



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency
1080 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MAY 26, 2020 MODIFICATION TO SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

The County Health Officer is issuing an order on May 26, which will be in effect the following day, aligning the County more closely with the State Shelter-in-Place order. This will allow certain limited operations to resume, including in-store retail, churches and office workspaces.

In addition, the County is expected to request an attestation letter from the Board of Supervisors on June 2 allowing Santa Cruz County to apply for a Stage 2 variance allowing certain other businesses to reopen. For more information on the variance process, see below.

When does the new Health Officer order go into effect?

The new order goes into 11:59 p.m. on May 26, 2020.

Do I still need to stay at home?

Mostly, yes. The Governor's Stay at Home order is still in effect. Non-essential travel is prohibited. Stay local! You may leave home to work, to support local businesses as allowed and to engage in outdoor recreational activities. Gathering in groups outside of your household is still not allowed, even outdoors, except for church and other limited reasons. People over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions should stay home as much as possible.

Does this order allow more entities and businesses to open?

Yes. In addition to curbside retail (and supporting manufacturing and logistics), which is allowed under the Health Officer's May 6 order, the following businesses and operations will be allowed, with modifications, once the new Order goes into effect:

- In-store retail
- Offices (when telework not possible)
- Outdoor Museums, Galleries and other Public Spaces with Modifications
- Limited Personal Services
- Childcare for all children of working or volunteering parents
- Churches
- Political gatherings

Limited personal services include car washes, pet grooming (previously allowed for the health of the animal), and landscape gardening. It does not include nail salons or massage services (for other than medical purposes), which are included in Stage 3.

What is the Social Distancing Protocol?

The Social Distancing Protocol is designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 by protecting the health and safety of employees and the public when visiting businesses and governmental entities. Under local Health Officer orders, all operations must also follow and post the Social Distancing Protocol, which incorporates much of the State guidance for businesses. This Protocol is also known as Appendix A, and can be here found [in English](#) and [Spanish](#).

What are Social Distancing Requirements?

The Social Distancing Requirements are the five basic elements to protect the safety and health of Our community.

- Maintaining at least a six-foot physical distancing from individuals who are not part of the same household or living unit (with exceptions for necessary care);
- Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combatting COVID-19;
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into the sleeve or elbow (but not into hands);
- Avoiding all social interaction outside the household when ill; and
- Wearing a Face Covering in compliance with the April 23, 2020 Order of the Health Officer Generally Requiring Face Coverings.

Some businesses will be allowed to operate “with modifications.” What does that mean?

Businesses allowed to operate under State and local orders must follow sector specific guidance, which for specific sectors may be [found here](#), or below. In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

How can I prepare my retail business to safely reopen to protect my staff and customers?

Guidance for shopping centers, destination retail, strip malls and swap meets can be [found here](#), with a checklist [available here](#). . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

How can I prepare my office to safely reopen to protect my staff and customers?

Office workspaces will be allowed to open once the May 26 Order goes into effect, though telework is strongly encouraged where possible. It is also important to note that reopening offices does not allow gatherings of non-staff members to occur.

Guidance on safely reopening offices can be [found here](#). A checklist can be [found here](#). . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

How can I prepare an outdoor museum to safely operate?

State guidance on outdoor museums can be [found here](#). A checklist can be [found here](#). . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

How can I prepare my manufacturing facility to safely operate?

State guidance on manufacturing facilities can be [found here](#). A checklist can be [found here](#). . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

How can I prepare my car wash, pet groomer or other low-risk personal services business to safely operate?

These kinds of retailers should follow the state guidance for retail establishments, [found here](#). . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

When do Stage 3 businesses open?

The State will determine this. The May 26 Order aligns the County with the Governor's orders to reopen through Stage 4. The State has not yet given a timeline for when Stage 3 businesses would be allowed to open.

How does this order impact temporary beach closures?

It does not. Between 11 a.m.-5 p.m., beaches remain closed unless traversing the sand to engage in water activities such as surfing, swimming, kayaking, boogie boarding etc. Outside those hours, beaches are open for recreation only. Sitting, lying, standing, sunbathing, sight-seeing, picnicking, and all other non-exercise, passive, or sedentary activities on beaches remain prohibited and may result in a citation.

How does this order impact construction?

This order removes local restrictions and guidance on construction. Construction businesses still must comply with social distancing requirements and face covering orders, as well as state guidance. They must complete, implement and post Appendix A at each construction site and at each public entrance to their facilities.

How does this order impact golf course operations?

This order removes local restrictions and guidance on golf courses and driving ranges. Golf courses still must comply with social distancing requirements and face covering orders, as well as state guidance. . In addition, each business must complete, implement and post Appendix A, Social Distancing Protocol, at each public entrance to their facilities.

Are charter fishing boats allowed to operate in the County of Santa Cruz?

Yes, charter fishing boats may operate and take out passengers, subject to the following conditions:

- The charter fishing boat shall only allow residents of the County of Santa Cruz to be passengers on the boat. These restrictions do not apply to the crew or staff of the charter fishing company. Residency of all passengers shall be verified by the crew prior to boarding and documented in the company's reservation system.
- The purpose of the charter fishing is for fishing for the purpose of the sale or consumption of fish.
- The number of people aboard the boat shall be limited such that at least 6-feet of social distancing between passengers and crew is maintained.
- Passengers holding fishing rods are subject to the same minimal social distancing requirements at all times.
- Restrooms shall be sanitized after each use.
- The boat and all equipment that has contact with the passengers or crew shall be washed and/or sanitized after each use or trip.
- The shared handling of fishing equipment or fish is prohibited.
- Hand sanitizer shall be made available to all passengers and crew throughout the boat and at each rod station.
- Prior to boarding, passengers are required to wait on the dock at least six feet apart and shall not board the vessel until the captain or crew instruct them to.
- Charter fishing companies shall encourage the use of contactless means of payment.
- Passengers shall not shake hands, share food or drinks, or engage in any unnecessary physical contact. The crew shall be informed of these requirements prior to boarding, and when possible, at the time the reservation is made.
- All crew and passengers are required to wear face coverings.
- Rails, counters, and seating areas shall be cleaned frequently to maintain sanitary conditions.
- Passengers shall disembark one at a time as instructed by the Captain or crew.

When does the order end?

It ends July 1, 2020.

VARIANCE PROCESS

What does the variance allow?

With the County meeting State requirements for a variance, our intent is to request one from the State. If the variance is approved, the County will be allowed to move into Late Stage 2, pending further Health Officer orders, to specifically allow the following sectors to open:

- Dine-in restaurants (with modifications)

Guidance for restaurants wishing to resume dine-in service will be required to follow State guidelines to protect the health and safety of staff and customers. Those guidelines can be [accessed here](#), while a checklist for dine-in service can be [found here](#).

Does the variance allow schools to reopen?

Yes, schools are included in Late Stage 2. State guidance for reopening of schools and childcare is expected in early June, and will guide local decisions about how and when to reopen schools.

Does the variance allow all sectors to reopen?

No. Very few sectors are allowed to reopen through the variance process. The following are NOT included in Stage 2 of the Resilience Roadmap and will not be allowed until the State removes restrictions:

- Personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios
- Hospitality services, such as bars, wineries, tasting rooms and lounges
- Entertainment venues, such as movie theaters, gaming, gambling, arcade venues, pro sports, indoor museums, gallery spaces, and zoos
- Community centers, public pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas
- Nightclubs
- Concert venues
- Festivals
- Theme parks
- Hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism

What does the County have to do to seek a variance?

A county that has met certain criteria in containing COVID-19 may consider increasing the pace at which they advance through Stage 2, but not into Stage 3, of the Resilience Roadmap. As part of this process they must analyze and prepare a group of plans and documents to present to the State for consideration. Initiating the process involves two steps:

1. Notify the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and engage in a phone consultation regarding the county's intent to seek a variance. *This has been completed.*
2. Certify through submission of a written attestation to CDPH that the county has met the readiness criteria designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Attestations should be submitted by the local Public Health Officer, and accompanied by a letter of support from the County Board of Supervisors and letters of support from local hospitals or health care systems.

What are the required readiness criteria?

The County must meet certain criteria relate to epidemiological data, essential worker protections, testing availability, containment capacity, hospital readiness and protections for vulnerable residents. This requires collaboration with local health care providers, homeless services providers and skilled nursing facilities among others. At this time, the County meets the criteria and the Public Health Division intends to request support from the Board of Supervisors on June 2, 2020. For updates on our progress on these metrics, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/savelives.

What else is required to obtain a variance?

The State also requires various documentation related to readiness criteria, as well as the following plans:

- Sectors and timelines plan. The County must provide detail on how we intend to move through Stage 2. This includes which sectors and spaces will be opened, in what sequence, and on what timeline, as well as notations on difference from state orders. This plan does not include sectors that are part of Stage 3.
- Adjustment triggers plan. The County must provide metrics that would serve as triggers for either slowing the pace through Stage 2 or tightening modifications, including details on what actions we would take if those triggers are met, including containment measures.
- Stage 2 plan. The County must provide a plan to move through opening sectors and spaces that are part of Stage 2 under the Resilience Roadmap. This plan may not include Stage 3 sectors.

If the State approves the variance, can all Stage 2 businesses reopen?

Not quite. The variance grants the Health Officer authority to reopen these businesses. The Health Officer must take additional action in order to allow activities under Stage 2 to resume.

What else is the State asking for?

The State is requiring a broad COVID-19 Containment Plan. The Plan should include, but is not limited to:

TESTING

- Is there a plan to increase testing to the recommended daily capacity of 2 per 1000 residents?
- Is the average percentage of positive tests over the past 7 days <7% and stable or declining?
- Have specimen collection locations been identified that ensure access for all residents?
- Have contracts/relationships been established with specimen processing labs?
- Is there a plan for community surveillance?

CONTACT TRACING

- How many staff are currently trained and available to do contact tracing?
- Are these staff reflective of community racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity?

- Is there a plan to expand contact tracing staff to the recommended levels to accommodate a three-fold increase in COVID-19 cases, presuming that each case has ten close contacts?
- Is there a plan for supportive isolation for low income individuals who may not have a safe way to isolate or who may have significant economic challenges as a result of isolation?

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

- How many congregate care facilities, of what types, are in the county?
- How many correctional facilities, of what size, are in the county?
- How many homelessness shelters are in the county and what is their capacity?
- What is the COVID-19 case rate at each of these facilities?
- Do facilities have the ability to safely isolate COVID-19 positive individuals?
- Do facilities have the ability to safely quarantine individuals who have been exposed?
- Is there sufficient testing capacity to conduct a thorough outbreak investigation at each of these facilities?
- Do long-term care facilities have sufficient PPE for staff, and do these facilities have access to suppliers for ongoing PPE needs?
- Do these facilities (particularly skilled nursing facilities) have access to staffing agencies if and when staff shortages related to COVID-19 occur?

ACUTE CARE SURGE

- Is there daily tracking of hospital capacity including COVID-19 cases, hospital census, ICU census, ventilator availability, staffing and surge capacity?
- Are hospitals relying on county MHOAC for PPE, or are supply chains sufficient?
- Are hospitals testing all patients prior to admission to the hospital?
- Do hospitals have a plan for tracking and addressing occupational exposure?

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

- How many essential workplaces are in the county?
- What guidance have you provided to your essential workplaces to ensure employees and customers are safe in accordance with state/county guidance for modifications?
- Do essential workplaces have access to key supplies like hand sanitizer, disinfectant and cleaning supplies, as well as relevant protective equipment?
- Is there a testing plan for essential workers who are sick or symptomatic?
- Is there a plan for supportive quarantine/isolation for essential workers?

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Are there industries in the county that deserve special consideration in terms of mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission, e.g. agriculture or manufacturing?
- Are there industries in the county that make it more feasible for the county to increase the pace through stage 2, e.g. technology companies or other companies that have a high percentage of workers who can telework?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Has the county engaged with its cities?

- Which key county stakeholders should be a part of formulating and implementing the proposed variance plan?
- Have virtual community forums been held to solicit input into the variance plan?
- Is community engagement reflective of the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of the community?

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING COUNTIES

- Are surrounding counties experiencing increasing, decreasing or stable case rates?
- Are surrounding counties also planning to increase the pace through Stage 2 of California's roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home order, and if so, on what timeline? How are you coordinating with these counties?
- How will increased regional and state travel impact the county's ability to test, isolate, and contact trace?