

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

DATE: April 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Consider Federal Guidelines, State Framework and County Public Health Orders for Reopening Post COVID-19 and Provide General Direction Regarding Local Preferences for the Same (At the Request of Council Members Naggar and Schwank)

PREPARED BY: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk
Peter Thorson, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council consider the following items:

1. Riverside County Public Health Officer Orders and provide general direction on the accessibility of parks and similar amenities, including the corresponding parking lots throughout the City; and
2. Federal guidelines and state framework for reopening the nation and state post COVID-19 and provide general direction regarding local preferences for the same.

BACKGROUND: The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the issuance of numerous stay-at-home orders across the nation. Residents and businesses in the City of Temecula are now subject to several emergency Executive Orders issued by the Governor and several emergency Health Orders issued by the Riverside County Public Health Officer prohibiting gatherings, requiring people to wear masks in public and ordering the closure of non-essential businesses. These orders have been in place since early March. While the importance of public health continues to be a priority, conversations around reopening cities, states and the nation for economic purposes have also begun, with both the state and federal governments recently announcing plans for reopening.

On April 14, 2020, the Governor announced a six-point framework that will be utilized to determine when the State will reopen. The current State stay-at-home order does not specify an end date. While a precise timeline for modifying the order was not provided, the Governor indicated that the following six factors will help determine that timeframe: (1) The ability to monitor and protect communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed; (2) The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19; (3) The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges; (4) The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand; (5) The ability for businesses, schools, and

childcare facilities to support physical distancing; and (6) The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.

On April 15, 2020, the President announced a three-phased approach to guide states in their reopening efforts. The federal administration does not have a national stay-at-home order in place and did not provide a specific timeline in the guidelines for a proposed reopening by the states. In the approach, gating criteria must be met before the three-phases are implemented. The gating criteria includes the following: (1) Symptoms - Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and covid-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period, (2) Cases - Downward trajectory of documented cases or positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests), and (3) Hospitals - Treat all patients without crisis care and robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing. It is only after these conditions exist, that the three phases outlined in the attached guidelines for individuals and employers may be considered for implementation. The guidance also references "core state preparedness responsibilities" which include adequate testing and screening, ability to supply adequate protective gear and medical equipment, and plans to surge intensive care beds as needed.

In Riverside County, the stay at home order is in place until April 30, 2020. That order may be lifted, modified or extended at the discretion of the Riverside County Health Officer, Dr. Cameron Kaiser. Under state law the City of Temecula is bound by this Health Order as well as the Governor's Executive Orders and does not have the authority to lift them or modify them. While the County of Riverside has not referenced any formal plans to reopen regionally, it is expected that the County at some point will be considering the same. The City of Temecula has a strong interest in the conditions under which the region may be reopened not only from a public health standpoint, but also from an economic perspective. Similar to other cities throughout the nation, Temecula has economically suffered under this pandemic with negative impacts being felt by all segments of our community, including residents, businesses and our tourism industry. The City can help shape the reopening plans and assist in the economic recovery efforts.

It is therefore recommended that the full City Council, at the request of Council Members Naggar and Schwank, discuss this matter further and provide staff with general direction regarding their preferences on what they would like to see when the region begins to reopen and potentially convey those preferences to relevant stakeholders as desired.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS: State Framework and Federal Guidelines