As coronavirus surges, L.A. weighs a second stay-home order - Los Ang...
As coronavirus surges, L.A. weighs a second stay-home order - Los Ang...

hospitalizations that so far shows few signs of slowing.

For two weeks, Mayor Eric Garcetti has warned that the city is close to returning to some type of stay-at-home order due to the new increase — which became clear in June after businesses began to rapidly reopen in May — but has held off.

On Sunday, he said a decision will probably come in the next week or two as officials determine whether restrictions imposed in late June and July — such as closing bars, indoor restaurant dining and shopping malls — slowed the rapid community spread of COVID-19.

Los Angeles had long been one of the hardest-hit parts of California, recording a disproportionate share of the total cases and fatalities.

But the new wave has also hit surrounding counties such as Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside. All of California is seeing rising cases, although some heavily populated areas have been hit relatively less hard so far, like the Bay Area, which has seen fewer than half as many new cases over the last two weeks than L.A. County on a per capita basis.

Some health experts said the situation makes another stay-at-home order for Los Angeles County a real possibility if the conditions don’t improve soon.

“I wish we weren’t in this situation, I really do,” said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of UC San Francisco’s Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. “And again, I want to stress this is not punitive. We are in a situation where we did so well at the beginning of this pandemic. And I believe we could get back there ... but it means for a period of time, we have to do what it takes to make sure the virus has no
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Few, if any, big cities in the U.S. have reimposed a second stay at home order after reopening. But Leicester, England — which is known for its garment industry — was forced to do so after a severe outbreak among heavily nonwhite areas of the city, according to the medical journal Lancet.

Even a less strict version of the spring stay-at-home order would be a devastating blow to Los Angeles, where the coronavirus has battered the economy and the county’s unemployment rate hovered around 19.7% in June. Many cheered when state and local officials began reopening the economy in May and June, hoping that social distancing, masks and workplace safety rules would keep COVID-19 in check.

But it hasn’t worked out that way.

Some people went back to old habits, such as participating in summer social events, and it’s becoming increasingly clear some employers are not enforcing safety rules. Latino workers are getting sick at disproportionate levels, and officials believe many are becoming infected at work and bringing the virus home.

Coronavirus cases statewide
As of July 22, 9:18 a.m. Pacific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>409,586 confirmed</th>
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<tr>
<td>California a</td>
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<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.A. County a</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County a</td>
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Gov. Newsom has rolled back reopenings. What’s closed or reopened in your county?

Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Assn., watched with dismay as people ignored health guidance.

“The city reopened, but people’s behavior reverted to what they were doing before,” Waldman said. “Unfortunately, people jumped back in like the virus was gone.”

Another shutdown could leave businesses, already reeling from months of losses, at the breaking point.

“It’s very important for businesses to be able to plan, and if we keep opening and closing, that is not in the best interest of those businesses that are trying to stay open,” said Maria Salinas, president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

On Monday, public health officials reported at least 3,128 new cases, pushing the cumulative total past 159,000.
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