



# Item No. 8 Town of Atherton

## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**DATE: JUNE 16, 2021**

**SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF CONTINUING EMERGENCY AND RATIFICATION OF SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS ENACTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

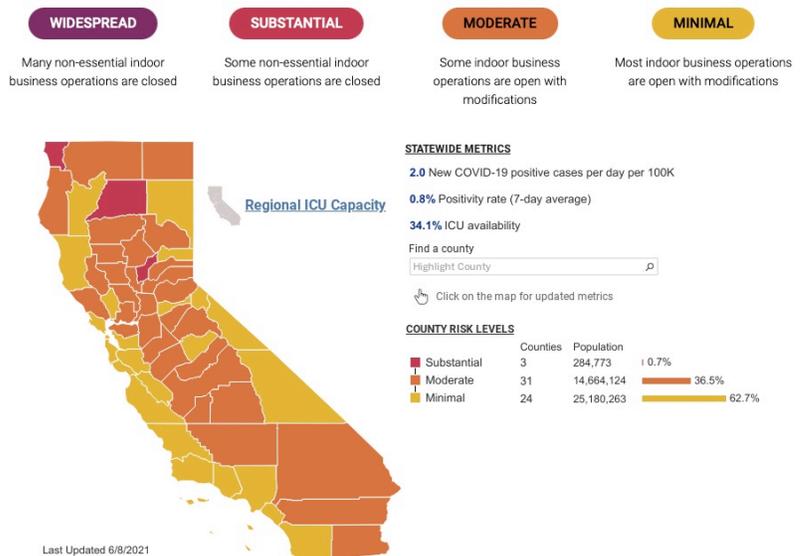
### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council certify the continuing emergency and ratify such rules and regulations enacted by the Director of Emergency Services in response to COVID-19.

### BACKGROUND | ANALYSIS

The City Council last met on May 19, 2021 and certified the continuing emergency and ratified such rules and regulations enacted by the Director of Emergency Services in response to COVID-19.

The County of San Mateo remains in the Yellow Tier (Minimal) of the State’s Re-Opening Plan. Much of the State has moved to the Moderate Tier. It is anticipated that the County of San Mateo will remain in the Yellow Tier until June 15 when the Governor will remove the County’s color-coded Tier System and reopen the economy.



Once the Governor removes the Tiered System, common sense health measures, including the wearing of face coverings, will continue. Testing and vaccination requirements will remain for some businesses and industries. Beginning June 15, all sectors listed in the current Blueprint

Activities and Business Tier Chart may return to usual operations (with limited exceptions for Mega Events) based on the following general public health recommendations:

Restrictions Applying to Indoor & Outdoor Settings	
<b>Vaccine Verification / Negative Testing</b>	Required for <b>Indoor</b> mega events Recommended for <b>Outdoor</b> mega events
<b>Capacity Limitations</b>	No restrictions
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	No restrictions for attendees, customers and guests
<b>Masking</b>	Follow current <a href="#">CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings</a>
<b>Travelers</b>	Follow <a href="#">CDC</a> recommendations and <a href="#">CDPH Travel Advisory</a>

Employers are subject to the CalOSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS), if applicable. The requirements and recommendations under the State Guidance will remain in place from June 15 through October 1. The State will assess conditions by September 1, 2021 and determine whether updated requirements or recommendations are needed beyond October 1, 2021.

With the recent CalOSHA ruling, the State's lifting of the COVID-19 Tiers on June 15 (normal operations), and the CDC guidance - the state of the law around masking and unmasking is muddled. Atherton, like a few other communities in San Mateo County, were planning a return to in-person, hybrid public meetings (Zoom and in-person) on June 16 and beyond. However, the new CalOSHA ruling muddies the waters with the masking requirements for people in the same room.

CalOSHA's requirements require us to check each person as they enter the room for their vaccination status; if they are not vaccinated, they may enter, but all people in the room must mask for the duration of the person's attendance. That can get complicated and intrusive; and can result in people having to remain masked for the duration of the public meeting (2, 3, or 4 hours). As a result, my direction has been that the Town continue Zoom remote for official meetings from June 15 through August 31. The City Council is DARK in August. Town Committees have the option of being DARK in August as well.

During remote meetings, staff will begin live testing of equipment for future hybrid meetings which would officially begin in September. This staff testing will be in person. Staff and/or members of the Council may participate in person if they desire from these testing locations (Main House and Pavilion). In addition to the masking/unmasking requirements, there will be some technology bugs to work out of the system, mostly related to audio. Until we work those out; I am not advocating a return to full in-person hybrid.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Rental activity at the Park has been significantly impacted. Rental revenue has been minimal. However, activities are returning to the Park and staff anticipates that with the relaxation of

COVID-19 Protocols, activity at the Park will continue to increase over the summer and ramp up to regular activity by mid-year (FY 2021/22).

Building, Planning and Public Works activity are at normal levels.

The Certification of Continuing Emergency will continue until such time as the State has lifted its emergency status. This is anticipated to occur in October 2021. The Certification of Continuing Emergency allows the Town to track expenditures related to the emergency and ensure that they qualify for reimbursement under State and Federal funding mechanisms.

### **POLICY FOCUS**

Policy issues are limited to the continuing emergency.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

### **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL**

This item \_\_\_ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.