Blueprint for a Safer Economy

California’s Color-Coded County Tier System

Every county in California is assigned to a COVID-19 risk-level tier based on:

- **New cases**: the average number of new cases per day, over 7 days, per 100,000 residents
- **Positive tests**: the percentage of coronavirus tests given per day that are positive for COVID-19
- **Health Equity**: positive test rates in a county’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods do not significantly lag behind the county’s overall test positivity rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier Level</th>
<th>New Cases per 100,000*</th>
<th>Positive Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widespread PURPLE</td>
<td>More than 7</td>
<td>More than 8% testing positivity rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial RED</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
<td>5 - 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate ORANGE</td>
<td>1 to 3.9</td>
<td>2 - 4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal YELLOW</td>
<td>Less than 1</td>
<td>Less than 2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Case numbers are adjusted up or down based on testing volume above or below the state median.

Tier Assignments Determine What Can Be Open

**Your County**

- Can make **tighter** restrictions through the local health department, but it cannot loosen them.
- Can move towards wider reopening as new COVID-19 cases decrease and fewer people test positive.
- Must remain in its current tier for a minimum of 3 weeks before being able to advance to a less restrictive tier.
- Can move to a less restrictive tier, if it has met that tier’s criteria for 2 weeks in a row including the California Health Equity Metric.

**Moving from Tier to Tier**

- Every week, all counties’ case numbers (existing and new) and positive testing numbers are evaluated.
- Changes in tier levels are announced on Tuesdays.

**Find your county’s current tier at covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy.**
What’s Open in Each Tier?

**Widespread PURPLE**

Most indoor businesses are closed. Many can open outdoors with modifications, for example, restaurants, places of worship, and family entertainment (mini golf). Personal care services, for example, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, and piercing shops, can open indoors with modifications.

**Substantial RED**

Some indoor businesses are closed, including places that serve alcohol but don’t serve food. **Many can open indoors at 25% capacity** (or 100 people, whichever is fewer) for example, restaurants, places of worship, and movie theaters. Gyms can open indoors at 10% capacity. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications. Schools may re-open for full in-person instruction once a county has been in the red tier for at least 2 weeks. However, schools that have already reopened may remain open if the county moves back to the purple tier.

**Moderate ORANGE**

Some indoor businesses can open with modifications. Many can open indoors at 50% capacity (or 200 people, whichever is fewer), for example, restaurants, places of worship, and movie theaters. **Some can open indoors at 25% capacity** for example, gyms, bowling alleys, and cardrooms. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications.

**Minimal YELLOW**

Most indoor businesses can open with modifications. Some can open indoors at 50% capacity for example, restaurants, places of worship, movie theaters, gyms, cardrooms, and bars. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications.

Find which activities and businesses are open in the four tiers (PDF)

Why Some Activities and Businesses Can Open While Others Stay Closed

- Activities and businesses that have a lower risk of spreading COVID-19 are allowed to open sooner.
- Higher-risk activities or businesses will be allowed to open when the risk is determined to be less.
- In each tier, an activity or business’s operations depend on whether it has the:

**Ability to Accommodate**

☑ Mask wearing at all times while not eating and drinking
☑ Physical distance between individuals from different households
☑ Increased airflow (such as operating outdoors or opening windows and doors)

**Ability to Limit**

✖ Number of people per square foot
✖ Time that an individual spends at the business or activity
✖ Time that an individual spends in close contact with others
✖ People from one household mixing with other households
✖ Amount of physical interactions of visitors/patrons
✖ Activities known to increase the spread of COVID-19 (singing, shouting, and heavy breathing)

Schools in purple-tiered counties cannot reopen for in-person instruction. However, schools that have already reopened may remain open if the county moves back to the purple tier. Local health departments can grant waivers for TK-6 grades, and schools can provide supervision, or instruction, and other services for small groups (16 individuals total per group). Schools may re-open for full in-person instruction once a county has been in the red tier for at least 2 weeks. School Re-opening Framework (PDF)

See full Blueprint for a Safer Economy guidance

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