

DRAFT

September 11, 2020

Members of the Long Beach City Council
The Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach City Manager Tom Modica

Hello,

We members of the Board of the Long Beach Health and Human Services believe it is time to strengthen our battle against the Novel COVID-19 Pandemic.

Europe brought the pandemic under control by a complete shutdown, social distancing, personal sanitation and wearing masks. Today, even though their incidence numbers are low, and they have reopened to a great degree, they continue to require social distancing and mask-wearing.

We believe the most effective step to containment and to gradual reopening is to enforce the existing health order that wearing masks in public is required.

This health order has the same effect as an ordinance or a law, but in many jurisdictions, including Long Beach, this order is not being enforced. Some exceptions, right here in our County, are the Cities of Glendale, Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach – to name a few.

They are enforcing the law.

Most have a tiered administrative fine schedule. People not wearing a mask in public are first cited and provided a warning and a mask and then with additional violations may be fined. (Those unable to pay fines will be provided with a community service option in lieu thereof). This would require careful planning to ensure fair and equitable implementation across the city, so it doesn't disproportionately affect some areas over others.

While it is heartening to see more and more of our residents wearing their masks, there are still areas where large numbers of people are not. Thank you for considering our concern.

Respectfully,

Board of the Long Beach Health and Human Services