



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

PRESS INQUIRIES:

BRUCE MOE, CITY MANAGER

GEORGE GABRIEL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

www.citymb.info • (310) 802-5053

GGABRIEL@citymb.info • (310) 802-5054

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Support Local Businesses Responsibly by Not Consuming Alcohol while Waiting to Pick up Food

Manhattan Beach, CA (April 24, 2020) – Today, the [City Manager issued Emergency Order No. 5](#) requiring establishments serving food and alcohol for takeout, to transfer alcohol purchases to customers only at the same time food is transferred to the customer. The goal of the order is to prevent the consumption of alcohol by customers while they wait for the preparation of pick-up food, and to prevent gathering opportunities for customers at or around restaurants.

Essential businesses in the City, such as restaurants, must continue to enforce social distancing requirements (six feet apart), and have a duty to monitor customers waiting for food to ensure that no one is consuming alcohol on or adjacent to the premises. Pursuant to state and local laws regarding open container and consumption of alcohol in public, no one is allowed to open or consume alcohol in public places within Manhattan Beach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Alcohol Beverage Control Department (ABC) has allowed restaurants and similar establishments to sell alcohol for off-site consumption “when sold in conjunction with meals prepared for pick-up or delivery.” A link to the ABC order is: <https://www.abc.ca.gov/notice-of-regulatory-relief>. [Emergency Order No. 5](#) clarifies and mandates that restaurants cannot provide any alcohol to the customer in advance of providing the take-out order.

“The City continues to encourage our community to support local businesses during this time, however, we need to exercise that support in a responsible and safe manner. This Order reinforces and clarifies the goals of the Public Health Orders, by addressing a possible loophole that made it difficult for social distancing to be abided by at our local restaurants. Transferring alcohol at the same time food is being picked up, supports restaurants that we all love, responsibly,” said Mayor Richard Montgomery.

As noted above, the ABC, provided temporary regulatory relief to businesses impacted by the economic circumstances. ABC’s relief measures allow restaurants with on-site alcohol licenses to sell alcohol for pick-up or delivery throughout the State of California. The City applauds the State’s recognition that such temporary relief can help keep restaurants in business during this emergency.

The City Council strongly encourages wearing face coverings while in public, especially while exercising. For more guidance on how to properly wear and care for your face covering, please see the [Center for Disease Control's website](#) or the LA County Department of Public Health's guidance.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the City of Manhattan Beach will continue to provide updates. Information regarding the coronavirus is changing frequently. For accurate and up to date information about COVID-19, please visit the [County Department of Public Health website, sign up for eNotifications](#) and [Nixle](#) public safety alerts, and follow the City on [Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor,](#) and [Instagram](#).