



JOINT NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEMORIAL DAY BRINGS WELCOME LONG WEEKEND FOR FUN AND REST ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA Vaccination Rates Allow for Relaxed Restrictions, More Normalcy

Monterey, CA. – Thanks to solid vaccination rates that continue to climb locally and throughout California, the Cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Carmel, are breathing a collective sigh of relief that the Peninsula can offer a fun and restful respite from the pandemic for families celebrating Memorial Day weekend, May 29 - 31, 2021. Last Memorial Day weekend was a much grimmer picture. Required social distancing and newly mandated mask wearing, along with closed businesses and beaches were spawned by increasing COVID-19 infection rates and a critical situation in many hospitals.

Public health and safety continues as the number one priority. It is still imperative to understand the risks of COVID-19 and the precautions to take to prevent the spread of infection and the chance of variants taking hold and causing another surge of new cases. Cities are required to follow County and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines. Monterey County is still in the orange tier status based on the [California Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). Social distancing and mask wearing guidelines for that tier remain in place, although Governor Newsom announced the mask mandate will end June 15, 2021. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) just announced last week that vaccinated people no longer need

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to wear masks indoors or out. When the CDPH adopts this new CDC guideline then counties and cities can follow suit based on each regional Covid-19 infection rate status.

“The vaccine plays a paramount role in where we are today in terms of getting past this pandemic,” said Monterey City Manager Hans Uslar. “We are glad our economy is open and thank our residents as well as those visiting the area for continuing their responsibility to help keep us moving in that positive direction.”

Pacific Grove City Manager Ben Harvey said, “Our beaches are open, our restaurants and shops are open, and the Aquarium is open. We hope family and friends can get outside for Memorial Day weekend and enjoy all the fun activities our area offers.”

Carmel City Administrator Chip Rerig added, “It is very refreshing to see the businesses come back to life with happy crowds of locals and visitors out enjoying themselves. That atmosphere was really missed and a welcome sight.”

We encourage our guests to visit responsibly. Love the Monterey Peninsula like a local.

For a comprehensive list of things to do in Monterey County, visit

<https://www.seemonterey.com/things-to-do/>

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