

November 22, 2020

**Official Statement by City of Long Beach Health Officer Dr. Anissa Davis
Regarding Modified Health Order Due to Surge in COVID-19 Cases**

The unprecedented rise in COVID-19 transmission rates locally, regionally and across the state is alarming. In Long Beach, over the past two weeks, the number of new cases has increased by more than 120%. Since Nov. 1, the local area COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased 200%. These increases are occurring dramatically faster than the first surge experienced during the height of the summer when we were seeing hundreds of new cases daily, overwhelming our ability to appropriately contact trace and threatening hospital capacity. With the upcoming holidays, officials are concerned that these numbers will continue to surge, similarly impacting hospitalization capacity.

On Friday, Nov. 20, the City issued an updated health order to further protect against the spread of COVID-19, in alignment with the State's health order requiring a statewide curfew. Los Angeles County continues to take a data-based approach that has informed their latest announcements regarding further restrictions today. As Long Beach has substantially similar data patterns to Los Angeles County with numbers currently at alarming levels, the City will be aligning with the County to prohibit in-person dining at restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars beginning Wednesday, Nov. 25 for the next three weeks, at minimum, to slow the spread of transmission in Long Beach. The updated health order will be forthcoming.

Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from the virus. City residents are strongly urged to wear face coverings, refrain from gathering with people outside of their household, practice physical distancing, wash hands frequently and get flu shots to help maintain the health and safety of the community.

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