

Health Officer Enforcement

The County has a Health Officer Order (HOO) with accompanying protocols that are issued to slow the spread of COVID-19. The most current Health Officer Order and reopening protocols are posted at <http://ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/reopening-la.htm>. County Public Health's Environmental Health division has been delegated primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the HOO and the protocols.

Environmental Health inspectors conduct site visits to: 1) ensure compliance with the HOO and applicable protocols; 2) in response to a complaint; or 3) to investigate reports of an outbreak. The primary purpose of each visit is to educate business operators on the various HOO requirements with the goal of ensuring compliance. In the event that violations are observed, the inspector will issue an Official Inspection Report (inspection report) and provide a compliance date to verify that noted violations have been corrected. Failure by a business to correct the violations by the compliance date or the occurrence of repeated violations may result in further enforcement actions, including being assessed a fee for ensuring compliance.

In the event that an inspector identifies a **Significant Violation** of the HOO or protocols, an Administrative Citation along with an inspection report will be issued. Significant violations are classified as those that increase the risk of spread of COVID-19 to employees and customers and may result in a \$500 Administrative Citation being issued on the first visit.

Significant violations include:

- Failure to implement an employee COVID-19 screening process
- Failure to report when 3 or more COVID-19 cases have been identified in the workplace
- Failure to ensure face masks are worn by all employees as required
- Failure to ensure a face shield is worn by an employee when in contact with customers that are unmasked (e.g. waiter at a restaurant)
- Lack of cleaning and disinfection products on-site
- Exceeding indoor occupancy limits (Outdoor structures that do not meet the state guidelines for outdoor activities are considered "indoors" and subject to the existing indoor occupancy limits)
- No mechanism to monitor occupancy and ensure distancing (i.e. not metering at all entrances or physical distancing) and appears to be over capacity- *This may also result in temporary closure until capacity is reduced and metering process is implemented*
- Tables are not spaced at 8 feet distance, where required
- Customers eating in non-designated dining areas (i.e. walking around with food, eating in area that must be closed for service, such as bar counters)
- Live entertainment, including but not limited to DJ, live dancers or dancing, comedians, live music or other live performances
- Operating in a manner that is currently prohibited (e.g. indoor arcade closed per HOO, business ordered to close by Public Health)
- Other activities that violate the HO Order, which endanger the health of employees or customers

Administrative Citations may be appealed within 10 days of issuance. For additional information visit: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/citation/administrative-citation-appeals.htm>. Failure to pay the administrative citation may result in a lien as authorized by Los Angeles County Code.

For any questions on the HOO and reopening protocols, please feel free to contact our Industry Engagement program at (626) 430-5320 or by email EHConsultative@ph.lacounty.gov with your questions.