

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND  
HILDA L. SOLIS

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**Safely Reopening Los Angeles County**

Los Angeles County and our 10 million residents, businesses and local communities have suffered significant loss in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the local, state and federal levels, our County residents have had to comply with guidelines and public health orders that have led to sacrifices as thousands of individuals have fallen to the coronavirus, and many have faced the loss of life. We mourn those most severely and significantly impacted every single day.

Decisions to protect the public by instituting physical distancing were necessary and essential – yet they asked more of our children, youth, adults and older adults than ever before. And thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of the vast majority of our residents, Los Angeles County thus far, has slowed the spread of the catastrophic Coronavirus.

The early planning and public protection of the “Safer at Home” public health order included the painful decision to close non-essential businesses and limit the personal contact among loved ones. And while we continue to suffer from the effects of COVID-19, we must begin planning for the re-opening of our local economy and to enable individuals to safely reconnect, as soon as possible -- knowing we must continue approaches that have worked to protect the public and slow the spread.

To support these efforts, Los Angeles County has established and vastly expanded access to testing; supported the availability of appropriate medical care; and guided self-quarantine efforts – all in an effort to protect the public. As we have successfully established multiple approaches to slow the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the devastating impact to our County, so too must we begin a multifaceted plan to re-open businesses, boost our economy, and enable loved ones to reconnect.

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SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

Any such plan for relaxing public health orders must be based on appropriate health data indicators as determined by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) in coordination with state and federal guidelines. On April 14, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom outlined six critical indicators the state will consider before modifying its “Safe-at-Home” order, which includes increased testing, tracing, isolation and ensuring surge capacity in hospitals, and continued physical distancing in businesses, schools, and childcare facilities. On April 16, 2020, federal leaders similarly issued guidelines for “Opening Up America Again” with gating criteria to allow for statewide or county-by-county phased re-opening based on health criteria, robust testing, and a reduced number of symptoms and cases experienced. Any plans also need to ensure we have sufficient surge capacity in our ICU beds and necessary equipment such as respirators

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE,** that the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management:

- 1) Direct the Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health and any other appropriate departments to provide a report within 7 days with details on measures needed for containment of COVID-19 and needed Prerequisites for Relaxing the Safer at Home Order.
- 2) Develop a plan to engage the business community and our labor partners in any plans to relax restrictions of the *Safer at Home* directive to allow for adequate input and preparations to re-open under the physical distancing and face-covering public health guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and report back to the Board of Supervisors in 7 days in consultation with the Departments of Public Health, Health Services, Mental Health, and any other appropriate departments.

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