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### **Covid-19 Update: Balancing Public Health with Economic Health**

**(Santa Ana, Calif.)** — Today the Orange County Board of Supervisors convened for a Coronavirus update. The Health Care Agency (HCA) emphasized that the concerns about community spread of the disease should focus on high-risk individuals: over 60 years and those populations with compromised immune systems. Conversely, young children are not suffering from severe illness.

Supervisor Don Wagner inquired about the appropriate public health response to communal gatherings and effects on tourism. In response, HCA urged people who are feeling unwell in general to avoid crowds, but that those gatherings do not need to be canceled. Tourists are invited to continue visiting Orange County and enjoy its abundant offerings. HCA further indicated that the County has a robust 24/7 system in place to respond to both individuals and health care officials. More rapid test kit orders are in the queue, so health care providers can always remain prepared.

To date, Covid-19 has affected 1 in 650,000 in Orange County with zero local deaths. In comparison, the regular flu we are familiar with has infected millions and killed thousands. Washing hands and effective sanitary use of tissues are some of the essential steps we can take to help protect our more vulnerable populations.

“You can still relish the rich quality of life that Orange County offers. The lines may even be a little shorter at your favorite establishment, but they don’t necessarily need to be,” said Supervisor Wagner. “As the data develops, a clearer portrait of the situation will come into focus. Keep up with good hygiene and stay vigilant.”

While the imagery of people wearing masks seems like a scene from a bad sci-fi movie, please remember we take risks every day, from driving on our busy roads and freeways to crossing the street. We buckle up, we look both ways, but we don’t stop living life.

Supervisor Wagner would also like to invite the public to the County’s Virtual Town Hall via phone call on March 12, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Please call (855) 756-7520 ext. 56750#.

Additionally, below is a list of resources available to help you:

- Questions: Health Referral Line: (800) 564-8448
- Get Mobile Updates: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085613900#/login>
- For More Info: [http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel\\_coronavirus](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel_coronavirus)

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