

CITY OF EL CENTRO

1275 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
www.cityelcentro.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cedric Cesena, Public Information Officer
El Centro Fire Department
(760) 337-4530

EL CENTRO MOVES FORWARD WITH MODIFIED PHASED RE-OPENINGS

El Centro, Ca. May 8, 2020 – The City of El Centro has announced that their planned phased re-opening of El Centro businesses will be modified in an effort to allow the County of Imperial to bring all Imperial County cities forward together in a phased re-opening plan.

The City of El Centro stands strongly to protect its citizens and businesses and although the City may be more advanced than other cities in regard to COVID-19 precautionary measures, the City must follow the guidance now set forth by the County.

The City of El Centro will currently stay in the initial phase one which began on May 6, 2020 but will be able to slowly continue into a modified Phase two approach. Phase one consists of the continuance of physical distancing and protective measures and planning for recovery within the City of El Centro. The City will continue with ongoing action and outreach to all existing El Centro businesses and to assist in determining essential workforce and support of critical infrastructure. Included are those businesses that provide materials and services that support CDC compliance / guidance. The plan includes assisting businesses with identifying essential critical infrastructure workers and industries. Information on this phase can be found at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf> and directing business representatives to resources for best practice at: <https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/>.

The low-risk, phase two portion that will take place today, Friday May 8, 2020, includes the continued use of physical distancing and protective measures that are in place and in this modified phase two approach, curbside retail, and commercial businesses are able to re-open which includes bookstores, jewelry stores, clothing stores, shoes stores, toy stores, florist, and home furnishing

stores. It is important to remember that this applies to curbside pick-up and does not include stores open to public traffic. Personal care businesses, such as hair and nail salons, barber shops, massage, and tattoo shops will remain closed. Faith based Institutions will remain closed but are limited to providing services such as food, mental health, etc.

High-risk sectors of phase two will include most business offices, seated dining (dine-in) at restaurants, shopping malls, schools, childcare, outdoor museums and open gallery space. The dates for high-risk phase two will be announced when appropriate.

Future phases set forth by the City of El Centro are outlined below. Exact dates on the enactment of the remaining phases will be released when appropriate.

Phase III - Will include salons, barber shops, massage, tattoo shops, bars and entertainment venues, gym and fitness centers, public events, bowling alley, softball and baseball fields, El Centro Public Library and the El Centro Aquatic Center.

Phase IV will consist of relaxation of all COVID-19 guidance and will allow all remaining businesses to open without restrictions.

The City of El Centro will continue to apply enforcement actions to help protect the community. These actions consist of physical distancing and other protective actions that are necessary for the ongoing protection of the health and wellbeing of the community. City staff will be available to assist businesses with compliance and best practices on an ongoing basis. The enforcement approach taken by the City of El Centro is intended to be educational but will, if needed, engage in enforcement actions as needed.

The City of El Centro's first priority is the health and safety of its residents and businesses and is looking forward to the phased re-opening plan set forth in this press release. However, if there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus the City of El Centro is prepared to rescind, reduce or delay any part of the phased re-opening plan the City deems necessary to protect its residents and community.

The City has provided a community information phone line for questions that can be reached by dialing (760) 337-4037.

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