



## CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **County Health Order Allows Retail Services and Faith-Based Organizations to Re-Open Subject to Protocols**

Manhattan Beach, CA (May 27, 2020) - The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health has issued a revised [Public Health Order](#) implementing new standards for re-opening in alignment with the State of California guidelines. Among the activities now permitted with restrictions are in-store shopping at low-risk retail stores (including indoor and outdoor shopping malls), faith-based services, and other recreational pursuits. The Public Health Order, as revised, can be found on the [Department of Public Health's website](#).

"This action by the County of Los Angeles reflects another positive step toward recovery, specifically for our retailers and faith based communities. The City continues to advocate for more re-openings, specifically for restaurants, and remains hopeful that the State will grant a variance for Los Angeles County soon," said Mayor Richard Montgomery. "The City took a courageous step last week supporting our retail businesses. The County and State listened to the City's pleas to support our small businesses and acted quickly to address the economic injustice that was occurring for our local mom and pop businesses."

The Order allows these additional activities to resume once re-opening protocols for these activities, designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, are met. Once the owner, manager, or operator prepares, implements, and posts the re-opening protocols provided by LA County Public Health, activities may resume with the following guidance:

- Faith-based organizations may resume services, with the number of congregants limited to less than 25% of the building's capacity, or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is lower;
- Lower-risk retail, including those located in indoor and outdoor retail shopping centers may now open for business at 50% capacity;
- Flea markets, swap meets and drive-in movie theaters may resume operations; and
- Pools, hot tubs and saunas that are in a multi-unit residence or part of a homeowners association may now open. Public pools such as Begg Pool remain closed at this time under existing County Public Health Orders.

The Order continues to emphasize that physical distancing requirements, face coverings, and other safety protocols must be implemented and observed as the recovery progresses. Specific

reopening protocols may be found on the [State Public Health Department website](#), as well as the [County Department of Public Health](#) website.

The City of Manhattan Beach did not enact these health orders and does not have the ability to lift the orders enacted by the State of California or the County of Los Angeles. The City and community must abide by the State's requirements. If the County applies additional guidelines, the City and community must abide by those as well.

Additionally, the County of Los Angeles indicated they will apply for a variance with the State of California soon. If granted, the variance from the State's Public Health Order will allow Los Angeles County to advance further in the [State's Roadmap to Recovery](#).

The City Council has been very proactive in supporting and advocating on behalf of businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. City officials have been lobbying County officials to expedite phases so that businesses can re-open. On behalf of local businesses, the City Council has taken several steps including establishing a subcommittee of two Councilmembers to interact with State and County officials to quickly facilitate the recovery efforts.

The County of Los Angeles has required face coverings when in close contact around others. Visit the [Center for Disease Control](#) for guidance on how to properly wear and care for your face covering or the [LA County Department of Public Health's](#) guidance.