

COVID-19 Guidance for Special Events and Gatherings

Background

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

Preventing the transmission of COVID-19 requires a combination of prevention measures including: physical distancing, wearing face coverings, sanitizing surfaces, and staying home when not feeling well. ***PLEASE NOTE: Physical distancing alone is insufficient to prevent transmission of COVID-19.***

The Sacramento County Public Health Officer, in alignment with the State Health Officer Order, has prohibited indoor gatherings.

Events and Gatherings

A “gathering” is an event, assembly, meeting, or convening that brings together multiple people from separate households in a single space, indoors or outdoors, at the same time and in a coordinated fashion—like a conference, festival, fair, party, or performance.

Events such as marriage ceremonies, cultural ceremonies, funerals and worship services have specific guidance. Refer to [COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship](#) for more information.

Indoor gatherings are prohibited at this time. Some outdoor gatherings are allowed as long as everyone attending the outdoor gathering strictly complies with all the requirements set forth below to reduce risk and keep everyone who attends as safe as possible.

Until CDPH releases further guidance, music, theater and other artistic performances are prohibited while in the Purple tier 1 or Red tier 2. Once Sacramento County reaches the Orange or Yellow tiers, these types of performances may resume with modifications.

The criteria for allowing an event includes, but is not limited to:

- The event is located outside.
- The event will not exceed the maximum number of attendees.
- The event is designed for easy social distancing of households (6 ft.).
- The event does not encourage or lead to mingling and interaction of people from separate households.
- The location has support facilities (restrooms and handwashing) that can be kept stocked and sanitized.
- Restrooms, where applicable, have signage for the maximum number of people allowed inside at the same time.

- The event does not offer or encourage alcohol consumption.
- The event does not lead to lines or crowding of entrance or exit areas.
- The event lasts for a limited amount of time and doesn't encourage people to stay longer than the designated time.
- Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.
- The event will encourage physical distancing and face covering when singing, shouting, chanting, or exercising.
- The event is arranged to ensure social distancing between any staff and attendees.
- If food is served, provisions are put into place to ensure there is no gathering at where the food is served and a common eating area is not provided.

Examples of Events that are allowed

Drive in movie theater, drive-in events - Must follow [Sacramento County Drive-in Event Guidance](#)

Examples of events that are not allowed in person (virtual ok) – Regional Stay at Home Order, Purple tier 1 and Red tier 2

Outdoor Art Galleries

Recreational Classes: Art, Gardening, etc.

Movie nights in the park, Comedy in the park

Indoor and outdoor performances/plays

Gatherings at event centers, lodges, social clubs, comedy clubs etc.

Conventions, Conferences, Product Demonstrations

Receptions, Class reunions

Career Fairs

Requirements for events that are allowed

Face Coverings

Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.

Exceptions include children under 2 years old, people for whom face coverings are medically inadvisable, or people who are hearing impaired. Face coverings can also be removed to meet urgent medical needs (for example, to use an asthma inhaler, consume items needed to manage diabetes, or to take medication).

[California Department of Public Health - Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Signs are required at all entrances and in prominent locations within the event area.

Signs should include instructions on **social distancing** and **face covering requirements**.

Signs should also be posted and information communicated requesting that people do not attend if they feel sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Restrooms

Events must be held entirely outside, except that attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized.

There must be enough restrooms available that lines do not form for restrooms.

Encourage Social Distancing and Handwashing

- Request that household members must stay at least 6 feet away from people in other households at all times.
- If seating is available, it must be arranged to provide at least 6 feet of distance (in all directions—front-to-back and side-to-side) between different households.
- Ensure that handwashing facilities are stocked with soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer.
- Encourage frequently handwashing and/or the use of hand sanitizer.
- Eliminate the use of shared items. People must bring their own picnic blankets, mats, books, and similar items. Any item that is normally passed from hand-to-hand, like a donation box, must be put in a stationary place for people to place their donations into one-by-one.

Singing and Music

- Singing is allowed outside only and with a face covering.
- Any shared microphones or podiums should be sanitized after each use. Instrumental music is allowed as long as the musicians maintain at least 6-foot social distancing.

Event Venues

A banquet/event hall that has a health permit for a “Restaurant” or Restaurant with Bar” may operate as a restaurant. While operating in this manner, the facility must follow the [COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Restaurants, Bars and Wineries](#).

- Event Halls may not host private indoor gatherings larger than three households.
- Receptions are not permitted.

Private Gatherings

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued guidance for private gatherings. This guidance requires that private gatherings are limited to three households or less. The CDPH information can be found for private gatherings here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-10-09.aspx>

Private gatherings of three households or less do not require approval for a live musical, theatrical, or artistic performance if, in aggregate, members of no more than three households attend, perform, or otherwise are involved in the performance.

Questions

Thank you for your efforts in keeping Sacramento residents and visitors safe! If you have questions please call EMD at (916) 875-8440.

Document was prepared by the Sacramento County [Environmental Management Department](#)

Revision History

9/1/2020: Initial version; PHO 7/14/2020

10/29/20: Updated statement re Public Health Order and Gatherings, added performance restriction information for Purple and Red tiers, added section on private gatherings.

11/23/2020: Added links to COVID-19 Places of Worship and COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Marriage and Cultural Ceremonies. Updated link to CDPH for Use of Face Coverings.

12/18/2020: Updated to align with Regional Stay at Home Order effective 12/10/20.

1/13/21: Removed Regional Stay at Home Order requirements from p.1. to align with public health order dated 1/13/21.

3/30/2021: Updated information about event venues allowed to operate as restaurants

PHO: 3/3/2021