

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Reopening Protocol for Use of Public Beaches

**Recent updates:** (Changes highlighted in yellow)

7/17/20: Revised to clarify policy regarding face coverings.

9/2/20: Clarified to state that face covering are not required while in the water.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to allow for people to start to use public spaces again in ways that will limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. **Accordingly, the County of Los Angeles has reopened beaches in limited ways to allow residents increased outdoor recreation options.** Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy. Using public beaches can be an important way to relieve stress, get some fresh air and vitamin D, stay active, and safely connect with nature. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucially important that you follow these public health beach use requirements below in order to use beaches in a way that keeps you and others healthy.

### Public Health Requirements:

1. Prepare before you visit the beach.
  - a. Check to see which areas or services are open and bring what you need with you. Information on LA County beaches can be found at [beaches.lacounty.gov](https://beaches.lacounty.gov).
2. Follow all beach rules, regulations and any posted access restrictions.
3. Plan to limit your time at the beach to permit others an opportunity to engage in beach recreation without creating crowded conditions that could lead to beach closures. Avoid crowded areas or crowding around others at the beach. Stay at least six (6) feet from others who are not members of your household at all times both in and out of the water.
4. No grills are allowed on the beach.
5. Gatherings of any size or other events such as athletic competitions are not allowed on the beaches. Summer beach and surf camps are permitted and must follow the public health day camp protocol. Other athletic beach camps such as volleyball are not allowed.
6. You are allowed to enjoy the bike paths on the beach.
7. Parking is allowed at beach parking lots at the discretion of the local jurisdiction. Be sure to comply with all parking regulations.
8. **Everyone who visits the beaches must wear a face covering at all times (except while eating or drinking, or while in the water). This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Those between the ages of 2 and 8 should use them under adult supervision to ensure that the child can breathe safely and to avoid choking or suffocation. Only individuals who have been instructed not to wear a face covering by their medical provider are exempt from wearing one.**
9. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - a. Beach bathrooms will be open but will be adhering to physical (social) distancing protocols.



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10. Do not share beverages or food with others that are not in your household.

### Recommendations when you to the beach:

11. Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and reapply if you stay out in the sun for more than two hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.
12. Bring water and hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes to wash or sanitize hands frequently.

### Know where to get reliable information

Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding novel coronavirus. Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in LA County, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing.

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
  - Social media: @lapublichealth

Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.