

ATTORNEY CONTACTS

ERIC M. GEORGE
egeorge@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

RYAN Q. KEECH
rkeech@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

PETER W. ROSS
pross@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

JOHN SCHOLNICK
jscholnick@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

NATHAN J. HOCHMAN
nhochman@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

CARL ALAN ROTH
croth@bgrfirm.com
(213) 725-9800

MARIBETH ANNAGUEY
mannaguey@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

NOAH S. HELPERN
nhelpern@bgrfirm.com
(213) 725-9800

DENNIS ELLIS
dellis@bgrfirm.com
(310) 274-7100

RICHARD A. SCHWARTZ
rschwartz@bgrfirm.com
(213) 725-9800

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ISSUES NEW “STAGE 2” GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

Various states and metropolitan areas have begun to loosen restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis recently, including Los Angeles County. On May 13, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued [a new directive](#) and [sets of guidelines](#) on how individuals and businesses may act during “Stage 2” of Los Angeles’ response to the COVID-19 crisis (the “[Stage 2 Order](#)”). While economic and social activities are still heavily restricted, the Stage 2 Order sets forth some significant exceptions that will provide relief to many Angelenos and local businesses.

Reinforcing other health safety measures, individuals in Los Angeles county are now required to wear a cloth mask *whenever* they leave their homes and may come into contact with another person. However, Los Angeles county outdoor parks and hiking trails have been reopened. Social distancing requirements remain in place, especially for individuals over the age of 65, who are urged to remain in their homes except when necessary for medical care. Likewise, while “Essential” businesses may remain open, the County issued [new social distancing guidelines that must be followed](#), including hygienic requirements for employees and measures that must be taken to prevent crowds from gathering.

Of particular note, the new guidance allows some “lower-risk” retail, manufacturing, and logistics businesses to reopen, provided that they comply with social distancing and hygienic protocols required by the County. The Stage 2 Order defines “Lower-Risk Businesses” as all businesses that are not solely accessible through a shopping mall and do not fall into one of the following “Higher-Risk” categories:

1. Bars and nightclubs that do not serve food;
2. Wineries, breweries, and taprooms that provide tastings;
3. Gyms and fitness centers;
4. Movie theaters, drive-in theaters, performance halls and venues, stadiums, arenas, gaming facilities, theme parks, and festivals;
5. Bowling alleys and arcades;
6. Public piers, public beach parking lots, and bicycle paths that traverse the sand;
7. Personal grooming establishments (e.g., barbers, hair salons, nail salons);
8. Massage or body art establishments;

9. Indoor and outdoor playgrounds for children (other than those inside a childcare center);
10. Community centers, including public pools, and pools, hot tubs, and saunas that are in a multi-unit residence or part of a Homeowners' Association;
11. Indoor and outdoor flea markets and swap meets;
12. Indoor museums, indoor or outdoor children's museums, gallery spaces, zoos, and libraries;
13. Indoor malls and indoor shopping centers, including all vendors located therein (unless accessible from the exterior); and
14. All events or gatherings that are not specifically authorized.

For business that qualify as “Lower-Risk,” the Stage 2 Order sets forth comprehensive requirements that must be followed with the implementation plan posted in that establishment. For example, retail businesses may only sell goods or services to the public via curbside/outdoor pickup or via delivery. Retail businesses must follow [a reopening protocol](#), and those that utilize the curbside pickup option also have a specific list of additional [hygienic requirements they must follow](#).

For manufacturing and logistics businesses, there are [extensive new requirements](#) about how the workplace must be reorganized in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19. In addition to obligating businesses are to enable employees (especially those over the age of 65) to work from home whenever possible, the Stage 2 Order directs manufacturing and logistics businesses to, among other specific requirements:

- Instruct employees not to report to work if they have been exposed to COVID-19;
- Perform symptom checks before employees enter the workplace;
- Require employees to wear face coverings that are washed daily;
- Separate workstations by at least six feet;
- Frequently disinfect break rooms, restrooms, and other common areas;
- Minimize or eliminate the use of common tools or equipment;
- Designate aisles and stairwells as “one-way” to support physical distancing;
- Evaluate the HVAC system to ensure adequate airflow; and
- Disinfect common areas and frequently touched objects on an hourly basis.

Some of these requirements are mandatory, while some are optional, depending on the nature of the business affected.

Los Angeles County has also issued business-specific protocols for reopening [beaches](#), [bike parks](#), [car dealerships](#), [community gardens](#), [equestrian centers](#), [golf courses](#), [model airplane areas](#), [outdoor shooting facilities](#), [substance use disorder and mental health facilities](#), [tennis/pickleball courts](#), and [trails](#).

For further information and advice specific to your situation, and to ensure that your business is in compliance with the applicable directives, contact any one of the Browne George Ross LLP attorneys listed above.