

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

COVID-19 Info (numbers as of 7/09/20)

CASES:

Total Cases: 124,738
Cases Today: 1,777
Total Deaths: 3,689

Deaths Today: 50
Hospitalized(current): 2,037

TESTING:

Testing capacity continues to increase. As of today, approximately 1,240,000+ people in Los Angeles County have been tested for COVID-19 with 9% of all people testing positive. The daily positivity rate (a composite of a 7-day rolling average) is 9.4%.

At the outset of the pandemic, County public health officials set up special testing sites, but it is best to get a test directly from your doctor or health care provider.

If you cannot get a test through your doctor, you are still eligible for a free test if you have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. You can also get tested if you are not experiencing symptoms, but only if you are 65 or older, have chronic underlying conditions, are an essential worker, or live in an institutional congregate living setting such as a nursing home or homeless shelter. Recently, we've seen an uptick in demand for tests at testing sites, and you may find that you need to wait several days to make an appointment. Again, it's best to get a test from your doctor if possible.

We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the risk of widespread transmission, the best protection against COVID-19 continues to be to wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, self-isolate if you are sick, practice physical distancing, and wear a clean face covering when in contact with others from outside your household. It's important if someone thinks they could be positive for COVID-19 and are awaiting testing results, to stay at home and act as if they are positive. This means self-isolating for 10 days and 72 hours after symptoms and fever subside, or until they receive a negative result. If a person tests positive for COVID-19, they should plan on receiving a call from a contact tracer to discuss how to protect themselves and others, to find out where they may have been, and who they were in close contact with while infectious.

SHELTERING:

The Office of Emergency Management has designated LAHSA as the lead agency for work relating to people experiencing homelessness

Medical Sheltering: Los Angeles County has stood up temporary quarantine and isolation shelters to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These temporary shelters, using hotels and motels throughout the County, is for individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 and must isolate and need assistance from the County to do so.

Project Roomkey: Project Roomkey is a collaborative effort by the State, County, City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on seniors and individuals with existing health conditions. It provides a way for people who don't have a home to stay inside to prevent the spread of COVID19. Currently Project Roomkey has 3,601 rooms leased and 3,671 clients have been sheltered (some are families). Additionally, individuals are beginning to exit project Roomkey into permanent housing.

In support for those experiencing homelessness on May 12th Supervisor Kuehl authored a motion directing LAHSA to create a Homeless COVID-19 Recovery Plan. The proposed plan (which was presented to the Board of Supervisors in late May) uses an infusion of one-time resources to launch an initial lease-up period to quickly house the target population and then works over a three-year period to place people in the most appropriate program to their level of need.

In addition to the rehousing component, the recovery plan calls for scaling up LAHSA-funded prevention programming by 50%, including tenant protections to keep people in their homes. The report maps out short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies that will guide the county's response across five areas of focus: housing, shelter, unsheltered homelessness, prevention and problem-solving strategies, and strengthening system capacity.

Additional information and the full report can be found at: <https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=730-lahsa-releases-covid-19-recovery-plan>

CURRENT HEALTH OFFICER ORDER AND REOPENINGS

The Los Angeles County Health Officer Order was modified on July 1st to align with Gov. Gavin Newsom's directives and require **the closure of:**

- **Indoor, in-person dining at restaurants**
- **Indoor museums, indoor children's museums, and indoor operations at zoos and aquariums**
- **Cardrooms and satellite wagering facilities**

Also, the Health Officer Order requires businesses with three or more known cases of COVID-19 within the workplace over the span of 14 days, to report the outbreak to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health). Employers who have one known case within the workplace must have a protocol that requires that person to self-isolate at home and anyone exposed to self-quarantine.

Bars remain closed and all events and gatherings unless specifically allowed by this Order remain prohibited. Additionally, face coverings and gloves must be worn at fitness facilities at all times.

Over the weekend, LA County's Department of Public Health (DPH) updated the Protocol for Places of Worship, in the Health Officer Order, to align with Governor Newsom's recent directives. These modifications prohibit singing and chanting for indoor services. If you missed this change, you can latest Protocol for Places of Worship at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov. If you're curious about what's open or closed throughout LA County, [click here](#) to see a detailed list.

We urge everyone to avoid the Three C's: Crowded places, Confined spaces and Close contact with others not in your household. Everyone should always wear a face covering securely over your nose and mouth and keep six feet apart from others not in your household when out in public. Businesses must continue to follow Public Health directives. We remind everyone that you remain safer at home.

The Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Yesterday's Motions from 7/7/20 Board Meeting:

County Lays Groundwork for Fining Non-Compliant Businesses

The Board passed a motion Tuesday co-authored by Supervisor Kuehl **that will allow county health officials to impose fines or immediately revoke the permits of restaurants** not complying with COVID-19 health orders. The motion came in response to reports from LA County Department of Public Health inspectors over the last weekend of June that indicated that 49% of bars and 33% of restaurants were not adhering to physical distancing protocols indoors; and workers were not wearing face masks and face shields at 54% of bars and 44% of restaurants. Tens of thousands of restaurants, bars, retail stores, gyms, and other businesses in Los Angeles will be covered by the motion.

The Department of Public Health now has 14 days to present an enforcement plan for approval, which will detail how large of a fine can be levied against a restaurant, as determined by the maximum occupancy of the business and the severity of violations. A restaurant's operating permit could also be revoked after a second violation is reported.

Reducing Incarceration in LA County and taking a critical step to making 'Care First, Jails Last' a Reality

The Board voted unanimously to **establish an ongoing funding reserve dedicated to the new Office of Alternatives to Incarceration**. In March of this year, the Supervisors voted to establish a new office to advance the County's call for a "care first, jails last" system that would provide care and treatment instead of jail whenever possible. Establishment of the Office came on the heels of an intensive year-long process involving an unprecedented collaboration among County officials, community leaders, and people who have been incarcerated.

The March 2020 "Care First, Jails Last" report called for expanding and scaling community-based care; ensuring that people experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders are provided with appropriate mental health responses; implementing meaningful bail reform and diversion services; and providing effective treatment services in non-custody settings.

In the last few years, the LA County Board of Supervisors has taken dramatic steps to reduce its reliance on incarceration and embrace research-based treatment and diversion programs. Prior actions include closure of ten juvenile probation detention facilities; creation of an Office of Diversion and Reentry that has successfully diverted thousands of individuals from the justice system; and cancellation of plans to replace Men's Central Jail and to build a women's detention facility in Mira Loma.

Yesterday, the Board also passed a motion co-authored by Supervisor Kuehl to **develop a plan for closing Men's Central Jail within a year as part of LA County's commitment to reduce its reliance on incarceration. This plan will** include looking at where the inmates held there now would go, how the county's six other jails would be impacted and the potential cost-savings of such a move. The board requested a report back from the Sheriff's Department and the Office of Diversion and Reentry in 60 days. This is in addition to **another motion that passed to find \$30 million to expand jail diversion programs**. The \$30 million in funding comes with a commitment to divert at least 500 more people from county jails over the next year. Money will also be spent on expanding community resources, including interim and permanent supportive housing.

LA REGIONAL COVID FUND

APPLY FOR A COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANT

Micro-enterprises, small businesses, and nonprofits – the backbone of our region's economy – are facing unprecedented economic pressure.

The LA REGIONAL COVID FUND will provide grants of \$5K to micro-entrepreneurs and \$15K for small businesses and nonprofits.

Technical assistance is available in multiple languages.
Program opens July 6 th.

Learn more and apply online here:
WWW.LACOVIDFUND.ORG

Questions? Call here:
(833) 238-4450

Small businesses and non-profits have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but LA county is here to revitalize our local economy and lift up underserved businesses.

Although there are a number of federal COVID-19 relief programs, financial, technical, and cultural barriers have left many of our neighborhood businesses behind. The County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles, in partnership with institutional and corporate philanthropy, have come together to create the LA Regional COVID-19 Recovery Fund, and address those gaps in aid. The regional fund will offer loans and grants to micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profits. This recovery effort is three-fold, providing grants, loans, and coaching and technical assistance.

To learn more, please visit LACOVIDfund.org.

SUMMER CAMP AT LACMA

Calling all young artists! Looking to spark some creativity this summer?

In an effort to follow State and County public health guidelines, the in-person Summer Art Camp at LACMA will pivot to an engaging online art-making experience. At these digital art camps, your children and teens can learn from inspiring museum educators and artists safely from the comfort of your own home.

Along with formal painting, sculpting, and mixed media classes, you will also find unique programs like "Electric Art," a science and art mash-up where students will light up their work by learning the basics of building a conductive circuit using simple materials like copper tape and small batteries. Many classes are taught in Spanish and can double as a fun and engaging way to learn a new language!

Spots are filling up quickly, so [reserve yours today!](#)

Previous Motions from Supervisor Kuehl:

Protecting Tenants and Preventing Homelessness

Housing affordability and the prevention of homelessness continue to be among the Board's highest priorities. The financial hardships created by the COVID-19 crisis have made that mission more urgent than ever. At this week's meeting, we passed three motions to help keep LA County residents in their homes, and LAHSA presented a comprehensive COVID-19 Recovery Plan related to homelessness and housing.

LAHSA has helped to shelter over 6,000 people since the start of the pandemic, including 4,000 through Project Roomkey. This is a considerable achievement but a temporary solution. LAHSA is setting the ambitious goal of rehousing 15,000 people experiencing homelessness, focusing on individuals over 65 or those who have existing health conditions. Once housed through the lease-up effort, participants will be assessed and supported in exiting to permanent housing. Higher acuity individuals will be placed in supportive housing that will meet their needs, and lower acuity individuals and families will follow a pathway to housing supported by subsidies to help them establish themselves in a new home. Read more about LAHSA's plan [here!](#)

The Board passed a motion I co-authored with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas that expands the County's Rent Relief Program, prioritizing households most at risk of homelessness in high-need areas.

There is a growing fear that LA County, and indeed, all areas across the country, will start to see a slew of evictions and foreclosures as eviction moratoria are lifted. Recognizing that we need to be proactive, the Board passed a motion I co-authored with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas that asks the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, CEO, and County Counsel to collaborate on a preventative plan to address the expected increase in evictions, once the emergency declarations are lifted.

Finally, I submitted a motion that was approved by the Board to extend the eviction moratorium across the entire county for another month. The COVID-19 crisis is ongoing, and the process of reopening has only just begun. We need to provide individuals and families a little more time to get back on their feet and protect tenants from eviction as they work to rebuild their financial security.

Countywide Cultural Policy

Like so many sectors, the Creative Economy has suffered tremendous financial and opportunity losses throughout the pandemic. In addition to these quantifiable losses, residents of LA County have lost access to places and programs where they learn something new, express their culture, explore ideas, gain new skills, find solace, and experience joy. Arts and culture bring value and vibrancy to our communities and improve quality of life, and LA County is going to do our part to ensure that this sector continues to thrive.

On Tuesday, the Board passed a motion I co-authored with Supervisor Hilda Solis calling for the adoption of a Countywide Cultural Policy. The Cultural Policy provides a roadmap with concrete elements focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access. It outlines how all LA County Departments can contribute to cultural life and ensure that LA County residents have access to arts and culture. The policy not only nurtures a culture within LA County that values arts and creativity, but weaves that appreciation into the services and programs we provide, the parks and venues we oversee, and all aspects of civic life.

Creating a Sustainable and Just Food System

The COVID-19 crisis and subsequent economic fallout have led to skyrocketing rates of food insecurity. Our governmental safety net programs like CalFresh and WIC have experienced real challenges in their ability to enroll participants fast enough to meet the overwhelming demand. This week, the Board passed a motion I co-authored with Supervisor Janice Hahn aimed at closing these gaps and building on the County's progress in addressing this need.

This motion calls upon the Chief Sustainability Officer (acting as director of the Food Security Branch), related county departments, and other food system stakeholders to develop a plan outlining policies and strategies to effectively address the issue of food security.

There is a high degree of interdependence across the different sectors of LA County's food system, meaning that any efforts or actions aimed at eradicating food insecurity require extensive collaboration and coordination. Regular coordination among County departments, local nonprofits, food providers and philanthropic institutions will help us better prepare for future disasters or economic shocks and ensure that anyone who needs food in the months to come will be able to access it.

Helping LA County #MaskUp

Last week, both the Governor and LA County mandated the wearing of face coverings in public. It is safe to say that for the next few months, as we try to balance reopening with responsible infection control precautions, masks will be an integral part of our everyday lives.

To eliminate any financial barriers people may face that would prevent them from wearing a face mask, the Board approved a motion I co-authored with Supervisor Hilda Solis to develop a plan for purchasing and distributing three million cloth face masks, prioritizing County residents most in need, or who live or work in communities most impacted by COVID-19.