

2020-2021 School Year COVID-19 Orders

State Releases Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People (4-15-21)

The State released new guidance for fully vaccinated people. The guidance allows fully vaccinated people to spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing; spend time with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing; and refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic (outside the workplace setting). Fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a well-fitted mask and physically distance in public settings, follow other safety measures, and get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

- [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) (Released 4-15-21)

State Releases Guidance for Gatherings (4-15-21)

The State released new guidance for indoor and outdoor gatherings, both public and private. The guidance provides recommendations and mandatory requirements regarding attendance, location, providing food and drink, when to not attend gatherings, and how to follow the Four Pillars at gatherings.

- [Updated Guidance for Gatherings](#) (Released 4-15-21)
- [Private Venues and Events](#) (Released 4-15-21)

State Releases Guidance for Commencement/Graduation Ceremonies (3-26-21)

The State released new guidance for commencement and graduation ceremonies, which provides recommendations to help students, teachers, families, and school administrators celebrate academic milestones while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. Ceremonies must adhere to all California COVID-19 protocols for schools, travel, outdoor events, and lodging.

- [Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Commencement/Graduation Ceremonies](#) (Released 3-26-21)

San Mateo County Moves Into Orange Tier (3-16-21)

The State announced on Tuesday, March 16, that San Mateo County will move to the Orange Tier of its [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) beginning Wednesday, March 17. This move is due to the county's adjusted case rate falling to 2.8 per 100,000 people and test positivity rate at 1.1 per 100,000. The health equity quartile positivity rate, which measures the rate of infection in the county's most disadvantaged communities based on the California Healthy Places Index, is 1.9 per 100,000. While this move does not have much of an impact on school reopening requirements, it does make everyone feel more confident about heading back to school and work. San Mateo is one of only a few counties that have reached this milestone.

- [State Moves San Mateo County Into Orange Tier](#) (Updated 3-16-21)

California Approves Funding for COVID-19 Relief and School Reopening (3-4-21)

On March 4, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature approved Senate Bill 86 and Assembly Bill 86, which will provide \$2 billion in incentives to aid school reopening and \$4.6 billion in one-time state funding to address student learning loss and mental health.

By April 1, all districts must open elementary school classrooms (up to sixth grade) in order to receive a portion of the \$2 billion in incentive funding and \$4.6 billion one-time funding. They must also bring back students in all grades who were most harmed by the pandemic, including homeless and foster youth; English Learners; students at risk for abuse, neglect, or exploitation; chronically absent and disengaged students; students with disabilities; and students without access to the internet. Additionally, middle and high schools must offer in-person instruction to all pupils in at least one full grade level (grade sixth or seventh to twelfth). After April 1, districts will lose 1 percent per day of their potential funding until they meet these criteria. Districts that do not meet these criteria by May 15 will lose eligibility for funding.

- [Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon Highlight New \\$6.6 Billion Package to Reopen Schools and Deepen Student Supports](#)
- [Senate Bill 86](#)
- [Assembly Bill 86](#)

San Mateo County Moves to the Red Tier (2-23-21)

The State announced on Tuesday, February 23, that San Mateo County will move to the Red Tier of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy beginning Wednesday, February 24. Schools serving students in grades 7-12 can open as early as Wednesday, February 24, as long as their COVID-19 Safety Plan is approved and has been posted on its website homepage for at least five days prior to providing in-person instruction. Schools have a three-week period to open, even if the county moves back to the Purple Tier during that time, to allow for a calm and safe return to campus. Schools are asked to prioritize students with the most urgent needs.

- [County Status on the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) (Updated 2-23-21)

California Launches Safe Schools for All Hub (1-14-21)

On January 14, California launched the [Safe Schools for All Hub](#), a one-stop shop for information about safe in-person instruction. Included on the hub is the California Department of Public Health's [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#), which updated and consolidated state guidance from the CDPH and Cal/OSHA to align with the state's Safe Schools for All Plan. The hub also provides information about potential funding opportunities, testing, reporting cases and reopening status, and the updated process for reopening for in-person learning.

- [Media Release: Governor Newsom Launches Transparency, Accountability, and Assistance Measures in the State's Safe Schools for All Plan](#) (1-14-21)
- [Safe Schools for All Hub](#) (1-14-21)
- [State Health and Human Services Agency Update](#) (1-19-21)

California Announces Safe Schools for All Plan (12-30-20)

Governor Gavin Newsom announced the Safe Schools for All Plan, which enables schools to begin a phased return to safe in-person instruction and minimize in-school transmission. The plan includes four components: funding reopening efforts; implementing key safety and mitigation measures, including testing, providing protective equipment, contact tracing, and vaccinations; providing oversight and assistance in implementing reopening plans; and maintaining transparency and accountability.

- [Media Release: Governor Newsom Unveils California's Safe Schools for All Plan](#) (12-30-20)
- [Summary: California's Schools for All Plan](#) (12-30-20)

San Mateo County Now Under Regional Stay At Home Order (12-16-20)

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations surge and ICU capacity decline, San Mateo and 10 other Bay Area counties are under a mandatory [Regional Stay At Home Order](#) that takes effect Thursday, Dec. 17, at 11:59 p.m.

The Regional Stay Home Order instructs Californians to stay at home as much as possible and to stop mixing between households that can lead to COVID-19 spread. It allows access to critical services and allows outdoor activities to preserve Californians' physical and mental health. Schools that have already reopened for in-person classes under a plan reviewed by San Mateo County Health and the San Mateo County Office of Education may remain open. The order remains in effect for at least three weeks. After the three weeks, the order may be lifted if the region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15 percent.

- [State of California Regional Stay at Home Order](#) (12-3-20)
- [County of San Mateo Announcement: State Places New Regional Restrictions on San Mateo County](#) (12-16-20)

State Modifies Outdoor and Indoor Youth Sports Guidance (12-14-20)

The California Department of Public Health released updated guidance that classifies youth and adult sports by their level of contact and transmission risk. Sports are grouped in each of the four tiers by their potential for the virus to spread, with factors including how much contact players make with each other and whether a sport or activity is played indoors or outdoors.

Outdoor physical conditioning, practice, and skill training are all allowed across the state, including in counties that have implemented a stay-at-home order or are under the state's stay-at-home order. For sports in all four tiers, competitions will not be allowed to resume statewide until Jan. 25 at the earliest. State officials will re-evaluate that date in early January depending on the state of the pandemic and the state's capacity of hospital and intensive care unit beds.

- [California Department of Public Health Guidance for Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports](#) (12-14-20)

San Mateo County Enters Purple Tier of State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy (11-28-20)

The State announced on November 28 that San Mateo County will move to the Purple Tier 1, the most restrictive on the state's [four-tier, color-coded](#) COVID-19 reopening plan, effective Sunday, November 29. A new [stay-at-home order](#) – prohibiting residents from leaving their homes to gather with other households from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. – also takes effect at 10 p.m. Monday, November 30.

Any school or district that has not begun in-person learning may not do so without a waiver. Waivers are only available for grades TK-6. If a school has received notice of a completed review of its Return to In-Person Learning Plan by the San Mateo County Office of Education and San Mateo County Health and now intends to pursue a waiver, it will need to complete a [waiver request application](#).

The County's move to the Purple Tier will have no impact on schools that have already resumed modified in-person instruction.

- [State Moves San Mateo County to Purple Tier 1](#) (11-28-20)

San Mateo County Moves Back to the Red Tier (11-16-20)

San Mateo County moves to the Red Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy effective Tuesday, November 17. The move reduces indoor capacity at restaurants, places of worship, shopping centers, gyms, movie theaters, and salons. This transition does not impact the operation of schools or the process for returning students to in-person instruction.

- [State Limits Activities, Curtails Indoor Dining, as COVID-19 Cases Rise in San Mateo County](#) (11-16-20)
- [Media Release on the Impact of Schools on County's Move to the Red Tier](#) (11-16-20)

State Updates Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (11-16-20)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated guidance for the use of face coverings. The guidance expands upon the CDPH's earlier guidance released on June 18, 2020, and mandates that a face covering is required at all times when outside of the home, with some exceptions.

- [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) (11-16-20)

Bay Area Health Officials Issue Recommendations for Safer Holidays and Travel (11-9-20)

Health Officers from the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma, and the city of Berkeley issued joint recommendations for staying safe during the holidays. The recommendations cover gatherings and travel, with recommended steps to reduce risk.

- [Recommendations for Staying Safe from COVID-19 During the Holidays](#) (11-9-20)

San Mateo County Moves to the Orange Tier of the State's Reopening Plan (10-27-20)

The State of California announced San Mateo County's move to the less-restrictive Orange Tier of the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), effective Wednesday, October 28. This move eases restrictions on businesses, indoor and outdoor gatherings, and other activities in San Mateo County.

- [Update on County Response to COVID-19](#) (10-27-20)

State Adds Health Equity Metric to Blueprint for a Safer Economy (9-30-20)

The State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) was revised to include a health equity metric that will be used (along with other metrics) to determine a county's tier. The purpose of this metric is to ensure California reopens its economy safely by reducing disease transmission in all communities. The metric and its requirements will go into effect Tuesday, October 6.

- [Blueprint for a Safer Economy: Equity Focus](#) (9-30-20)

San Mateo County Moves to Red Tier of State's Reopening Plan (9-22-20)

San Mateo County moved to the second stage (red) of California's [four-tiered, color-coded reopening system](#) beginning Tuesday, September 22. If San Mateo County stays in the Red Tier for two consecutive weeks, then schools can incrementally bring students on campus for in-person learning if they are able to implement the Four Pillars, contact tracing guidance from San Mateo County Health, and have a COVID-19 testing plan in place for staff.

- [County of San Mateo Media Release on Move to Red Tier](#) (9-22-20)

California Department of Public Health Issues Cohorting Guidance (9-4-20)

On August 24, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued Guidance Related to Cohorts (Cohorting Guidance), which sets minimum health and safety guidelines across multiple sectors serving youth, including childcare and schools (public and private). The guidance allows in-person child supervision and limited instruction, targeted support services, and facilitation of distance learning in small group environments for a specified subset of children and youth, and gives guidelines for those programs to understand the required health and safety practices needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their settings.

- [Guidance Related to Cohorts](#) (Updated 9-4-20)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Updated 9-4-20)

State Unveils Blueprint for a Safer Economy (8-28-20)

Governor Gavin Newsom today unveiled the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, a statewide, stringent, and slow plan for living with COVID-19 for the long haul. The plan imposes risk-based criteria on tightening and loosening COVID-19 allowable activities and expands the length of time between changes to assess how any movement affects the trajectory of the disease.

Based on recent data, each county will fall into one of four colored tiers – Purple (Widespread), Red (Substantial), Orange (Moderate), and Yellow (Minimal) – based on how prevalent COVID-19 is in each county and the extent of community spread. Counties must remain in every tier but purple for a minimum of 21 days before being eligible to move into the next tier. Schools in the Substantial (red) tier can reopen for in-person instruction once they have been out of the Widespread (purple) tier for at least two weeks.

Californians can go to covid19.ca.gov to find out where their county falls and what activities are allowable in each county.

- [Blueprint for a Safer Economy Website](#)
- [Media Release on Governor Newsom Unveils Blueprint for a Safer Economy, a Statewide, Stringent, and Slow Plan for Living with COVID-19](#) (8-28-20)

County Releases Application for TK-6th Grade In-Person Learning (8-21-20)

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and San Mateo County Health jointly released an application allowing schools and districts to request a waiver to bring TK-6th grade students on campus for in-person learning. As part of the application process, schools and districts must share a return-to-school plan that is aligned with guidance from the California Department of Public Health, San Mateo County Health, and the [Pandemic Recovery Framework](#) (PRF). Applicants must include information on how they plan to implement the Four Pillars, including health and hygiene, including face coverings, physical distancing, and limiting gathering, and conduct COVID-19 contact tracing and testing. They must also share which labor, parent, and community groups they consulted in the reopening process.

- [Waiver Application to Allow Modified In-Person Learning](#) (8-21-20)
- [Media Release on County Releases Application for TK-6 Grade In-Person Learning](#) (8-21-20)

California Department of Public Health Updated Guidance (8-3-20)

On August 3rd, the California Department of Public Health released updated guidance for schools and school-based programs. This guidance applies to in-person learning and distance learning. Guidelines for

sports and extracurricular activities consistent with the [California Interscholastic Federation statement](#) are also included.

- [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](#) (8-3-20)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (8-3-20)
- [Checklist for Schools](#) (7-17-20)

San Mateo County Placed on State Monitoring List (8-3-20)

San Mateo County was formally placed on the State's [monitoring list](#) as of Sunday, August 2, 2020, somewhat limiting the flexibility of local schools to pursue various in-person learning options to start the 2020-21 school year. Middle schools and high schools can only resume in-person learning once the county has been off the monitoring list for 14 consecutive days. Elementary schools can open the school year with in-person learning, but only after applying for a waiver and being approved by San Mateo County Health, a process that helps ensure health and safety protocols are implemented.

- [Media Release on Impact of Placement on State Monitoring List on San Mateo County Schools](#) (8-3-20)

State Resources Framework for Reopening In-Person Learning (7-17-20)

On July 17th, the California Department of Public Education released an updated framework for reopening in-person learning in K-12 schools. The framework specifies that schools and school districts may reopen for in-person instruction at any time if they are located in a local health jurisdiction (LHJ) that has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days.

- [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools](#) (7-17-20)