



OFFICE OF THE
**MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL**

City of
LYNWOOD

Incorporated 1921

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Public Order Under City of Lynwood Emergency Authority

Issue Date: March 16, 2020

Subject: City Measures to Address COVID-19

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom, declared a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19.

Since then, The City of Lynwood has recommended 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 overcome 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 Lynwood, we must enhance our efforts to maintain good hand hygiene, making sure we're covering our coughs and sneezes, and practicing 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 hospitals and emergency responders. To aid in our efforts, under the emergency authorities vested in the Office of the City Council under the laws of the City of Lynwood, today the City Council orders 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. The City Council of the City of Lynwood hereby declare the following orders to be necessary for the protection of life and property and the City Council hereby orders, effective at 11:59 p.m. tonight, until May 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., that:

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

2. Any bars or nightclubs in the City of Lynwood that serve food may remain open only for purposes of continuing to prepare and offer food to customers via take-out or delivery service. Dine-in food service is prohibited.
3. All restaurants and retail food facilities in the City of Lynwood shall be prohibited from offering in-person dining services. Restaurants and retail food facilities may continue to operate for purposes of preparing and offering food to customers with the restrictions noted in this section. Restaurants may continue to offer delivery and pick-up services. Restaurants offering food pick-up options 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
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.
6. All performing art theatres, live performance venues and arcades shall be closed to the public.
7. All gyms and fitness centers shall be closed to the public.
8. All water and sewer utility bills will not incur late fees or penalties for a period of 60 days from the due date beginning today March 16, 2020. The user shall remain liable for all costs related to water and sewer services provided to them.
9. There will be no water service interruptions for nonpayment during the term of this order.
10. Grocery stores and pharmacies are required to restrict patronage for the first thirty (30) minutes of operations on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to elderly patrons and special needs families.

Any violation of the above prohibitions may be referred to the Office of the City Attorney for prosecution.

In addition, the City Council of the City of Lynwood hereby issue guidance to the leaders of the City's faith-based organizations 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.

The City Council of the City of Lynwood hereby order that no landlord shall evict a commercial tenant in the City of Lynwood 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.

Finally, the City Council of the City of Lynwood hereby order that no landlord shall evict a residential tenant in the City of Lynwood 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 May 15, 2020.