

Joint Communication to Carlsbad Businesses Regarding COVID-19 #11

July 3, 2020

The continued health emergency is taking a toll on all of us. Thank you for reopening responsibly and doing everything you can to keep our community safe. Recent announcements by the state and county on troubling trends in the spread of COVID-19 should serve as a reminder that we must continue to be vigilant.

The [City of Carlsbad](#), [Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Carlsbad Village Association](#) will continue to keep you updated through these communications and our websites which can be found here:

[City of Carlsbad COVID-19 Business Resource Page](#)

[Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Page](#)

[Carlsbad Village Association Website](#)

If you have a question for the City or would like to suggest a topic for an upcoming joint communication or webinar please email business@carlsbadca.gov.

County Placed on State COVID-19 Watchlist

Despite the incredible job that we're doing in Carlsbad, yesterday the County of San Diego [announced](#) that our region was being placed on the state [monitoring watchlist](#). This came after a record number of COVID-19 cases were reported and several days of exceeding the county and state triggers for coronavirus. As of yesterday, the rate of COVID-19 cases in the region went up from 103.8 to 112.8 over three days surpassing the state's threshold of no more than 100 cases per every 100,000 residents

Here in Carlsbad we have the lowest number of cases as a percent of population for cities of 50,000 or more. While other areas have seen a significant spike in cases, we have done relatively well. However, we have seen an increase and the total number of COVID-19 cases in Carlsbad stands at 191.

So, what does this all mean? Well, the county has communicated that they expect our region will remain on the state's watchlist today, tomorrow and the next day. If that happens and the state takes the same approach as they have with other counties that have remained on the watchlist then certain business will need to modify operations. This includes:

- Restricting indoor activities at:
 - Dine-in restaurants (outdoor dining, pick up or drive-thru would be allowed)
 - Wineries and tasting rooms
 - Movie theaters and family entertainment centers

- Museums and zoos

The County is already requiring all restaurants, bars, wineries, distilleries, and breweries to close at 10 p.m. though guests at the facility at 10pm can remain until 11pm. The County also has closed bars unless they serve food along with alcohol and follow a number of other requirements. Bars which must be closed completely if they do the following:

- Serve food and beverages to customers who are not seated at a table designated for dining
- Use the bar area for something other than table service of meals
- Serve alcoholic drinks that are not served as a part of a meal and sold and served in the same transaction as a meal
- Serve meals by a food operator that is not permitted by the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (one exception is that outdoor service of wine at a winery or outdoor service of spirits at a distillery is allowed)
- Allow for open seating where all members of the party are not present before seating and where the host does not bring the entire party to the table at one time
- Seat customers and/or groups at bar counters, where they cannot maintain at least six feet of distance from employee work areas/stations.
- Fail to install physical barriers or partitions in areas where maintaining a physical distance of six feet is difficult
- Allow for shared entertainment items such as board games, arcade games and vending machines. These are prohibited and customers shall not have access to game and entertainment areas such as pool tables or darts.
- Allow for dance floors which must be closed and live performances such as musical or dance acts which must also be discontinued.

During various news conferences the County has explained that modifications to the operations of these businesses is necessary because they are seeing community spread of COVID-19 in locations where people are gathering indoors. Earlier this week the County stated that 27% of the active community outbreak cases were at bars and restaurants.

Dining and Shopping Al Fresco

If dining can't happen indoors we have you covered. The city has a way to help address the potential reduction of operable indoor space or its closure. We are processing requests to allow for the temporary use of public sidewalks and private parking lots. Jeune et Jolie was the first to get approved and activated and we are turning around these permits very quickly.

You can find all the relevant information [here](#). If you want to activate your private parking lot or a public sidewalk, please read this information first.

If you have a private parking lot that you would like to temporarily use for something other than parking, like outdoor dining for restaurants or expanding retail operations during COVID-19 you can find more information and the application [here](#). Be prepared to submit the following:

- Description of outdoor operations including purpose, activities, functions and hours
- Parking location alternative
- To-scale site plan of the proposed area with relevant details
- If applicable how you will comply with all ABC requirements
- Site accessibility including fire, ADA, and exit routes

If you are looking to expand operations onto the public sidewalk, like restaurant operations or retail operations you can apply using the Right of Way Use Application [E-12](#) and the associated [checklist](#). Much of the same information as the temporary use of private parking lots is required

If you have questions you can contact business@carlsbadca.gov and we will connect you with the appropriate folks in the Community Development department.

#STAYSAFESTAYOPEN

No matter how much we try to inform people about the practices that will keep us all safe like social distancing and wearing face coverings, some people don't get the message. This week we started enlisting our businesses and their employees in a campaign to #STAYSAFESTAYOPEN.

Check out this [short video](#) that captures the point of the campaign. Basically, we know that our business owners and their employees are some of the most compelling messengers to drive home the point that we all have to act responsibly if we're going to keep businesses open.

If you want more information and resources to help tell your story please contact business@carlsbadca.gov. We are using social media and other channels to help our residents and visitors know that they have a role in keeping our businesses open.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Your input and ideas have been crucial to our approach during this health emergency. Thank you for your thoughts, suggestions, information and creativity.

A lot has changed in the last few weeks and we want to keep this high level of engagement going. We know you're busy but if you could take a moment to fill out our most recent Carlsbad Business Survey: Impact of COVID-19 at <https://carlsbadca.gov/businesssurvey> we would greatly appreciate it.

If you're in the mood to share your thoughts live, we are holding another one of our joint webinars on Monday at 3pm. You can register for the webinar [here](#). This will be our fifth webinar and these have been an incredible place to share information and come up with ideas for how we all can address the economic impact of COVID-19.

We hope that this Independence Day weekend is safe and commerce over the next few days helps our businesses out. The City and our fabulous business organization partners will continue working to support you during this ever changing situation. If there is any way the city can help please contact us at business@carlsbadca.gov.

