

California State Orders – Updated August 20

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: Yes – no official end date

August 20: On August 19, Gov. Newsom announced that the state will be issuing new guidelines for [reopening](#) businesses in the state. While Newsom was careful not to reveal the exact direction of the guidelines — whether looser or more strict — He said they would be made “With...an understanding that we have today based on what we’ve seen around the world, around the rest of the state and our own experiences going back a number of months.” The governor revealed that watch periods may vary from sector to sector. The modifications would also impact the current stay-at-home order, he said ([source](#)).

After more than a month on the state’s COVID-19 watch list, San Diego County [was officially removed from the list](#) on Tuesday, August 18, after successfully staying under the state’s case rate threshold for three consecutive days. On July 3, San Diego was among the counties put on the California’s monitoring list and made subject to [rollback restrictions that included the second shutdown of indoor dining](#). If the county stays under the state’s case levels for the next 14 days, K-12 students could go back into classrooms by early September but there is still no word on other reopenings as it pertains to restaurants, bars, etc. ([source](#)).

August 18: During his August 17 press briefing, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that five California counties — Amador, Mendocino, Inyo, Calaveras and Sierra — have been added to the state watch list. Santa Cruz County was removed from the list. The list now stands at 42 counties, and Newsom announced that San Diego County may be removed from the watch list as soon as tomorrow. No other county was mentioned ([source](#)).

The 4,975 patients hospitalized Sunday, August 16, the most recent day for which data was available, were the fewest since June 28 — also the last time the number of active hospitalizations across the state was below 5,000, according to [data compiled by this news organization](#) ([source](#)).

There were 6,469 positive cases reported August 16. The seven-day average is 9,446 positive cases, which also included adding in the backlog. There were 18 COVID-19 deaths yesterday. Over the past two weeks, the state averaged 132 deaths per day. The state is averaging 133,632 tests per day over the past week. The positivity rate over the past two weeks is 6.5% and continues to trend down. Newsom said that the state's goal is to get that number below 5%. There has been a 21% decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the past two weeks. ICU admissions are down 16% in that period ([source](#)).

August 13: On August 12, Gov. Newsom said that the decrease in COVID-19 hospitalization rates "is what gives me some confidence we're moving in the right direction." In the past 14 days, there's been a 19% decrease in coronavirus hospitalizations and a 16% decrease in ICU admissions ([source](#)).

California’s second surge of the coronavirus has resulted in a near doubling of weekly deaths since the spring — with almost 1,000 fatalities in the last week alone — and radically shifted the geography of the outbreak, a Times data analysis found. In eight southern Central Valley counties, weekly COVID-19 deaths have jumped from about 20 a week in April to nearly 200 a week in the last two weeks ([source](#)).

August 11: California's public health chief resigned on Aug. 9, days after officials revealed a backlog of hundreds of thousands of coronavirus records that Gov. Gavin Newsom said were never reported to his administration. Pressed during a news conference about the abrupt resignation of Dr. Sonia Angell, the former director of the state Department of Public Health, Newsom declined to say if he asked her to quit ([source](#)).

August 6: Task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx said Nebraska and California have moved into the red category, with more than 10% of tests coming back positive. She said Los Angeles may have seen improvements but that there's significant movement of the virus up California's Central Valley ([source](#)).

The data showing an apparent stabilization in California's coronavirus outbreak was thrown into question August 4, when a state health official revealed that a technical issue caused the state to undercount daily coronavirus cases. The unspecified issue meant that the state [hasn't been receiving a complete tally](#) of positive tests or tests conducted, state Health Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said. Now, the state's [official COVID-19 dashboard](#) has a disclaimer noting that "these data represent an underreporting of actual positive cases in one single-day" ([source](#)).

August 4: Statewide COVID-19 cases over a seven-day period were 7,764, down 21.2% compared to last week. Hospitalizations decreased by 10% over a 14-day period while ICU admissions decreased by 5%. California's positivity rate was 7% on Monday. Newsom said that while the state's daily average number of tests was up, the number of people who tested positive for the virus was down relatively. He said that while it's a good sign, the state needs to see a stable decline in cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions and its positivity rate to reopen some businesses ([source](#)).

[As of Monday, the state's watch list consists of 38 counties that make up more than 38 million people](#) — over 97 percent of California's roughly 40 million residents. The list includes essentially all of Southern California; all of the San Francisco Bay Area; and the entirety of the immediate Sacramento area, with the exception of El Dorado County ([source](#)).

As of **July 29**, all nine Bay Area counties are on California's coronavirus monitoring list. After escaping the watch list for weeks, San Mateo County was the last Bay Area region to join the growing list. Counties that land on the state's monitoring list for three consecutive days must impose new restrictions. Indoor facilities such as dine-in restaurants, movie theaters, gyms, places of worship and bowling alleys must close ([source](#)).

After reporting unusually low numbers of daily COVID-related deaths over the past 72 hours, [California](#) announced 197 new [coronavirus](#) fatalities on July 29. That's a 20 percent jump from the previous single-day high of 159, recorded [last Friday](#), July 24 ([source](#)).

July 27: Weeks after [California](#) Governor [Gavin Newsom](#) identified Imperial County as the state's hardest-hit region, he announced at his daily news conference that the state's Central Valley was the new major area of concern. While the 14-day average rate of positive tests statewide is 7.5 percent, that rate in the Central Valley ranges between 10.7 and 17.7 percent ([source](#)).

July 22: California reported more than 12,800 coronavirus cases on July 21, the highest reported daily tally the state has recorded so far, Gov. Gavin Newsom said July 22. California has now surpassed New York in total confirmed Covid-19 cases — more than 409,500 cases as of Wednesday — making it the state with the most cases in the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins University data ([source](#)).

County and state officials are encouraging agriculture and livestock business owners to adjust workplace protocol and behavior to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner Jeffrey Dolf said Cal/OSHA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture have created specific guidance for the agriculture and livestock industry related to COVID-19. Guidelines regarding social distancing, the use of facial coverings and increased cleanliness remain the same across sectors. Specific safety recommendations for farmworkers are available at the California Department of Food and Agriculture's website www.cdffa.ca.gov/coronavirus/#updates. Industry-specific guidance can also be located at Cal/OSHA's website www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/ ([source](#)).

July 20: More than 391,500 Californians have been infected by the virus, and 7,694 have died, as of Monday (July 20) morning. And more Californians are hospitalized with the virus than at any other time: As of Monday, 6,921 people are in the hospital with COVID-19, and about 28 percent of those hospitalized patients are receiving intensive care ([source](#)).

At his news conference on July 17, California Gov. Newsom ordered counties on the state's coronavirus watch list to shut down school campuses this fall, at least to begin the school year. The 32 counties on the list — which include Los Angeles and most of Southern California — must switch to virtual instruction only. The state's two largest districts, Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified, had already announced plans to begin the new academic year with online-only courses ([source](#)).

On July 20, Gov. Newsom announced that California has released new guidelines for personal care service, including hair and nail salons, that will make it easier for such businesses to operate outdoors amid a surge in coronavirus cases. The guidance can be found [here](#) ([source](#)).

On July 15, California shattered its own record for new COVID-19 infections, reporting a staggering 11,126 confirmed cases. The state's testing strategy will return to focusing on vulnerable patients and those at the highest risk of contracting the virus, which has infected more than 3 million Americans, [according NBC News counts](#) ([source](#)).

The Sacramento County Office of Education, which oversees districts serving more than 250,000 students from kindergarten through high school, announced that its 13 districts will continue distance learning programs they implemented in the spring ([source](#)).

On July 15, there were 31 counties on the state's monitoring list, [according to the state's official COVID-19 site \(source\)](#).

California will release up to 8,000 prisoners this summer in an effort to create more space and prevent the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 in prisons ([source](#)).

On July 13, Gov. Newsom ordered all counties in the state to close all bars and the indoor operations of businesses including restaurants, movie theaters and museums, as Covid-19 cases continue to climb. The businesses will be allowed to operate outdoors, if possible, except for bars, he said ([source](#)).

In addition to the statewide order, Newsom said he would also close indoor operations for fitness centers, worship services, personal care services, malls, offices, hair salons and barbershops for 30 counties on California's monitoring list, which represent 80% of the state's population. The map showing which counties are on the monitoring list can be found [here \(source\)](#).

The Los Angeles and San Diego school districts, the two largest in California with a combined K-12 student population of about 720,000, announced July 13 that they won't bring students back to classrooms next month because of rising coronavirus hospitalizations and infection rates ([source](#)).

On July 8, Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) then announced a mind-boggling number of new [coronavirus](#) cases in the state. Over the previous 24 hours, California saw 11,694 new cases, which includes a backlog of cases from Los Angeles County ([source](#)).

On July 8, Governor Newsom also noted that of the 26 counties now on the state watchlist for rapid spread, Napa was added to Contra Costa, Solano and Marin ([source](#)).

On July 8th, the EDD will complete a phased roll-out of the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) extension and begin notifying additional claimants of their potential eligibility for a PEUC extension ([source](#)).

Six more counties were added the state's monitoring list over the weekend. They are San Diego, Colusa, Madera, Marin, Merced and Monterey. Those areas haven't been on the list long enough for the state to order business closures, but San Diego County voluntarily reintroduced some restrictions last week. With those additions, California now has counties that account for 33 million people — more than 83 percent of the state's population — on notice due to [coronavirus](#) concerns ([source](#)).

On July 1, Gov. Newsom ordered 19 counties to close all indoor operations for several business sectors, including restaurants, as the state grapples with a resurgence of [coronavirus](#) cases. In addition to bars being forced to shut down temporarily, restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, family entertainment venues, zoos, museums and cardrooms must halt operations in selected communities. The list of affected counties are Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange,

Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare and Ventura counties ([source](#)).

[Beaches](#) in Los Angeles County, along with piers and bicycle paths, will close beginning Friday, July 3, through Monday, July 6, in an effort to prevent a repeat of Memorial Day weekend when large crowds gathered in close proximity and largely ignored safety measures.

All parking facilities at state beaches in Southern California and the Bay Area will also be closed for the upcoming weekend ([source](#)).

Santa Clara County officials announced their plan for K-12 public and private schools to safely reopen for the 2020-21 school year amid the [coronavirus pandemic](#) ([source](#)).

June 28: Gov. Newsom ordered seven California counties close bars and nightspots on Sunday, June 28. Those counties include Los Angeles, Fresno, Kern, San Joaquin, Tulare, Kings, Ventura and Imperial. He said the counties have been on a watch list from between 3 and 13 days due to increasing COVID numbers. At 14 days, the governor said the state will enforce remediation measures. On Monday, June 29, Newsom added Solano, Merced, Orange and Glenn Counties to that watch list. The counties of concern to state officials now account for 72 percent of the state's population, he said ([source](#)).

Newsom also recommended that eight other counties in California take action on their own to close bars. These counties include Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Stanislaus ([source](#)).

Less than three weeks after giving bars the green light to reopen, Sacramento County health officials ordered them to close again on June 29, saying patrons are not social-distancing enough, especially after a few drinks, and are contributing to a dramatic surge in new cases. The county bar closure order is set for 6 p.m. Monday, June 29 ([source](#)).

The positivity rate of tests have also been rising. As of June 25, the positivity rate was up 5.1 percent over the past 14 days. On June 25, said the governor, that rate clocked in at 5.6 percent. On June 26, the rate rose to 5.7 percent. Infections among those between 18 and 40 are rising more rapidly. The Los Angeles County Health Department indicated on June 26 and new cases among that cohort had increased 44 percent in the past 16 days ([source](#)).

As [coronavirus](#) cases continue to surge in parts of California, [Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) advised leaders in Imperial County to reinstate a stay-at-home order ([source](#)).

On June 24, California reported an additional 7,149 Covid-19 cases since June 23, a 69% increase in two days, bringing the state's total to 190,222 cases, according to the state's health department. The previous highest day jump was reported on June 23 when the state recorded 5,019 additional new cases ([source](#)).

The Disneyland theme park will likely not be reopening next month. On June 24, the company said it would not get state clearance in time for its proposed July 17 reopening of Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim. It remains unclear when the park might now reopen ([source](#)).

On June 18, Gov. Gavin Newsom and state health officials issued a statewide order that requires Californians to wear a face covering in high-risk settings amid the ongoing [coronavirus pandemic](#) ([source](#)).

California farmers have already lost \$2 billion thanks to the pandemic and stand to as much as \$6.6 billion more, an economic report released today by the California Farm Bureau Federation said. And calculating in multiplier effects, the report estimates losses could exceed \$10 billion statewide ([source](#)).

Several Bay Area counties are preparing for new steps in reopening their economies next week. [Here](#) are the current and upcoming reopening plans for seven Bay Area counties, all of which have volume restrictions and social distancing rules, particularly in indoor settings.

June 21: California has reached a new high in the number of hospitalizations related to COVID-19, surpassing the previous peak in late April. As of June 21, the latest publicly available data show that state had [3,702](#) hospitalized patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19, of which 1,199 were in intensive care. Last week, amid the rising case numbers, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered that face coverings be [required](#) in public spaces statewide ([source](#)).

As of June 21, California has reported 46,735 cases since mid-March. Gov. Newsom noted that in the past two weeks alone, the state has seen 35.6% of all cases thus far ([source](#)).

California's Department of Motor Vehicles is planning to work through its backlog of behind-the-wheel driver's license tests beginning Friday, June 26. Both the applicants and the DMV-employed examiners will be required to wear face masks. Examiners will also wear gloves and place plastic covers on the passenger seat and floorboard as precaution against the virus ([source](#)).

June 17: Sacramento County officials, disclosing four new deaths and 67 fresh cases of the coronavirus, said June 17 they might require residents to wear masks inside stores and other businesses as an added precaution ([source](#)).

Solano County has given the go-ahead for personal-services businesses such as nail salons and tattoo parlors to reopen June 19, county officials announced. Any businesses covered by the amended [county health order](#) will have adhere to [state health guidelines](#) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus ([source](#)).

Hair salons and barbershops in [Contra Costa County were allowed to reopen](#) June 17, as long as they follow state health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Some rules mandate employees wash hands frequently and wear masks at all times ([source](#)).

June 16: Gov. Newsom said there are 13 counties that are receiving "targeted engagement" from California. These are counties that have been showing concerning trends in recent days and need additional support to control the spread of the coronavirus or treat those sickened with it. Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties are nine of the 13 counties showing signs of increased transmission and/or increased hospitalization, according to the [California Department of Public Health](#) ([source](#)).

The Bay Area is slowly beginning to lift its [coronavirus](#) shelter in place orders and it can be hard to keep track of the status of what's open and what's still closed. ABC7 News has compiled an extensive list of notable attractions in all nine Bay Area counties and surrounding areas that are open and set to reopen in the near future. That list can be found [here](#).

Alameda County and San Francisco are relaxing their stay-at-home orders to allow for "social bubbles." To limit the potential spread of COVID-19, "social bubbles" are defined of 12 people or fewer from different households ([source](#)).

On June 8, in Alameda County, childcare facilities were able to open to all children (not just those of essential workers), libraries can open for curbside pickup and businesses like pet grooming or appliance repair can resume operations with little person-to-person contact ([source](#)).

June 10: [Los Angeles County announced](#) that gyms and fitness facilities, pro-league arenas without audiences, day camps, museums, galleries, zoos, aquariums, campgrounds, outdoor recreational areas and hotels for leisure travel will be allowed to reopen Friday, June 12. Nail salons, tattoo shops, bars and wineries, [movie theaters](#), live performance theaters, entertainment centers, concert halls and venues, stadiums, arenas, gaming facilities, theme parks and festivals are still closed in the county ([source](#)).

Over in Orange County, Disneyland and Disney California Adventure are [planning to open July 17](#), pending local and state governmental approvals. The theme park has been closed since mid-March. But in Riverside County, the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and its country music counterpart, Stagecoach, [have been canceled for 2020](#) ([source](#)).

Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado counties will permit schools, [movie theaters](#), bars, campsites, casinos, day camps, gyms, museums, zoos, spectator-less sports, hotels and more to reopen Friday, June 12, the first day they're allowed to do so [under a new state ordinance](#) ([source](#)).

June 9: Movie theaters in California can begin reopening later this week if they follow a strict set of guidelines, including limiting capacity, according to new rules issued by the state on June 8. Counties that meet certain metrics can also start reopening movie theaters, bowling alleys, gyms, day camps and a handful of other businesses starting Friday, June 12 ([source](#)).

On June 8, San Diego County announced that day camps, campgrounds and RV parks can reopen on Tuesday, June 9 at midnight. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher said the following industries can reopen in San Diego County on Friday, June 12, provided they abide by county safety plans and standards: schools, television and movie production, professional sports without fans, bars and wineries, hotels, Airbnb's, gyms, swimming pools, aquariums and zoos ([source](#)).

One Bay Area county is moving full speed ahead into Phase 3 of reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic. Contra Costa County revealed its timeline for reopening bars, gyms, bowling alleys and more businesses by July 1 ([source](#)).

If a county wants to open gyms, bars, hair salons, barbershops, schools, dine-in restaurants, shopping malls or professional sporting events, they have to go through an attestation process, in which they certify the spread of COVID-19 is under control locally. As of June 4, all but 7 of California's 58 counties

have completed that process. The only counties not allowed to move into Stage 2.5 and 3 are Alameda, Contra Costa, Imperial, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties ([source](#)).

June 1: Santa Clara County announced another round of reopening businesses will start on Friday, June 5. The revised shelter-in-place order allows for "in-store retail, outdoor dining, all manufacturing, small service businesses, childcare and summer programs, as well as religious, cultural, and civic activities" to reopen with modifications ([source](#)).
