



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: June 30, 2021

Meeting date: July 12, 2021

Subject: Consideration of the Resumption of In-Person Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Receive an update on the current State and County public health regulations; and 2) Consider options for the resumption of in-person public meetings, and give direction to staff as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this recommended action. Depending on what direction Council provides on the resumption of in-person meetings, additional funding may be necessary to fund staff overtime costs needed to facilitate public meetings in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 that was not previously included in the Proposed Budget.

WORK PLAN: This item was included as item 1a in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

DISCUSSION: At its Regular meeting on June 28, 2021, the Council received an update on the current State and County public health regulations and directed staff to place an item on the consideration of the resumption of in-person meetings on each Regular meeting agenda until in-person meetings resume.

In response to the easing of State and County public health regulations, Malibu City Hall reopened to the public on June 28, 2021. Members of the public and City staff are required to wear masks when inside the building regardless of vaccination status until further notice.

Since April 2020, Malibu City Council and Planning Commission Meetings have been held virtually. As the City prepares for the eventual resumption of in-person meetings in accordance with the regulations currently in place, Council must consider how to address face coverings requirements and vaccination status among other logistical and safety concerns and provide direction to staff.

On June 28, 2021, the City Council received an update from staff on the matter and considered the question of whether to form an Ad Hoc Committee to study the matter and return to City Council with a recommendation for the resumption of in person meetings. The City Council declined to form an Ad Hoc Committee and instead directed the City Manager to continue investigating options and develop a recommendation about the appropriate time to return to in-person meetings. At the Council's request, updates will be included in all City Council agendas until in-person meetings resume.

On June 28, 2021, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (County DPH) issued a new health order, entitled "A Safer Return Together at Work and in the Community Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy – Encouraging COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage with Limited Risk Reduction Measures," effective June 15, 2021. This new order rescinds most County DPH sector-specific protocols and aligns the County with the State Public Health Officer's "Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors" that went into effect on June 15, 2021. Basically, both the State and County orders reopened the economy throughout California.

In addition to the State and County Health Officer orders, the City is also required to follow the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA) standards and sector-specific protocols that apply to all employees and employers in California, including the City of Malibu. The CalOSHA standards were adopted on June 17, 2021 and put into effect immediately through the Governor's Executive Order N-09-21. Those standards were provided to the Council in the June 28, 2021 Regular meeting agenda.

People who are not fully vaccinated, including all children between the ages of 2 and 12, are required to wear masks in all indoor public settings and businesses. However, because of increased circulation of the highly transmissible Delta variant, and to protect unvaccinated residents, County DPH, on June 30, 2021, updated its guidance on mask wearing (attached), stating that all individuals, including fully vaccinated people, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask in indoor public settings and businesses as an extra precaution.

As the Council has been advised, County DPH is cautiously expecting community immunity by the end of August 2021. However, the June 30 County COVID-19 update reported that while transmission remains low, the County is seeing increases in cases and daily test positivity. On June 15, the day of the full reopening, the County saw 210 new cases and the test positivity rate was around 0.5%. Nearly two weeks after the June 15 reopening, County DPH confirmed a doubling of both new cases and the test positivity rate. While the increase in community transmission is concerning, the increases are still far below the surge levels over the winter of over 15,000 new cases and the test positivity rate of 20%.

Some members of the City Council, staff and the community have expressed that they would prefer not to attend in-person meetings if wearing face coverings would be required. Staff will continue to monitor updates to guidances issued by the State and County regarding mask wearing.

ATTACHMENTS: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Mask Guidance (revised June 30, 2021)