose, or eyes before washing their hands.

People who are infected with COVID-19 can have mild to severe respiratory illness, with fever and cough that can develop into difficulty breathing. It can lead to serious illness and as of May 8, 2020, has caused nearly 1,500 deaths in Los Angeles County. Everyone is at risk for becoming ill with COVID-19, but some people are more vulnerable to serious illness due to their age, physical state, and/or health status.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order Overview

13. What should you do if you have respiratory symptoms or fever?

If you are mildly sick with fever and cough, you need to stay home for a) at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery, which means when your fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications and there is improvement in your respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND b) at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. Call your doctor if you are concerned and/or you have new or worsening symptoms. Individuals who are elderly, have underlying health conditions, or are pregnant should consider contacting their providers earlier when they are sick. For more guidance, read [Home Care Instructions for People with Respiratory Symptoms](#).

If you are confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the [Home Isolation Instructions for People with Coronavirus-2019 \(COVID-19\) Infections](#) AND tell all of your close contacts that they need to be in quarantine for 14 days after their last contact with you. Close contacts include all household members, any intimate contact, and all individuals who were within 6 feet of you for more than 10 minutes, within 48 hours before your symptoms began until your isolation period ends. In addition, anyone who had contact with your body fluids and/or secretions (such as were coughed on/sneezed on, shared utensils or saliva or provided care to you without wearing protective equipment) needs to be in quarantine. Give your close contacts the [Home Quarantine Guidance for Those Exposed to COVID-19](#).

Learn More

- Download the Safer at Home Order at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>.
- Learn more about the COVID-10 Roadmap to Recovery:
 - Infographic: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/RoadmapToRecovery.pdf
 - Slideset: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/RoadmapToRecovery-powerpoint.pdf
- Visit the Public Health COVID-19 website, at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/ for more information.
- Call 2-1-1 (LA County Information Line) if you have questions about COVID-19. 2-1-1 can provide information on nonprofit and social services such as food pantries, homeless shelters, rental assistance, mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.