

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE: MAY 27, 2020**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER**

**BY: NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF GREATER CONEJO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S REQUEST FOR A LOCAL VARIANCE, FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY, FOR AN ACCELERATED STAGE 2 REOPENING**

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As the representative of the business community throughout the Conejo Valley (typically known as Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, and Agoura Hills), the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce has been working with businesses of all sizes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as they are dealing with the economic impacts. As the State of California has initiated the reopening process to slowly reduce the "Stay at Home" order requirements through a multi-stage process, certain areas of the state have been afforded the opportunity to now accelerate the reopening of Stage 2, predicated on specific criteria being met. Stage 2, consists of lower-risk workplaces, as described in the State's COVID-19 road map to recovery (attached), and includes dine-in restaurants and in-store shopping for retail businesses with exterior facing entrances.

Due to the fact that the Chamber of Commerce is structured uniquely, in that it serves businesses within two counties, there now exists two different schedules and sets of rules for businesses to reopen, which are located within a short distance of one another. On May 20, 2020, the County of Ventura received approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to move forward on an accelerated Stage 2 reopening. Ventura County is the first and largest County to receive such approval.

In Ventura County, an accelerated Stage 2 reopening requires that businesses follow a COVID-19 Prevention Plan that provides guidance on establishing a work-site specific plan, creating designated staff to implement and enforce the rules of the plan, appropriately training employees, providing personal protective equipment, and establishing clear guidelines on how to respond to sick employees or an exposure at the place of business. In addition, there are specific sanitizing requirements, employee practices and screening protocols and site lay-out details to provide physical distancing. Each business is also required to complete a process to ensure that the necessary practices are in place prior to reopening. Although it is unknown what the requirements of Los Angeles County will be, it is anticipated that they will mirror those of Ventura County to some degree.

The Chamber of Commerce's membership has expressed a desire to seek a local variance to allow for an accelerated Stage 2 reopening for the businesses that are located within the two cities under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County. Their initial goal is to have a discussion with Los Angeles County Supervisor, Sheila Kuehl, and representatives from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health regarding this request. The request is based on data identifying the low number of COVID-19 cases within the area and the fact that there have been no deaths within the cities of Agoura Hills and Westlake Village. In addition, they have cited adequate access to health care with the capacity to serve the area, and the need to address the adverse economic effects of the business community throughout this pandemic.

At the Las Virgenes/Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) meeting on May 19, 2020, an inquiry was made to the member cities by the City of Westlake Village to discuss the LVMCOG's interest in making a similar request to the Chamber of Commerce's proposal. Although no decision was rendered, it is anticipated that a further discussion will occur in the near future.

At this time, there is not a designated date for a Stage 2 extended reopening for Los Angeles County. There has been some discussion of an early July 2020 date, but that has not been confirmed. Although there is no formal request at this time for the City Council to consider, this item is being presented for discussion, feedback, and direction, if any. Although not an exhaustive list, the following options are being provided for consideration:

- 1) Support the effort to discuss the opportunity of providing the Conejo Valley a variance or modification from the other cities within Los Angeles County, as it relates to an accelerated Stage 2 reopening with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Department of Public Health. This could include establishing an Ad Hoc Committee related to COVID-19 reopening.
- 2) Provide no further direction and follow the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce's discussion with Los Angeles County.
- 3) Direct staff to seek additional information and return to the City Council at a future meeting for further consideration.

Throughout this pandemic, things have changed very rapidly and should further information arise prior to this discussion, staff will provide the City Council those updates during its presentation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council discuss this item and provide any relevant feedback and direction to City staff.

Attachments: California's Pandemic Resiliency Roadmap



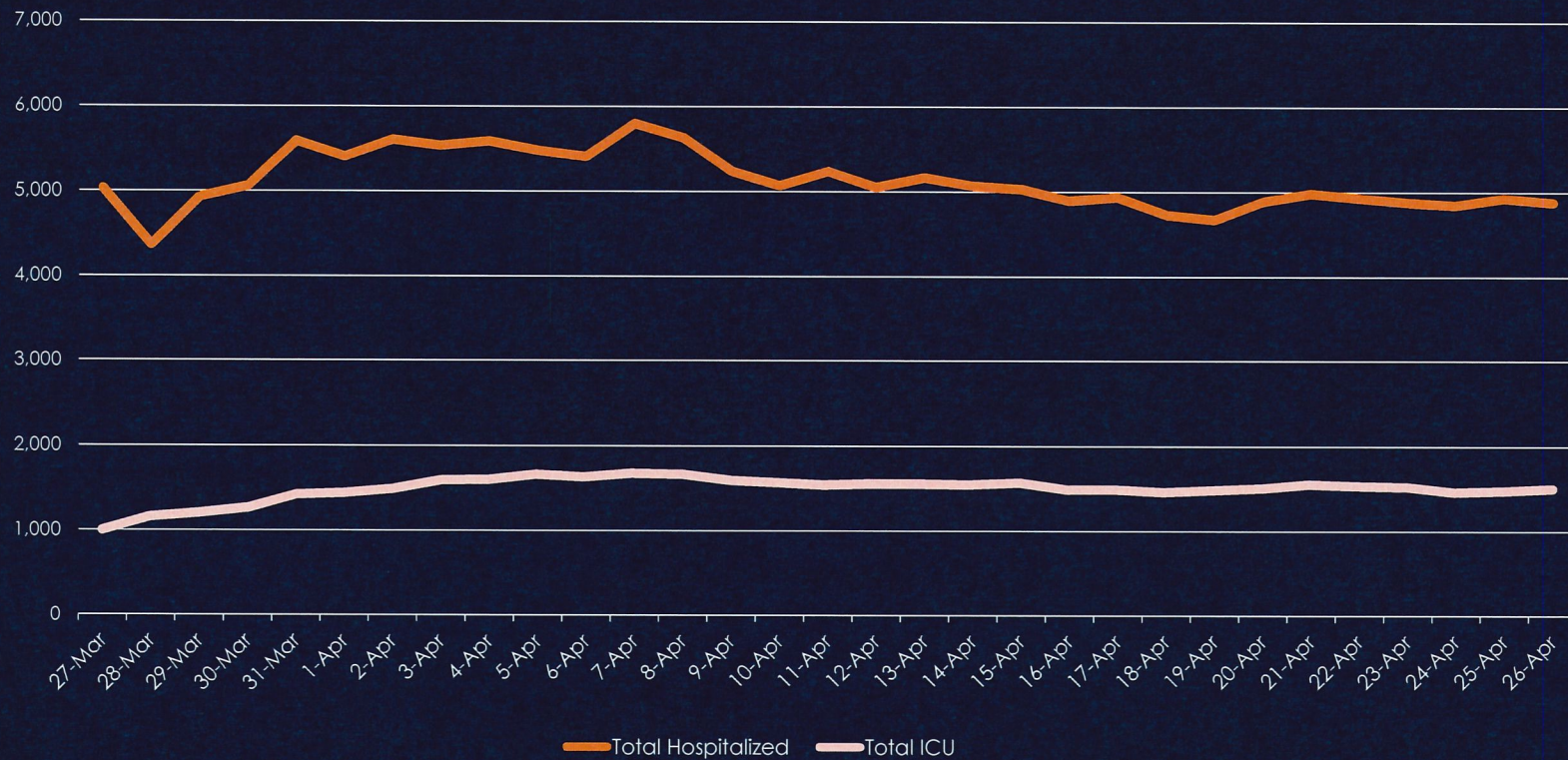
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# Update on California's Pandemic Roadmap

## 6 Indicators for Modifying Stay-at-Home Order

- Ability to test, contact trace, isolate, and support the exposed
- Ability to protect those at high risk for COVID-19
- Surge capacity for hospital and health systems
- Therapeutic development to meet the demand
- Ability of businesses, schools, and childcare facilities to support physical distancing
- Determination of when to reinstitute measures like Stay-At-Home

# California Hospitalization Trend Lines



Total includes both COVID-19 confirmed positive hospitalizations as well as COVID-19 suspect hospitalizations.

# The Basics



COVID-19 is not going away soon.



Modifications to Stay-At-Home Order must be guided by health risk and a commitment to equity.



Taking responsibility is key at all levels – individual, business, and government.



# Resilience Roadmap Stages

## **STAGE 1: Safety and Preparedness**

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Making essential workforce environment as safe as possible.

## **STAGE 2: Lower Risk Workplaces**

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Creating opportunities for lower risk sectors to adapt and re-open.

Modified school programs and childcare re-open.

## **STAGE 3: Higher Risk Workplaces**

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Creating opportunities for higher risk sectors to adapt and re-open.

## **STAGE 4: End of Stay-At- Home Order**

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Return to expanded workforce in highest risk workplaces.

Requires  
Therapeutics.

# Stage 1: Safety and Preparedness



**This is where we are now.**

- **Continue to build out testing, contact tracing, PPE, and hospital surge capacity.**
- **Continue to make essential workplaces as safe as possible.**
  - Physical and work flow adaption
  - Essential workforce safety net
  - Make PPE more widely available
  - Individual behavior changes
- **Prepare sector-by-sector safety guidelines for expanded workforce.**



## Stage 2: Lower Risk Workplaces



**Gradually opening some lower risk workplaces with ADAPTATIONS:**

- Retail (e.g. curbside pickup)
- Manufacturing
- Offices (when telework not possible)
- Opening more public spaces

**Expanded Workforce Safety Net:**

- Wage replacement so workers can stay home when sick

## Stage 2: Lower Risk Workplaces



### **Schools and Childcare Facilities with Adaptations:**

- Summer programs and next school year potentially starting sooner (July/August)
- Childcare facilities to provide more care
- Address learning gaps
- Ensure students and staff are protected
- Allow broader workforce to return to work

# Actions needed to get from Stage 1 to Stage 2



## Government Actions

- Policies that allow people to stay home when they're sick
- Guidance provided on how to reduce risk



## Business Actions

- Wage replacement so workers can stay home when sick
- Implement adaptations to lower-risk workplaces NOW
- Employees continue to work from home when possible



## Individual Actions

- Safety precautions – physical distancing, face coverings, etc.
- Avoid all non-essential travel
- Support and care for people who are at high risk

# When are we ready for Stage 2?

## Key indicator considerations to move to Stage 2:

- Hospitalization and ICU trends stable.
- Hospital surge capacity to meet demand.
- Sufficient PPE supply to meet demand.
- Sufficient testing capacity to meet demand.
- Contact tracing capacity statewide.

**Transition to Stage 2 will occur through a statewide modification to the Stay-At-Home Order.**

# Opportunity for Regional Variations

During Stage 2, counties may choose to relax stricter local orders at their own pace.

Following Stage 2, once a statewide COVID-19 surveillance system is made possible through testing, further regional variations could be supported.

State will consult and collaborate closely with local governments.

### Stage 3: Higher Risk Workplaces

Open higher risk environments with adaptations and limits on size of gatherings:

- Personal care (hair and nail salons, gyms)
- Entertainment venues (movie theaters, sports without live audiences)
- In-person religious services (churches, weddings)

### Stage 4: End of Stay-At-Home Order

Re-open highest risk workplaces with all indicators satisfied once therapeutics have been developed:

- Concerts
- Convention Centers
- Live audience sports

# Be Part of the Solution

**Stay Home. Practice Physical Distancing.**

**We are enlisting all Californians to help inform the development of guidance for sectors across our economy.**

**This guidance will provide a framework for how to safely re-open.**

**CALIFORNIA**

**ALL**

**Your Actions  
Save Lives**

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**[covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov)**