



Press Release - December 17, 2020

On Friday, December 11, 2020, the County of San Bernardino outlined their vaccine rollout plan. Phase 1a vaccinations will give priority to frontline healthcare workers working in intensive care units (ICU), emergency rooms (ER) and COVID units, along with first responders. The California Department of Public Health, in partnership with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies, will be responsible for distributing the vaccines to seniors in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities in the City, perhaps as early as next week.

In the interest of alleviating the impacts of recent State stay-at-home orders, the County of San Bernardino has filed a petition for a writ of mandate directly in the California Supreme Court seeking among other relief 1) an immediate order commanding the Governor and other State officials to cease enforcing the recently issue stay-at-home laws, 2) an order annulling the stay-at-home laws that exceed the Governor and other State officials' powers under the California Emergency Services Act, and 3) a writ commanding the Governor and other State officials to terminate the stay-at-home laws.

The City Council has authorized the City Attorney to prepare an amicus letter in support of the County's effort to be filed with the California Supreme Court on behalf of the City of Yucaipa and support of the County's writ petition. While the County is seeking immediate relief from the stay-at-home orders, the Court has requested briefing from the State and the County, with the County reply brief due no later than January 5, 2021, suggesting a decision would not be rendered before that time.

The City Council has also sent a letter to Governor Newsom expressing concerns about the State's stay-at-home orders and the impacts to the City's restaurants and other businesses. The letter includes the following statements:

The City Council respectfully requests that outdoor dining be reopened immediately statewide, given that there is no medical evidence to support the need to shut down outdoor dining, and in fact some contact tracing studies indicate that all types of dining contribute to only about 1% of the COVID-19 cases nationwide.

We believe all businesses are essential, because they create jobs and provide the funding necessary to support the essential services that provide the quality of life needs and safety for our residents.

The City Council continues to work to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19 on the community and wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Mayor Greg Bogh