

Mosquito with West Nile Virus is found in Costa Mesa

The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District has confirmed the first mosquito samples infected with West Nile virus (WNV) in the City of Costa Mesa.

Surveillance traps were set in the area of Fairview Park. Inspectors will be out in the area to check known sources of mosquito breeding and try to identify any unknown sources.

Click here for a map.

“West Nile virus positive mosquito samples indicates that the virus is active in Orange County and there is an increased risk for residents to become infected with WNV through a mosquito bite,” said Robert Cummings, Director of Scientific Services for Vector Control.

West Nile virus is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. There are no confirmed cases of human infections currently in Orange County.

To learn more about West Nile virus visit:
<https://www.ocvector.org/west-nile-virus>

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility. Orange County residents need to do their part to control mosquito breeding around their properties and prevent bites.

Eliminating mosquito breeding sources is critical to preventing the spread of West Nile virus:

To prevent mosquito bites, take action and follow these tips:

- Dump and drain containers filled with water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly

- Dump water from potted plant saucers

For more information on how you can help reduce the risk of WNV in your community, visit www.ocvector.org.

405 Improvement work will result in closure of freeway in late night early morning hours starting Saturday Aug. 29

OCTA Crews will install pre-cast concrete girders for the Fairview Bridge over I-405, requiring full closures of 405 Freeway during early morning hours starting Saturday Aug. 29.

The girders are the main horizontal support beams, known as the superstructure, for the new bridge. They are installed across the bridge's substructure, the abutments and center columns. Pre-cast girders are used instead of installing falsework and pouring the superstructure in place.

This work will require northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) full freeway, lane and ramp closures, as well as the closure of Fairview between McCormack Lane and South Coast Drive. Residential access will be maintained.

Click the links below for map detours.

Local detours.

Freeway detours.

Click to see closures and detours on the interactive map

Closures are set for:

Night One

As early as 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, to 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 30

Night Two

As early as 10 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, to 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1

Night Three

As early as 10 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, to 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2*

Additional Nights: 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. for several weeknights.

*SB I-405 will be closed, and access to NB I-405 will be maintained.

Some activity also may occur during the day.

COVID-19 testing super site opens at OC Fair & Event Center

Mayor Katrina Foley joined County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel, County Supervisor Andrew Do and members of 360 Clinic to welcome the addition of the new COVID-19 testing super site at the OC Fair & Event Center.

Also at the event was County of Orange, California CEO Frank Kim and County Public Health Officer Clayton Chau and Costa Mesa Mayor Pro-Tem John Stephens, Assistant City Manager Susan Price and Congressman Harley Rouda.



The new super site, a joint venture between the City of Costa Mesa, the County of Orange and 360 Clinic, is the second largest in the state next to Dodger Stadium and will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is expected to test 500 people a day in the first week. Tests will be available by appointment only at <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/supersite> and for individuals prioritized for testing by the California Department of Public Health:

- People with symptoms
- Close contacts with people known to have COVID-19
- Healthcare workers, first responders
- Residents and employees of congregate living facilities
- Essential workers (grocery store, food supply, utility workers, public employees and teachers)

There will be an express lane for first responders at the

super site.

The public can enter the Fairgrounds through Gate 4 and a traffic plan has been put in place with electronic signs at the 55 Freeway Fair Drive exit as well as at the corners of Fair Drive and Fairview Avenue and at the corner of Fairview and Arlington to guide those entering the fairgrounds testing site.

County of Orange Adds Second Super Site to its COVID-19 Testing Arsenal at OC Fairgrounds



PRESS RELEASE



Santa Ana, Calif. (August 25, 2020) – Just six weeks after opening the Anaheim Super Site, the County of Orange announced today a second Super Site opening at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa on August 26.

360 Clinic will be conducting no-out-of-pocket cost testing leveraging personal insurance reimbursements and federal government assistance for the uninsured, with additional financial support from the County.

“I’m so pleased that we are opening this new test site to

offer additional convenient access to testing for our residents, particularly for those within my district,” said **Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District**. “Testing is one of the keys to our ability to slow the spread of the virus and still go about our business of getting back to work and enjoying life in our community.”

“This new site in Costa Mesa bolsters our local testing capacity, enabling more symptomatic and asymptomatic Orange County residents within priority groups, to access free contactless testing with quick turnaround times on results,” said **Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District**. “To make our testing network better still, the county is establishing a call center and making website registration options accessible in multiple languages to ensure that all residents, no matter their primary language, have equal access to vital testing services.”

Tests will be available for individuals prioritized for testing by the California Department of Public Health:

- People with symptoms
- Close contacts with people known to have COVID-19
- Healthcare workers, first responders
- Residents and employees of congregate living facilities
- Essential workers (grocery store, food supply, utility workers, public employees and teachers)

“There are three key messages we want to convey to people who may have been reluctant to get tests – particularly at our super sites,” said **Third District Supervisor Donald P. Wagner**. “1. Wait times in your car are generally no more than 30 minutes. 2. The tests are self-administered, safe, easy and pain-free. 3. Results are available in 24 to 48 hours so you can quickly determine whether you test positive for COVID-19 or not and plan accordingly.”

“We are committed to continuing to offer testing options to

our residents that are easy and convenient for all of Orange County's residents. Tests are just one tool in our arsenal to beat the novel coronavirus, but it's a powerful tool," said **Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee**.

Fifth District Supervisor Lisa A. Bartlett added, "Our goal is to do everything we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 including making it as easy and convenient as possible for residents to get tested. The addition of the Costa Mesa Supersite will hopefully bring us one step closer to achieving that goal. The more options that are available for people to get tested and get results in a timely manner, the quicker we can mitigate the spread of the virus. In addition to the extensive test site locations, we've launched major marketing, advertising and community outreach campaigns centered around the importance of protecting yourself and each other by wearing a face covering, washing hands frequently and staying six feet apart."

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley added, "We know that mass testing with prompt results combined with mask wearing and social distancing is necessary for our kids to return to in-person school and our business community to reopen. This Supersite, the second largest in California, opens up another path on our road to recovery. We are grateful that the City of Costa Mesa and the OCFair will host and support this important public health program."

"The good news is that our seven day daily case count is going down compared to where we were in July. This is especially encouraging given the additional testing capacity we've added," said **Orange County Director of the OC Health Care Agency and Acting County Health Officer Dr. Clayton Chau**.

Orange County residents who meet the Public Health criteria may register online starting today at <https://360clinic.fulgentgenetics.com/>. Participants will be asked to provide their contact information along with their

health insurance information (if they have it) while selecting their appointment date and time. Once a resident has successfully registered, they will receive a confirmation text or email. They will be required to show this confirmation on the date and time of their registration in order to be tested.

Starting on Wednesday, August 26, the Costa Mesa Super Site will operate Mondays– Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Questions can be directed to 360 Clinic representatives at (800) 446-8888. More information about testing as well as other testing sites across Orange County may be found at: ohealthinfo.com/covidtest.

More Information:

- OC Health Care Agency Network of Testing, visit ohealthinfo.com/covidtest
- To find out what to do while waiting for test results or if a COVID-19 test is positive, go to ohealthinfo.com/protecteachother

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Carol Molina Named New Finance Director

Costa Mesa City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison announces the appointment of Carol Molina, a 21-year veteran of municipal government, as the City's new Finance Director.

"I am excited to appoint Carol as the City's Finance Director. She has served as the Acting Finance Director since April and has successfully guided the Finance Department and the City's annual budget process during a very difficult time." Farrell Harrison said. "Her expertise in budgeting and financial management, labor negotiations, and best practices in financial management have proven to be great assets for Costa Mesa."

Mayor Katrina Foley is also enthusiastic about the news of Molina's appointment.

"Carol is an experienced and proven leader. I believe she is the right person to lead our Finance Department at this critical time. She has already confirmed her value to the organization with her recent efforts to guide us through the adoption of the 2020-21 budget in the middle of a pandemic," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "We welcome her as an official member of our executive leadership team."

Molina has been with the City of Costa Mesa since the beginning of 2020, when she joined the team as the City's Budget and Purchasing Manager prior to taking on the role of Acting Finance Director in April.

Molina has a wealth of experience in budgeting and financial management with both full-service and general law cities including the cities of Santa Ana, Mission Viejo, and Huntington Beach. She has been the recipient of numerous awards for budget management and excellence. Her emphasis on

long-term financial sustainability and success in managing complex budgets render her uniquely qualified to manage the City's finances in such a critical time.

Costa Mesa's Finance Director is responsible for all aspects of the City's financial management, including oversight of the \$160 million budget, payroll, purchasing, audits, financial reporting, and overall fiscal policy for the City.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected for this position and thankful for the opportunity to work with the City's skilled and talented team. My experience in municipal finance, along with the knowledge I've gained working for the City of Costa Mesa, has prepared me to lead the Finance Department as we embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead." Molina said.

Molina holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of California, Davis.

City Hall may be closed but City staff still performing essential services for public

NEW Modified Hours for City Services (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.):

While City Hall remains closed to the public to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 until further notice, all City employees are still working and providing essential services

to the public.

Please be advised that effective July 1, all city departments, except for police and fire, will operate four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. only.

City Departments will not be operational on Fridays, except for police and fire services which will continue on a 24/7 basis. These actions are being taken to ease the budget deficit resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to allow for the continued deep cleaning and disinfecting of City facilities. This revised schedule will remain in place until further notice.

Police and Fire Departments (24 hours a day, seven days a week):

All police and fire services will continue to operate on a 24 hour, 7 days per week basis.

The following facilities will remain fully staffed on Fridays:

- **Costa Mesa Police Department** – The Police Station and all Police services will remain operational on Fridays.
- **Costa Mesa Fire Department** – All Fire Stations and Fire emergency services will remain operational on Fridays. Inspection services will only be available Monday – Thursday.

We appreciate your understanding during these difficult times. Please click on the following link for additional information regarding City services and how to contact us.

County of Orange announces it is ramping Up Testing Capacity With Private-Public Partnership

In a private-public partnership, the County of Orange announced this week that thanks to a collaboration with 360 Clinic and the City of Anaheim, the County will be able to significantly increase COVID-19 testing capacity with the opening of large scale drive-through testing at Anaheim Convention Center starting July 15.

[Click here for more information.](#)

360 Clinic will be conducting no-out-of-pocket cost testing leveraging personal insurance reimbursements and federal government assistance for the uninsured, with additional financial support from the County.

Tests will be available for individuals on prioritized for testing by the California Department of Public Health:

- People with symptoms
- Close contacts to people known to have COVID-19
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Residents and employees of congregate living facilities
- Essential workers (grocery store, food supply, utility workers and public employees)

The initial target is to conduct 600 to 800 tests per day, five days per week with a goal of reaching 1,200 per day within two weeks. 360 Clinic and the convention center have the capacity to expand volume depending public health recommendations as well as lab and supply capacities.

Orange County residents who have insurance are requested to

contact their medical provider first about getting tested prior to registering for an appointment at the Anaheim Convention Center site; and most HMO's request that members obtain testing through their own provider.

Orange County residents who meet the aforementioned criteria may register online at <http://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/supersite>. Participants will be asked to provide their contact information along with their health insurance information (if they have it) while selecting their appointment date and time. Once an individual has successfully registered, they will receive a confirmation text or email. They will be required to show this confirmation on the date and time of their registration in order to be tested.

More information about the Anaheim Convention Center testing site process may be found at: <http://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/supersite>.

Starting on Wednesday, July 15, the Anaheim Convention Center site will operate Wednesdays – Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Should Orange County residents have questions, they may contact a 360 Clinic representative at (800) 446-8888. More information about testing as well as other testing sites across Orange County may be found at: ochealthinfo.com/covidtest.

Orange County has conducted more than 307,400 PCR tests as of July 12 with 24,715 people testing positive. More than 420 people have died from the disease in Orange County – more than half of that number at skilled nursing facilities.

“This mirrors what the state sites have been able to do and adds major additional capacity for those not able to get tested because of the overwhelming demand,” said Orange County Agency Director and Acting County Health Officer Dr. Clayton Chau.

More Information:

OC Health Care Agency Network of Testing, visit ohealthinfo.com/covidtest

To find out what to do while waiting for test results or if a COVID-19 test is positive, go to ohealthinfo.com/slowthespread

Costa Mesa wins nuisance abatement action against group home operator Pacific Shores Recovery

In a ruling by the Orange County Superior Court, Costa Mesa has prevailed in a nuisance abatement action against group home operator Pacific Shores Recovery LLC, marking another victory in the ongoing legal enforcement of the City's sober living ordinances.

"We have been defending our ordinances for the past several years with a series of victories in Federal Court, including the Ninth Circuit," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "Now we have affirmatively enforced those ordinances in State court, obtaining a permanent injunction. This outcome fulfills the long-term strategic vision of mine and Mayor Pro-Tem John Stephens, and represents the highest quality of legal work by our outside counsel to protect our community and preserve the residential character of our neighborhoods."

The City filed an action for public nuisance and for abatement against Pacific Shores Recovery LLC in September 2019 to enjoin the operation of unlicensed and unpermitted group homes in two adjacent apartment buildings at 200, 202, 204 and 206

Cabrillo Street in violation of the City's Municipal Code.

At the time of filing, there were 44 individuals residing at these two locations. The properties have been the subject of significant calls for services for drug overdoses and assaults.

Pacific Shores Recovery LLC had previously filed suit in federal court against the City, claiming the City's municipal codes were discriminatory and unconstitutional. The City prevailed in the federal action in April 2020 and Pacific Shores has appealed that decision.

In the meantime, the Orange County Superior Court, where the nuisance abatement action was pending, considered the City's Motion for Summary Judgment on July 6, 2020 and granted judgment for the City.

As a result, Pacific Shores or anyone affiliated with them are prohibited from continuing to operate their illegal group homes at these locations. The City will be seeking its attorney's fees and immediate enforcement of the injunction.

Mayor Foley Selected for Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley has been selected as one of 40 mayors nationwide to participate in the prestigious Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

The mayors will attend immersive, online classes taught by faculty from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Business School, as well as other renowned management experts from across the Bloomberg Philanthropies network.

“We launched this program four years ago because mayors have the power to make the biggest changes in America – and with cities leading the way in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, their jobs have never been more important,” Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and former three-term mayor of New York City stated in a press release announcing the newly selected class.

“This year’s class was chosen because they all believe in finding creative solutions to improve people’s lives, and we’re looking forward to helping them and their teams respond to this crisis – and make their cities stronger, better, and more equitable for years to come.”

Virtual sessions will cover a range of topics on advancing recovery, from budget decision-making in a time of severe economic challenge and managing a remote workforce to advancing equity and leading civic and resident engagement.

Other California mayors chosen include Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento; Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Union City; Joe Goethals, San Mateo; Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, National City; Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento; and Lori Wilson, Suisun City Mayor.

Basketball, volleyball courts

and other amenities reopen

City staff have reopened several amenities including most park restrooms and picnic tables and basketball and volleyball courts.

City parks staff are also now taking reservations for sports fields to be used for limited team activities.

Playgrounds will remain closed, and reservations for large and small events are not permitted.

As the parks open for additional use, city staff reminds the public to practice social distancing, wash hands frequently, wear face masks and recreate with members of the same household.

Jason Minter selected to lead Parks & Community Services Department

Costa Mesa City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison announced that Jason Minter, a 24-year veteran of municipal government, would be the new Director of Parks & Community Services.

“We interviewed several competent and well-qualified applicants, and Jason rose to the top of this highly competitive field and proved to be a truly outstanding candidate to lead our Parks & Community Services Department,” Farrell Harrison said. “I look forward to working with him

during what has been a challenging time for Costa Mesa's parks and recreational activities."

Mayor Katrina Foley also cheered the news of Minter's hiring.

"Costa Mesans love our parks and programs," Mayor Foley said. "Gratefully, we found an experienced and proven leader at this critical time for our Parks and Community Services Department. I look forward to working with Mr. Minter on creative ways to offer programming to residents. We welcome him to our leadership team."

For the last 13 years, Minter has been the Administrative Services Manager for city of Torrance, where he managed approximately 28 employees in the Registration and Facility Booking

Offices, the Park Ranger and Home Improvement Programs, and Toyota Sports Complex

His responsibilities in this position include all aspects of management, including budgeting, capital projects, employee relations, personnel management, training, disaster preparedness, audits and policymaking.

"I feel that my intensity and persistence, along with a fresh perspective on the Department's programs and activities, will enable me to not only be an engaging, active leader, but also to provide innovative thinking and strategic planning necessary to keep the Department moving forward," Minter said. "I look forward to this new challenge and getting to know the people and places that are unique to Costa Mesa."

Costa Mesa's Parks & Community Services Director has direct oversight over the city's 30 parks, including Fairview, Bark Park and the Skate Park, recreation programs for youth and adults, sports field usage, Jack Hammett Sports Complex, the Costa Mesa Senior Center and the Downtown Recreation Center and Aquatics Center.

Prior to his career in Torrance, Minter worked for the cities of Long Beach, Hawthorne, Irvine and Los Alamitos in various Community Services roles.

He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cal State University Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies from Cal State University Long Beach.

July 4 neighborhood parades and block parties not permitted this year

The City of Costa Mesa recognizes that the Fourth of July holiday comes with traditions of block parties and neighborhood parades that many hold dear.

Unfortunately, as we all deal with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules regarding mass gatherings from state and federal public health officials, July 4 parades and block parties are prohibited this year in Costa Mesa.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event. The *more people* an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the

higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.”

The City of Costa Mesa urges all residents to enjoy the July 4 holiday by practicing social distance measures, wearing a face covering, frequently washing hands, cleaning and disinfecting common areas and staying home if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Also, high risk members of the community, including senior citizens and people of any age that suffer from chronic diseases, need to be especially aware of their risks for COVID-19 and should avoid gatherings where they cannot appropriately social distance.

We wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July.