



December 7, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn Barger and Members of the Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Chair Barger and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We, the four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, firmly joined together by a common cause, are writing to you today to request you to follow science and, more importantly, data and statistics to make decisions about COVID-19 across our Los Angeles County (County). We support our colleagues throughout 88 cities of the County who oppose your decision. In strong terms, we also support our South Bay COG's position, which in a letter on December 1, 2020, highlighted the importance of a decentralized approach to the pandemic response. Before many cities and regions consider forming their own health departments, we ask for the restructuring of the County Health Department's governance to fit the mission described on its web site.

Los Angeles County, the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, is the largest populated County in the United States, and larger in population than 41 individual states. As such, a "one size fits all" approach to policymaking is simply not workable and has become untenable.

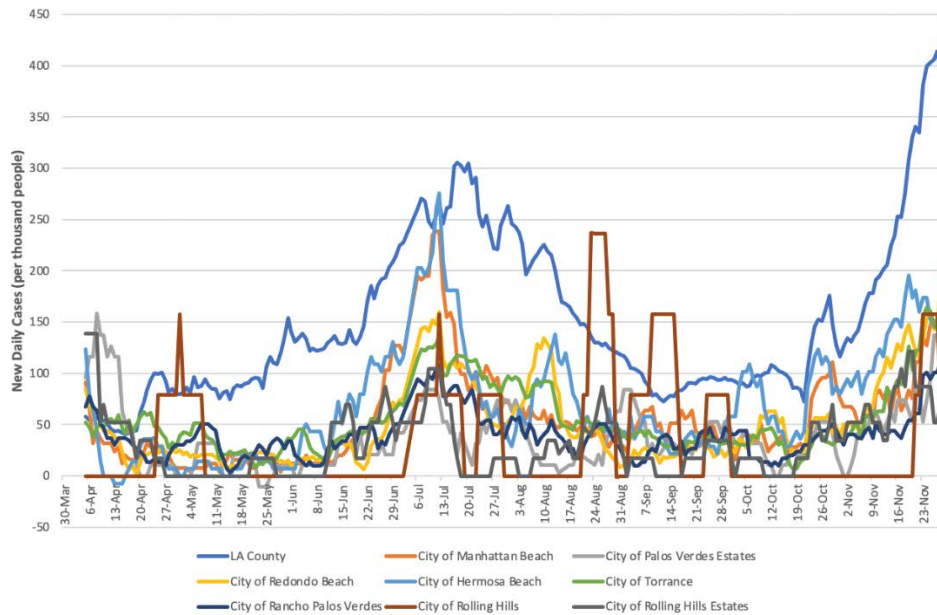
As you know, the County of Los Angeles Public Health's web site states, "Due to the large size of LA County (4,300 square miles), it has been divided into eight geographic areas (Service Planning Areas ((SPA)). These distinct regions allow the Department of Public Health to develop and provide more relevant public health and clinical services targeted to the specific health needs of the residents in these different areas." We agree and urge the Department of Public Health to begin implementing COVID-19 responses by area.

We respectfully request that each district collects precise data for its respective district to "provide more relevant public health and clinical services targeted to the specific health needs of the residents in these different areas." This precision already in place is all we ask to govern and serve our communities better.

The undersigned are elected representatives of jurisdictions located in "District 8 (South Bay)." Our geographic, demographic, and pandemic realities are substantially different than other districts in this vast and beautiful County. The County's decisions ignore these realities. To be specific and to use the County data, here is how our jurisdictions compare to others.

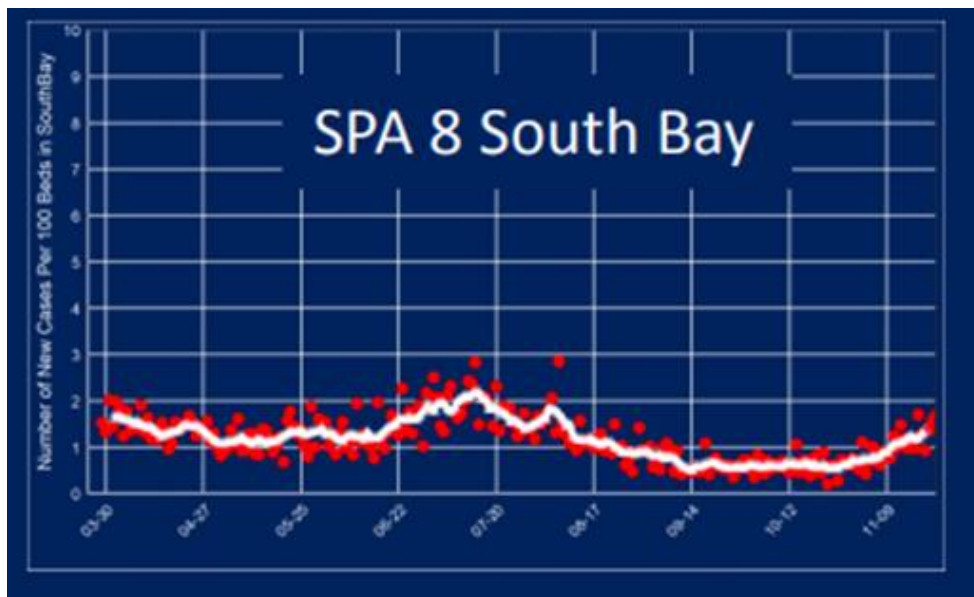
The City of Torrance prepared the chart below for the majority of jurisdictions in District 8. This chart makes it abundantly clear our realities compared to those of the County at large.

New Daily Cases Indexed to Population in South Bay Cities 7-day average



Every death is tragic; however, our death rates, compared to other deaths from various causes, are also statistically negligible. For example, the COVID-19 attributed death rate per capita on the Palos Verdes Peninsula is extremely low: **Rancho Palos Verdes is 0.03%, Palos Verdes Estates is 0.01%, Rolling Hills Estates is 0.04%, and Rolling Hills is 0.00%.**

Our hospitalization rates are also different. We do not suffer from the lack of beds or ICU capacity in our world-class hospitals like Torrance Memorial, Providence Little Company of Mary, etc. The image below for the South Bay region (District 8) is currently reporting nearly two new cases per 100 hospital beds, which is among the lowest of the region. In the summer surge, the South Bay region number was closer to three.



We expect policy decisions affecting our community to be based on our jurisdictions' statistics rather than the County's collective data. We, as a vast County, must reverse this course. Every signatory to this letter respects you all. We have a tradition of working with you in contract cities as well as independent cities. We also understand your concerns. By our requests, we do not question your heart. We suggest that we need to learn to live with this deadly virus rather than hide from it indefinitely. We seek collaboration as opposed to competition with your policy.

The County's actions are devastating our communities, especially our communities who need the most employment and economic stability. Our small businesses are our backbone. While disproportionately allowing large companies to operate, you have made it impossible for small businesses, in this case, mostly restaurants, to continue their existence. Our chefs, servers, kitchen staff depend on their wages and tips to feed their families. To the extent that funds are available, we urge you to work with the Governor to use some of the unexpected tax proceeds of \$26 billion to provide relief to small businesses and restaurants that are struggling to survive.

Our local jurisdictions, especially those that are "low, low" property tax cities, rely on sales tax revenue to provide local services. Some of these services under the contracting model are provided by the County for a fee. While the County takes close to 25% of the property tax revenue (not counting County related special districts revenues for another 25%), most of our "low, low" property tax cities receive less than 7%. The County's actions are also devastating to our cities. Unfortunately, there is no data to support your last decision countywide, much less in our jurisdictions. We have seen no evidence that outdoor dining is the cause of any COVID case surge in various parts of the County. The City of Pasadena chose science and data over your decision. We in District 8 ask for the same treatment as Pasadena, which is located in the same County.

While we disagree with the state's "one sizes fits all" approach, we understand that the County is currently operating under the state's Stay-at-Home Order for the Southern California Region due to ICU bed capacity. When the state's Order is lifted, we respectfully ask that you act on our request for a regional approach using regional data. In particular, we expect the re-opening of our outdoor dining facilities as soon as possible. Failing to do so is causing some cities to explore constituting their own health departments.

Respectfully,



David McGowan,
City of Palos Verdes Estates, Mayor



Eric Alegria
City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Mayor



Jeff Pieper
City of Rolling Hills, Mayor



Velveth Schmitz
City of Rolling Hills Estates, Mayor