

**Proclaiming November 2026 as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Month” in Los Angeles County**

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a progressive lung disease that obstructs airflow and makes breathing difficult. This disease affects millions nationwide, including hundreds of thousands of residents of Los Angeles County. Although strongly associated with smoking, up to 25 percent of people with COPD have never smoked. Other risk factors include long-term exposure to air pollution or chemical irritants, poorly controlled asthma or other early childhood respiratory infections.

COPD symptoms, including chronic cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, fatigue, and recurring respiratory infections, often appear only after significant lung damage has occurred. While COPD is not curable, early diagnosis, effective treatment, and avoidance of lung irritants can slow disease progression and improve quality of life.

The disease carries a substantial economic and health burden. National COPD-related medical costs exceed \$24 billion annually and are projected to rise. California ranks among the states with the highest COPD-related expenses and Los Angeles County continues to experience poor air quality that worsens symptoms and increases health risks.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health implements smoking

**MOTION**

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|----------|-------|
| MITCHELL | _____ |
| HORVATH  | _____ |
| HAHN     | _____ |
| BARGER   | _____ |
| SOLIS    | _____ |

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

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October 20, 2026

cessation programs, environmental health initiatives, and public education campaigns to reduce exposure to risk factors and support affected residents.

COPD Awareness Month, recognized each November, plays a crucial role in raising awareness of COPD’s risk factors, symptoms, and treatment options. This observance promotes prevention strategies, encourages early diagnosis and supports individuals and families affected by this disease

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim November 2026 as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Month” in Los Angeles County.

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JH:cc