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Subject: Health Notice for Ticketed Event Venues in Long Beach

Dear Owners and Managers of large event venues in the City of Long Beach:

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is asking for your assistance to help prevent the spread of the recent novel coronavirus in Long Beach should cases occur locally. Globally, there continues to be a growing number of people infected with this virus, which causes “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated COVID-19), in mainland China and elsewhere. To date, Long Beach has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 and Los Angeles and Orange Counties have each had one confirmed case. Currently, across the United States, a relatively small number of additional cases have been diagnosed. While there is currently no evidence of person-to-person transmission anywhere in Southern California, that is likely to change. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) suggest that due to current global conditions, it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic. We need to prepare to prevent the spread of this infection locally.

While the immediate health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in Long Beach is still considered low, the Long Beach Health Department is proactively taking steps to prevent its spread. We are particularly concerned about how a case of COVID-19 in a large congregate setting such as yours might lead to the rapid spread of disease. We would like to provide you with some general information about COVID-19 as well as specific actions you should take to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19 at your venue. We encourage you to visit the Long Beach COVID-19 webpage for additional resources: www.longbeach.gov/COVID19

General Information

What is novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Many of them infect animals, but some coronaviruses from animals can evolve (change) and infect humans, then spread from person-to-person. This is what happened with the current novel coronavirus. Diseases from coronaviruses in people typically cause mild to moderate illness, like the common cold. Some, like the SARS or MERS viruses, cause serious infections like pneumonia.

What are common symptoms of COVID-19?

Information to date shows this new virus causes symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness, such as cough, fever, and, in some, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.



How are coronaviruses spread?

Like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, human coronaviruses most commonly spread to others from an infected person who has symptoms through:

- Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Close personal contact, such as caring for an infected person
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

COVID-19 is new, and we continue learning more each day about how it spreads and how long it takes for people to become sick. As information changes, we will keep you informed.

Do not assume that someone is at risk for novel coronavirus infection based on their race/ethnicity or country of origin.

Large Venues

Recommended strategies for prevent exposures to respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19:

- Ensure that attendees have access to fully stocked handwashing stations, and where needed, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, bannisters, and countertops. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Follow all public health regulations at concession stands that sell food.

In addition, consider ways to encourage ticketholder/attendees with fever and respiratory symptoms to stay home when sick such as:

- Offer refunds or support reselling of tickets for persons who become ill
- Place messages on websites, tickets, venue entrances that people should protect others and stay home when sick. Communicate your refund/postponing policy and information.

Do events need to be cancelled?

At this time, there is no need to cancel events. The immediate threat to the general public is low in the United States, and there are no restrictions on public gatherings.

Note: If a pandemic is declared, the risk will change to the general public and additional precautions will be taken to contain community transmission. This will likely include the cancelation of large community events. We strongly recommend that you have a plan in place to communicate with and refund ticketholders/planned attendees in the event that a cancellation is required to protect the public's health.

Please check our website regularly for updates at www.longbeach.gov/covid19. Organizations can call 562-570-7907 with additional questions.

We appreciate your commitment and dedication to keeping the City of Long Beach healthy.

Regards,

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
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