



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

## **Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority**

Issue Date: March 15, 2020

**Subject:** New City Measures to Address COVID-19

On March 4, 2020, I declared a local emergency in relation to the arrival of the COVID-19 virus in our community, and on March 12, 2020, I ordered a number of measures to be taken across the City to protect members of the public and City workers from an undue risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. Our precautions over the past weeks and what we do over the next few days and weeks will determine how well we weather this emergency.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises us that COVID-19 spreads easily from person to person and has issued guidelines recommending that the public adopt policies and routines to enable social distancing wherever possible.

Here in the City of Los Angeles, we must redouble our efforts to maintain hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing. It is absolutely critical that we as a City do everything we can to slow the pace of community spread and avoid unnecessary strain on our medical system. To aid in our efforts, under the emergency authorities vested in my office under the laws of the City of Los Angeles, today I am ordering that a series of temporary restrictions be placed on certain establishments throughout our City in which large numbers of people tend to gather and remain in close proximity. By virtue of authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles pursuant to the provisions of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Chapter 3, Section 8.29 to promulgate, issue, and enforce rules, regulations, orders, and directives, I hereby declare the following orders to be necessary for the protection of life and property and I hereby order, effective at 11:59 p.m. tonight, until March 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., that:

1. All bars and nightclubs in the City of Los Angeles that do not serve food shall be closed to the public.

2. Any bars or nightclubs in the City of Los Angeles that serve food may remain open only for purposes of continuing to prepare and offer food to customers via delivery service or to be picked up. Dine-in food service is prohibited.

3. All restaurants and retail food facilities in the City of Los Angeles shall be prohibited from serving food for consumption on premises. Restaurants and retail food facilities may continue to operate for purposes of preparing and offering food to customers via delivery service, to be picked up or for drive-thru. For those establishments offering food pick-up options, proprietors are directed to establish social distancing practices for those patrons in the queue for pick-up.

4. The following are exempt from this Order:

- A. Cafeterias, commissaries, and restaurants located within hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities
- B. Grocery stores
- C. Pharmacies
- D. Food banks
- E. Los Angeles World Airports concessionaires

5. Trucks and other vehicles engaged in the delivery of grocery items to grocery stores, when such items are to be made available for sale to the public, are hereby exempt from having to comply with any City rules and regulations that limit the hours for such deliveries, including, without limitation, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.22 A.23(b)(3) and Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 114.03.

6. All movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys and arcades shall be closed to the public.

7. All gyms and fitness centers shall be closed to the public.

Any violation of the above prohibitions may be referred to the Office of the City Attorney for prosecution under Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.77, which provides for fines not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed six months. Each individual officer should use their discretion in enforcing this order and always keep the intent of the order in mind.

In addition, I hereby issue guidance to the leaders of the City's houses of worship and urge them, in the strongest possible terms, to limit gatherings on their premises and to explore and implement ways to practice their respective faiths while observing social distancing practices.

Finally, I hereby order that no landlord shall evict a residential tenant in the City of Los Angeles during this local emergency period if the tenant is able to show an inability to pay rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These

circumstances include loss of income due to a COVID-19 related workplace closure, child care expenditures due to school closures, health care expenses related to being ill with COVID-19 or caring for a member of the tenant's household who is ill with COVID-19, or reasonable expenditures that stem from government-ordered emergency measures. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to mean that the tenant will not still be obligated to pay lawfully charged rent. Tenants will have up to six months following the expiration of the local emergency period to repay any back due rent. Tenants may use the protections afforded in this subsection as an affirmative defense in an unlawful detainer action. This subsection shall remain in effect during the pendency of the local emergency period.

This order may be extended prior to March 31, 2020.