



JOINT PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY OFFICIALS DISCUSS REOPENING PLAN

The County of Imperial, in coordination with the Public Health Department, is currently reviewing Federal and State guidance as it relates to easing COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions and reopening our local economy. At the local level, County Officials including the CEO, Public Health Officials and the Board of Supervisors have begun discussions on how to make these decisions and have formed an Ad Hoc group to help plan for the gradual reopening of different public and private sectors of our community. As we are observing around the country, our state and neighboring counties, we are looking to reopen the local economy and ease some of the restrictions in a thoughtful phased approach, while still striving to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on our community. These decisions will be guided based on public health information. One key factor to the decision making process is to carefully assess and determine when we have moved past the peak of the pandemic locally.

Since the County must continue to reinforce the protective measures that have already been put in place to keep the residents of our County safe and healthy, the phased approach would possibly start with lower risk environments that are easier to apply social and physical distancing measures. For example, due to the COVID-19 crisis, County parks, trails, golf courses, and/or other outdoor recreational areas located throughout Imperial Valley were closed. However, we understand that staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy during this stressful time. Therefore, as an initial step, the County of Imperial is looking at how we can possibly reopen outdoor recreational areas that can be used for jogging, walking, biking and other non-contact outdoor sports, such as county parks and golf courses, with limited access. Additional details regarding the accessibility of outdoor recreation areas will be shared with the public by the end of the week.

The County's Ad Hoc group discussions are ongoing. The County intends to release a more detailed phased approach to reopening our local economy next week that will still abide to the State's order while protecting the public's health and some relief to local business owners.

The public is encouraged to visit the Imperial County Public Health Department website at www.icphd.org and follow the Imperial County Facebook and Twitter pages @ImperialCntyCA for up-to-date information.

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