



# PRESS RELEASE

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1444 W Garvey Avenue • West Covina • CA 91790 • Phone (626) 939-8401 • Fax (626) 939-8406

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:** David N. Carmany  
City Manager  
(626) 939-8401

## **West Covina to create Municipal Health Department**

**WEST COVINA, CA, February 24, 2021** – At the Tuesday, February 23, 2021 Special Council Meeting, the City Council of West Covina took a historic step that will lead towards creation of a local Health Department. The City Council adopted a resolution and urgency ordinance to conclude the City consenting to the health officer's services from the County of Los Angeles relating to enforcement of orders and quarantine regulations issued by the state and County. The resolution and ordinance will be sent to County by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and will go into effect the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021.

The vote by the Council is one step of several towards separating health services from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH). The City of West Covina continues to be under contract with the County for health services pursuant to the Health Services Agreement between the City and the County (executed July of 1963).

The City will start working with LADPH to determine the transitional process and the duties of the City's Health Officer, including services the City could start assuming the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. LADPH stated that LADPH will continue to serve the City in its current capacity until the transition to a West Covina public health department, including recognition by the State of California is complete.

Establishing a City health department will take time, planning and coordination through a process that has not been accomplished in decades. The City does not anticipate having a health department at the level of Pasadena or Long Beach by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, but intends to provide services that are responsive to the community's needs. The City's desire to provide better health services and dedication to the community's safety will guide us through this uncharted process.

“West Covina will remain focused on protecting the environment and ensuring the health and safety of its residents, workers, visitors, and neighboring community. We intend to tailor operations to regulate and meet the needs of the community. This is not going to happen overnight, and we will work with LADPH on transition issues,” stated Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado. “The City's priority continues to be the safety of our community members and to provide the best services to our residents and businesses.”

For questions or to learn more about West Covina contact City Hall at (626) 939-8401.

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