

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Health Officer Order's Impact on Daily Life FAQs

Recent Updates:

11/12/20: Updated to reflect changes to the Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community to Prevent COVID-19 Order, protocols, the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and guidance related to: public gatherings, K-12 schools, indoor malls and shopping centers, yard/garage sales, nail salons, drive-in theaters and events, cardrooms, breweries and wineries, and travel. Recent changes are highlighted in yellow.

Stay Up to Date with the Latest Information!

This FAQ addresses questions that you may have about the *Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Health Officer Order*. For more complete and the most current information, please review the latest version of the Order, which is posted on Public Health's COVID-19 website at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus/>.

The *Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19* Order is a Health Officer Order that was put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect members of our community. The Order:

- Allows many businesses and public sites to be open, as long as they follow guidelines to help prevent COVID-19.
- Requires adults and children who are two years of age and older to use [cloth face coverings*](#) whenever they're in contact with, or likely to be in contact with, people outside of their home unless they have been instructed by their medical provider not to wear one.
- Requires all residents to stay at home as much as [possible](#) and to limit their contact with people who aren't part of their household.
- Strongly recommends that persons who are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 only leave their home for necessities [such as to buy groceries, pick up medications, or go to a medical appointment.](#)

This FAQ has information about the Order and how it may affect your daily life. To learn more about COVID-19, how to protect yourself, and what types of sites are open in LA County, visit:



[COVID-19
Frequently
Asked Questions](#)



[Choose Wisely-
Reduce
Your Risk of
COVID-19
Outside the
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[What's Open in
Los Angeles
County](#)

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RECOVERY PLAN

- **What is the plan for reopening Los Angeles County?**

Los Angeles County has aligned its **approach to** reopening the County with California's new blueprint for reducing COVID-19, which includes revised criteria that will be used to determine what activities or sectors can be reopened in California counties. Under this [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), each county has been assigned to a Tier based on how well it is doing on a set of measures that relate to COVID-19 community transmission, **including the 7-day average of the county adjusted case rate and of its test positivity rates both in the county and in its most disadvantaged neighborhoods.** The Tier that we're assigned to will determine what types of activities and sectors Los Angeles County can consider reopening. As we move through recovery, Public Health will consider local conditions and community needs when making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding when and how to safely reopen various sectors, when allowed by the State.

- **In which County Risk Level Tier is Los Angeles County?**

When the State released its [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) on August 28, 2020, Los Angeles County was in Tier 1, meaning that there was widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the county. **Visit the Public Health COVID-19 Data Dashboard to learn to which current [County Risk Level Tier](#) Los Angeles County is currently assigned (top of the webpage) or visit the State's website to view our current [metrics](#).**

- **How fast will we move through the recovery process?**

Los Angeles County can't move through the recovery process faster than what the State allows under its [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and based on which [County Risk Level Tier](#) the County has been assigned to by the State. That Tier determines what types of sectors we can consider reopening with modifications. We'll remain in the current Tier until we meet the State's criteria to move to the next one. **To meet the criteria to move to the next less restrictive tier, the County must 1) meet the criteria for at least two consecutive weeks and 2) have been in the current Tier for at least three weeks.** The County can then decide, based on local conditions and needs, what, how, and when to reopen or to expand the reopening of each of the sectors that the State allows for that Tier. Our **focus continues to be on all of us slowing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing a surge of cases at healthcare facilities, while allowing for a safer reopening of businesses and a safer return of some activities outside of the home.** These aims will guide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding what and when to reopen.

- **What can the public do to help speed up Los Angeles County's recovery process?**

Businesses, community partners, and residents can all support this by **sticking to** the practices that we know can prevent COVID-19 spread: social (physical) distancing, wearing [cloth face coverings](#)* in public settings (e.g., grocery stores, trails, parks, retail stores, and offices) **and when around non-household members, washing their hands, staying away from others (self-isolating) if sick, and staying away from others (self-quarantining) if they've been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.** Los Angeles County's path forward for recovery

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depends on us being able to consistently reduce community transmission. If we can do this, we can continue to get more children back into their classrooms, more businesses open, and more people back to work as safely as possible.

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER

• What is the Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Order?

The *Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Order* (Order) is a legal order issued by the Los Angeles County Health Officer to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the members of our community, especially those who are at greatest risk for serious illness due to COVID-19. The Order is consistent with California's COVID-19 Executive Orders and Health Officer Orders.

• What types of businesses, public spaces, and activities are open in Los Angeles County?

The County's *Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Health Officer Orders* lists what can be open and what must be temporarily closed at this time. Examples are listed on "[What's Open in Los Angeles County.](#)" Businesses or organizations that can reopen may do so as long as they follow their sector-specific [County Reopening Protocol](#), which outlines required steps and modifications that businesses, organizations, and the public need to take to help slow the spread of COVID-19 at the business. These Reopening Protocols include workplace policies and practices to protect employee health, measures to support social (physical) distancing and to ensure infection control, required communication with employees and the public, and measures to ensure equitable access to critical services offered.

• While the Order is in effect, when can you leave your home?

There are no restrictions on when individuals can leave their home. When they do, however, they must wear a [cloth face covering*](#) when they are, or may be, near others and maintain their physical distance (at least 6 feet or 3 adult steps) from those not in their household. Being around people who aren't part of your household increases your risk for COVID-19, which is why it is so important to stay at home as much as possible.

The following activities are allowed, as long as you follow social (physical) distancing requirements and wear a [cloth face covering*](#):

- Participating in activities that are important to the health and safety of you and your family/household members and pets, such as going to a doctor or vet or getting medical supplies or medication.
- Getting or delivering services and supplies, such as groceries, for yourself and family or household members.
- Caring for minors, the elderly, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- Receiving in-person behavioral health or substance use disorder support in small group meetings, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, or to receive faith-based counseling, as long as there are 10 or fewer people present.
- Working at a business that is open or, carrying out certain minimum business operations (e.g., to ensure security, safety and sanitation; process payroll and employee benefits; or set systems up to allow employees to work remotely) at businesses that are currently closed.
- Working for, volunteering at, or obtaining services at Healthcare Operations.
- Accessing Essential Governmental services, such as getting social services or complying with a court or law enforcement order.
- Participating in outdoor or remote faith-based/worship services.
- Participating in certain recreational or entertainment activities.
- Participating in a brief [private outdoor gathering](#), for no more than 2 hours, with only three or fewer households, which includes the household of the host and each attendee.
- Shopping or curbside pick-up at retail establishments.

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People who are 65 years old and older and/or those who have underlying health conditions should only leave home for essential activities such as getting medical care or food, because they are more likely to **develop** serious illness from COVID-19. **This group** should stay home as much as possible; have groceries, medicine, and necessary goods delivered; and call their provider immediately if they have even mild symptoms. Public Health has strongly recommended that employers offer them telework or other accommodations.

- **How long will the Order be in effect?**

This Order is in effect until it is extended, expanded, or updated to protect the public's health.

- **Do Los Angeles County residents have to follow the Los Angeles County and California Orders?**

All residents who live in the Los Angeles County Public Health Jurisdiction (all parts of the County except the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena), must follow the LA County Order, which is in line with California's Order. The cities of Long Beach and Pasadena have their own public health departments, and residents and businesses in those cities should check with their own public health departments for guidance. If LA County's Order differs from the State's or a City's order, residents must comply with whichever Order is stricter.

- **What happens if I don't comply with the Order?**

Public Health trusts that residents will voluntarily follow the Order to protect loved ones, other residents, and our community. However, if you don't follow the Order, you can be fined, imprisoned, or both.

Social (Physical) Distancing and Infection Control

- **What steps to prevent COVID-19 spread are you required to follow?**

COVID-19 can spread when people are in close contact **with one another**. It may also be possible that a person can **get COVID-19** when they touch something with the virus on it and then touch **their mouth, nose, or eyes**, but **this is not thought to be the main way that it spreads**. To prevent spread of COVID-19, you're required to: (1) Stay at home as much as practicable; (2) Limit close contact with people from outside of your household, whether you're indoors or outdoors; (3) Maintain at least six-feet of physical distance from individuals who are not part of your household; (4) Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; (5) Wear a **cloth face covering*** over both your nose and mouth anytime you leave your home and are, or may be, in contact with people who don't live in your household, whether you're in a public or private place or indoors or outdoors (except when exceptions are noted); and (6) Avoid all physical interaction outside the household when you're sick with a fever or cough, except for necessary medical care. Review "[Choose Wisely- Reduce Your Risk of COVID-19 Outside the Home](#)" to learn about other things you can do to reduce your risk of COVID-19 when you're outside of your home.

- **Do you have to perform social (physical) distancing with household members and at home?**

No, you don't have to stay 6 feet from people who live in the same household or living unit with you. If you are ill though, you should remain in a separate room, preferably with your own bathroom, and minimize contact with others to avoid infecting others in the home.

- **Can visitors come to your home?**

Public Health recommends that you limit visitors to only people who need to provide essential services, such as caregiving or repairs. These visitors shouldn't come in if they are ill and must wear a **cloth face covering*** and practice social (physical) distancing, as much as possible, while in your home. **You can have brief (2 hours or less) private outdoor gatherings with one or two other households only, if you take [steps to reduce COVID-19 transmission](#)**. However, these private gatherings can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission, so please consider other ways to connect with family and friends, such as through phone or video calls.

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Household and Personal Care Needs

- **Can you buy pet food or have your pet groomed?**

Yes. You can go to a pet supply store to buy pet supplies and can have your pet groomed at a veterinary clinic, a pet feed store, or a pet grooming store. Mobile pet grooming is also allowed. Stay at least 6 feet from people who are not part of your household and use a [cloth face covering*](#).

- **Are car dealerships open?**

Car dealerships can be open for repairs, auto supplies, and showroom and internet sales if they follow [social \(physical\) distancing and infection control requirements](#). Test drives can be conducted as long as the dealership limits passengers in the vehicle during test drives to only a single customer with the employee sitting in opposite back seat, when applicable. Both the customer and employee must wear [cloth face coverings*](#).

- **Are barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, and other personal care businesses open?**

Yes. The following personal care services can be open indoors, as long as [infection control and social \(physical\) distancing requirements](#) are followed: barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, tanning salon; esthetician, skin care, microblading, permanent make-up, and cosmetology services; body art; tattoo, and piercing shops; and electrology and massage therapy in non-healthcare settings. Indoor services pose a higher chance for spread of COVID-19, so to reduce the chance for exposure, please keep your [cloth face covering*](#) on unless you need to remove it to receive a service, don't bring others to your appointment, wait in your car until your appointment time, wash your hands before receiving services, and whenever possible pre-order and pre-pay for products and services.

Work/Employment

- **Can you go to work?**

Yes. If you work at a business that is allowed to be open, you can go to work, as long as you follow social (physical) distancing and infection control requirements when you are traveling to/from work and while you are at work. Stay at least 6 feet from people who are not part of your household whenever possible and use a [cloth face covering*](#) if you are in or are likely to be in close contact with others. In order to be open, businesses must follow requirements related to [infection control and social \(physical\) distancing](#). Ask your employer about ways to reduce the chance for COVID-19 to spread, such as rearranging the worksite to allow employees to keep a safe distance from other employees and customers, alternative work schedules, or working from home. Of note, at this time, because of the increased risk for spread of COVID-19, offices that aren't defined in the Order as Essential Businesses, Essential Infrastructure, or Healthcare Operations can't be open for indoor operations, except to carry out Minimum Basic Operations that are defined in the Order. If your office is closed, ask your employer if you can work from home until staff are allowed to return to the office.

- **Can you apply for unemployment if you've been affected by COVID-19?**

If your employer has reduced your hours or closed operations due to COVID-19, you may be able to file a claim for unemployment insurance. See https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm.

- **If you have to stay home because you're in quarantine or isolation, what sort of employee leave can you take?**

You may be able to use [paid sick leave](#) or file a [Disability Insurance \(DI\) claim](#). Check the California Department of Industrial Relations' [COVID-19 Resources and Workers' Compensation](#) webpage for more information. Unpaid leave may also be available to you through the California Family Rights Act. Check the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing's [COVID-19 website](#) for their employment Frequently Asked Questions. See Public Health's guidance regarding employee leave and benefits for more information: <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/business/FAQ-WorkersRights.pdf>.

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School, Childcare, Camps, and Learning

- **Can your children go to childcare?**

Yes. Childcare facilities can be open, as long as they follow requirements that are described in the Order.

- Childcare must be carried out in stable groups, meaning that the same children should be in the same groups each day and can't change from one group to another. Also, there is a maximum size for each group, which is set by Public Health.
- If more than one group of children is cared for at one site/facility, each group must be in a separate space and these groups cannot mix with each other.
- Each childcare provider must be solely with one group of children.

In addition, with approval from licensing agencies, child care and day care services for school-aged children can be offered in-person on school sites if [Public Health's guidelines](#) are followed.

- **Can you or your children attend school?**

K-12 schools can continue to operate as summarized below, but this must be done in a way that is as safe as possible for students, teachers, and staff. At this time, the State Public Health Officer has prohibited all public and private K-12 schools in California Counties that are in Tier 1 (widespread community transmission) of the State's Framework for Recovery, including Los Angeles County, from reopening for in-person instruction, with several exceptions. In Los Angeles County, schools can offer the following on-campus services, with modifications required in the County's education-specific and day care protocols.

1. **Specialized Support and Services**, within specified capacity limits, for defined groups of children who need in-person support and service. K-12 schools in Los Angeles County may offer in-school services for small cohorts of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP), students requiring instruction for English as a Second Language (ESL), and students needing assessments or specialized in-school services, and other students whose needs may not be met through a virtual instruction platform, as long as the school is able to fully implement the Health Officer's [Reopening Protocols](#) and does not exceed maximum capacity limits.
2. In-person instruction for grades TK-2 only, if they have a waiver (approval) from County Public Health. Schools are required to consult with key stakeholders, including parents and teachers, before submitting an application for a waiver. The waiver program is subject to limitations. Fifty (50) schools per week will be approved to reopen, with priority given to schools with a higher percentage of students who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals. The 50 slots will be divided evenly among Supervisorial Districts. Schools are required to follow all infection control, social (physical) distancing and cohorting requirements in the [K-12 School Reopening Protocols](#). For instance, students will be in groups of no more than twelve (12) children and two (2) supervising adults per classroom and these groups will need to stay together throughout the entire day for all activities. All schools that reopen will receive a site visit and technical assistance to help them implement recommended disease management controls that can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Information about the [County's school waiver application](#) process, requirements, and forms, as well as a list of schools that have been granted a waiver, can be found on [Public Health's website](#).
3. Child Care and Day Care for School-aged Children in-person at the School Site, with approval from licensing agencies, and if [Public Health's guidelines](#) are followed.
4. College Admissions Tests: Admissions tests, including PSAT, ACT, and SAT exams, may be held at schools as long as students are appropriately cohorted and [social physical distancing and infection control measures](#) are in place.



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Schools that are permitted or approved to reopen their campuses will need to follow the County's public health and safety requirements, which are outlined in Public Health's [Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools](#).

- **Are colleges and universities open?**

Public Health is following the State's guidance, which recommends that counties with high levels of community transmission of COVID-19 limit the reopening of colleges and universities. Thus, colleges and universities in Los Angeles County cannot resume all in-person academic instruction at this time. They may continue to offer in-person training and instruction for essential workforce for required activities that cannot be accomplished through virtual learning. All other academic instruction must be done via distance-learning. Colleges and universities should also limit the number of students living on-campus but can provide housing for students who don't have other housing options, such as students who must participate in in-person instruction in order to complete their training. On-campus housing can also be offered to student athletes participating in campus sports, in small training cohorts.

Colleges, and universities that are permitted or approved to reopen their campuses will need to follow the County's [Protocols for Institutes of Higher Education](#) so that the reopening is as safe as possible for students, faculty, staff, and their families. For updates from the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges, and to view guidance released by the California Department of Public Health to help colleges and universities prepare to resume in-person instruction, visit the [State's COVID-19 Education webpage](#).

- **Are libraries open?**

[Libraries](#) may: 1) reopen with limited patron occupancy, 2) offer sidewalk service only, or 3) close at the discretion of the operator and their local government authority. Patrons are encouraged to check with their library to determine their open/closed status and current services offered prior to visiting. They must follow Public Health's social (physical) distancing and infection control requirements, listed in the [County reopening protocol](#). They can loan books, movies, and single-use items (such as take-home craft kits) but should limit loans of games and toys. When possible, you should place a "hold" on an item through an online or a phone reservation system. When visiting the library, wear a [cloth face covering*](#) and stay 6 feet from other patrons and staff. If you have mobility issues, can't reserve items online, or should only leave home for necessities because you're at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, ask your library about other options.

- **Can your children go to camp?**

Yes, [day camps can operate with modifications](#). They can attend day camps (including sports-related camps for skills-building only), although overnight camps aren't open yet. Day camps [are making](#) changes to help keep staff and campers as safe as possible. Some examples include eliminating high-contact activities, staggering drop-off and pick-up times, and redesigning activities so that campers are in smaller groups.

If your children go to camp, ask them to wear their [cloth face covering*](#) except when staff let them know they don't need to. Also, remind them to follow directions for social (physical) distancing; stay with their assigned group; and avoid sharing high-touch materials like arts supplies, recreational equipment, clothes, toys, books, games, and electronic devices. If possible, have them bring their own meals and snacks to the camp.

Healthcare

- **Can you leave your home to seek medical care or pick up medications?**

Yes, you can leave in order to seek essential services such as medical care, [medical tests, or immunizations](#), or to pick up medications. Be sure to call your provider first since many practices are now [also](#) offering telemedicine services. Similarly, check to see if your medications can be delivered to your home.

- **Can you receive elective and preventive healthcare services?**

Important preventive services such as well-child visits, immunizations, [annual physicals](#), and other health

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screenings, including cancer screenings, should not be delayed. Whenever appropriate and available, consider taking advantage of telemedicine or video visits. In addition, providers can choose to offer elective medical services as long as the healthcare system does not get overwhelmed by the need to care for COVID-19 patients and providers can meet certain criteria (e.g., having enough personal protective equipment). However, because COVID-19 still poses a significant risk, Public Health recommends you carefully consider any elective procedure or surgery.

- **Can you receive dental services?**

Yes. Speak to your dentist to find out what services are available. Dental services pose a higher risk for the spread of COVID-19, so only emergency care and certain non-emergency [dental care](#) may now be able to be provided.

Dental care that was previously postponed, especially for conditions likely to lead to dental emergencies if treatment continues to be deferred, should be prioritized.

- **Can you go to a behavioral health or substance use disorder group or receive faith-based counseling?**

Yes. You can go to group counseling and participate in peer support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, or in faith-based counseling if there are fewer than 10 people present, and you follow social (physical) distancing and infection control requirements. You can also take advantage of sessions that are held by telephone or video conference if they are available and meet your needs.

- **Can you still leave home to donate blood?**

Yes. can continue to give blood at Red Cross centers and at blood donation sites. Blood drives are not prohibited by the Order if social (physical) distancing practices are in place. Red Cross will continue to hold blood drives to help meet patient needs and has implemented new measures that ensure that blood drives and donation centers are even safer for donors and staff. You should be prepared to wear a [cloth face covering*](#) while you are there.

Shopping and Restaurants

- **Are indoor shopping centers and malls open?**

Yes. [Indoor shopping centers and malls](#) can be open for in-store shopping, but the number of customers allowed in a store and in the shopping center at the same time will be limited (maximum 25% capacity) so that customers and employees can maintain physical (social) distancing. Higher-risk businesses and areas (e.g., movie theaters, certain bars, among others), common seating areas (e.g., indoor playgrounds, among others), and food court dining areas in indoor shopping centers and malls will remain closed. Restaurants that can be entered from outside of the mall can continue to offer food for delivery, carryout, and outdoor table dining. Restaurants that can only be accessed from inside of the mall, such as those in the food court, can offer indoor counter service for pick-up or outdoor delivery, but all food and beverages must be taken outside of the indoor mall or shopping center for consumption. The mall may designate an area for outdoor dining but eating or drinking inside is not allowed. If you go to the mall, whether you're shopping inside or picking up items from the outside, please wear a [cloth face covering*](#) and keep a distance of 6 feet from other customers and employees whenever possible.

- **Are outdoor shopping center and malls open?**

Yes. Outdoor shopping malls, destination shopping centers, strip and outlet malls, and swap meets can be open for in-store shopping, at limited capacity, if they prepare, implement, and post County Public Health's [Protocols for Shopping Center Operators](#). Customers must wear [cloth face coverings*](#) and the number of customers will be limited to ensure physical (social) distancing.

- **Are yard sales, estate sales or garage sales allowed?**

No. Yard sales, estate sales, and garage sales are considered to be public gatherings and are not allowed.

- **Are restaurants open?**

Restaurants, cafes, food trucks, food courts, and similar businesses can be open for delivery, drive-thru, carry out, and outdoor table dining. Indoor dining isn't allowed at this time and restaurants need to limit the number of

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outdoor diners, so that they can maintain social (physical) distancing. Customers will be seated outdoors at a table, with a maximum of 6 people per table. Restaurants can serve drinks, but patrons may not approach, order, or sit at the bar or adjoining counter where drinks are prepared, and they cannot sit at a counter to eat. When dining at a restaurant, if possible, wait in your car until you can be seated. If you're entering the outdoor dining area or waiting at a host or check-stand, deli counter, valet drop-off and pick-up, or other waiting area, or visiting the restrooms, please keep a distance of 6 feet or more from people who aren't part of your household and wear a [cloth face covering*](#). You can remove the cloth face covering while eating and/or drinking at a table.

- **How can you get free or reduced priced meals?**

Soup kitchens, food banks, and other organizations that provide free or reduced priced food or meals are encouraged to continue providing these services. Visit www.covid19.lacounty.gov/food for additional information on available resources.

Faith-based/Religious Services

- **Can you attend faith-based services?**

You may attend in-person faith-based services, including weddings and funerals. Such services must be held outside and must follow the physical distancing, infection control, and all other requirements listed in the County's [Protocol for Places of Worship](#). Indoor services are not allowed at this time, and there is no maximum number of attendees for outdoor services, as long as attendees from different households can keep a distance of 6 feet from each other. Places of worship are also strongly encouraged to continue virtual services (e.g., teleconference, webinar, or live-stream), to protect those who are more likely to develop serious illness from COVID-19. Practices that could spread COVID-19 should also be modified. For instance, donations/offering plates or baskets shouldn't be passed around, and attendees should bring their own prayer books, rugs, or other direct touch items that are used in ceremonies. Per the California Department of Public Health, "activities such as singing and chanting negate the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing" due to an increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets. If the outdoor service includes singing or chanting, there should be much greater physical distance between attendees. Individual congregation members who are participating in virtual services can also sing or chant in their own homes.

- **Can faith-based organizations offer support services or counseling?**

Faith-based organizations can provide essential support services, such as a food bank, if they follow social (physical) distancing requirements. If remote counseling is not feasible, they can also offer faith-based counseling, as long as there are 10 or fewer people present, and they follow social (physical) distancing and infection control requirements.

- **Can you work in an office at a faith-based organization?**

At this time, Non-Essential office-based businesses must cease all of their indoor operations. Everyone who can work from home should do so. If you work in an office at a faith-based organization that is not considered to provide essential services or infrastructure, then you need to work from home. However, if you must be onsite to carry out Minimum Basic Operations that are defined in the Order, or if the faith-based organization provides essential services, and these operations require you to be onsite, then you can do so as long as Public Health's [Reopening Protocols](#) are followed. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended that you work from home. Examples of faith-based essential services and infrastructure include providing food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals--including gang prevention and intervention, domestic violence, and homeless service agencies.

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Gatherings and Events

- **Are conferences, conventions, or other large events allowed?**

No. Large events, such as conferences or events at convention centers, whether public or private, are still not allowed.

- **Can vehicle-based (car) parades be held?**

Vehicle-based (car) parades can be held if they are in compliance with all local ordinances, traffic control requirements, state and local laws, and all other requirements that are described in the County's [Vehicle-Based Parade Protocol](#). If an organization is hosting the parade, it must assign a host to ensure that these rules are followed. Car parades can't include people on a bicycle, a motorcycle, a convertible with the top open, or a vehicle with no doors such as a golf cart. If any of the windows on a vehicle is open, the occupants must wear a [cloth face covering*](#).

- **Can you or your family have a gathering or party?**

When people from different households mix, this increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and the longer and larger the gathering/event, the more risk there is. (A household is defined as a group of people who live together in a single dwelling unit like a house or apartment.)

If you have symptoms of illness, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have likely been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you shouldn't hold or participate in any gatherings.

Large private and public events gatherings are not allowed, even if held outdoors. However, vehicle (car) parades are still allowed so that graduations, birthdays, holidays and other special days and achievements may be safely celebrated. See the [Vehicle-Based Parade Protocol](#) for rules and requirements.

Small [private outdoor gatherings](#) of 3 or fewer households, including the host household and all attendees, are allowed, as long as certain conditions are met. If you are planning to get together with another household, the gathering must be less than 2 hours long and be held outdoors, everyone must wear a [face covering*](#), and physical distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained between non-household members. Food and beverages should be served in single-serve disposable containers, and if that's not possible, by someone who is wearing a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth, who should wash or sanitize their hands frequently.

The private outdoor gathering can be held at your residence or in a public park or other outdoor location. You'll need to choose a spot that's large enough for the household groups to stay 6 feet apart and there should be easy access to handwashing facilities and/or hand sanitizer. If you gather under umbrellas, canopies, awnings, a roof, or shades, at least three sides (75%) of the area should be open to the outdoors. Avoid chanting, singing, shouting, and activities that involve heavy exertion, which can lead to the release of respiratory droplets into the air. If there is singing or chanting, everyone should wear a [cloth face covering*](#) and be at least 8-10 feet from each other. If there's live music, all of the musicians must be from one of the 3 households and stay 8 feet from others, and it's best to avoid wind instruments, such as clarinets and trumpets.

A group of households (max of 3) that choose to privately gather together should be kept constant or stable over time. Multiple gatherings of 3 households may not be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time. If you host a small outdoor gathering, collect the names and contact information for everyone there. If someone becomes ill within 48 hours of the gathering, other attendees and Public Health (830-540-0473) should be notified immediately.

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Caregiving

- **Can you care for a family member, friend, or pet who requires assistance in their home or take them to needed appointments?**

Yes. You can provide care for vulnerable and dependent people or animals, including taking them to appointments. However, you should take precautions, such as being sure that you don't have a fever or symptoms of illness before leaving to provide care, keeping at least 6 feet from others whenever possible, wearing a [cloth face covering*](#) (or a surgical mask if you are caring for an ill individual), and frequently washing your hands or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, including immediately after you arrive at and leave their home.

- **Can you visit loved ones in the hospital, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?**

To protect patients/residents, visitors, and healthcare personnel, most face-to-face visits are not allowed at licensed congregate healthcare facilities (e.g., skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities) and at hospitals, except for in certain circumstances (e.g., visiting a child, for labor/delivery, and for end-of-life visits). If your loved one is in a facility, ask if they're allowing visits. If not, please use other ways to communicate, such as telephone calls, texts, and video calls.

Housing and Safety

- **How can you comply with the order if you are experiencing homelessness?**

People who are experiencing homelessness are encouraged to try to stay with family or friends, identify housing options, or access emergency resources, such as shelters. You can call 2-1-1 for additional information on resources. You should also wear a [cloth face covering*](#) when in close contact with other people and stay 6 feet or more from others whenever possible.

- **If your home environment is abusive, do you need to stay at home?**

No. Call 2-1-1 to identify safe and supportive housing alternatives. You should not stay in environments that are not safe.

- **Can you stay in dorms, shelters, or other congregate settings?**

Yes, but you need to follow any measures that the institution has put into place to reduce the spread of disease. You should wear a [cloth face covering*](#) when in close contact with others and should stay 6 feet or more from people whenever possible.

- **Can you be evicted from your house or apartment while the Order is in effect?**

Some local jurisdictions have issued renter protections during the Order. Check with your local City office to see if there are eviction protections where you live. For additional information on eviction moratoriums and rent freezes visit dcba.lacounty.gov/noevictions.

Legal and Civic Activities

- **Can you leave home to comply with a Court order?**

Yes. You can leave home to comply with Court or enforcement orders but must follow social (physical) distance, including wearing a [cloth face covering*](#) when in close contact with others, and infection control precautions.

- **Can you leave home to take a citizenship test?**

The federal government will determine whether citizenship tests will be held. Please contact the government agency that is giving the test to determine whether you should appear. If you are required to appear, wear a [cloth face covering*](#) and practice social (physical) distancing while there. If you are ill, stay home and ask the agency that is giving the test about your options for rescheduling or taking the test from home if possible.

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- **Can you participate in public demonstrations?**

When people from different households mix, this increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and the longer and larger the number of people in attendance, the more risk there is.

As an individual, it is within your right to engage in political expression, including your right to petition the government and participate in public demonstrations. You can participate in outdoor protests and there is no limit on the number of attendees. Indoor protests are not allowed at this time. During a pandemic, in-person gatherings can be risky because even if you adhere to physical distancing, bringing members of different households together carries a higher risk of transmission of COVID-19. Such gatherings may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. Also, activities like chanting, shouting, singing, and group recitation can more easily spread respiratory droplets, making it very important that people engaging in these activities wear [cloth face coverings](#)* at all times. If you had close contact (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with non-household members who were not wearing face coverings, you should consider yourself possibly exposed to COVID-19 and should stay at home for 14 days and monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms. If you live with persons who are elderly or have high-risk conditions, you should also try to maintain a six-foot distance and wear a face covering when you are with them at home. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and speak to them about getting tested. Finally, if you chose to participate in an in-person gathering, consider [strategies](#) for reducing your risk and the risk to others.

Fitness, Recreation, and Entertainment

- **Can you go to the gym/a fitness center?**

Gyms; fitness centers; and fitness-related studios such as yoga, pilates, dance, gymnastics, and martial arts studios can be open for outdoor services only. If you can participate in outdoor services, you'll need to wear a [cloth face covering](#)*. This includes when you're exercising, except if the outdoor fitness activity requires heavy exertion. For those activities, you can remove the cloth face covering as long as you stay at least 8 feet apart from others. You can also remove the cloth face covering when you're entering or in the water in an outdoor pool or are in an outdoor shower. Gyms/fitness centers can offer outdoor group classes and personal training outdoors if social (physical) distancing requirements are followed and there's no person-to-person physical contact. High-contact programs such as group sporting events, organized intermural activities, pick-up basketball, and organized races aren't allowed. Outdoor swimming pools and splash pads at these sites can be open. **Outdoor hot tubs can be open only for use by household groups or when patrons can maintain 6 feet distance.** Jacuzzi, spa pools, swim team practices, swim meets, and pool parties aren't allowed.

To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at the gym, don't arrive early or stay after your work-out, keep a distance of 6 feet from others when possible (and 8 feet when engaged in heavy exertion), and bring your own towel and equipment (e.g., yoga mats, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels). If you're at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 (e.g., you're 65 years of age or older and and/or have active or unstable pre-existing health conditions), ask if they have special hours or a reservation system so you can avoid contact with others as much as possible.

- **Are pools open?**

Outdoor public pools and outdoor pools in gyms/fitness centers and shared residential facilities (apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations), can be open if rules for reopening are followed. You can take group and 1x1 swimming lessons, but instructors should teach from the pool deck whenever possible, and swim team meets aren't allowed. Outdoor pools at residential sites can only be used by household groups that live on the property and there are limits to the number of people who can use the pools and spas at the same time. If you're at any pool, please don't share towels, beverages, or food with anyone **who does not live with you**; bring your own snorkels and nose clips; and when out of the water, wear a [cloth face covering](#)* and keep a distance of 6 feet from people who aren't in your household.

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- **Can you go to/take children to a park?**

Yes, you can enjoy recreation and walking at parks. [Cloth face coverings*](#) are required at all times, except when in an outdoor pool or if you're engaged in exercises that require heavy exertion. [Outdoor pools](#) and [playgrounds](#) aren't required to be closed, but the organization that manages them (e.g., Parks and Recreation Departments) will decide whether to open them. If the playground is open, no food or drink is allowed in the playground area and parents should make sure that their children are keeping a distance of at least six (6) feet from children who aren't in their household and are sanitizing their hands before and after they use the playground equipment. Indoor playgrounds and pools at parks remain closed at this time.

- **Are outdoor recreation options such as trails, beaches, and golf courses open?**

Trails, beaches, and other open spaces and outdoor recreational facilities, including golf courses, tennis and pickle ball courts, shooting and archery ranges, equestrian centers, model airplane areas, community gardens, and bike and skate parks, may be open, as long as visitors follow rules regarding social (physical) distancing and access. However, no recreational programming or public events can be held at these sites. Hired-fishing trips and small group charters are allowed as long as social (physical) distancing and infection control rules are followed. Everyone on your boat (aside from crew) should be from your own household and you shouldn't tailgate in the parking area. Lawn games like bocce and lawn bowling are also allowed if social (physical) distancing and infection control requirements are followed.

If you visit any of these outdoor recreation sites, including the beach, don't forget that everyone two years of age or older who hasn't been told by a medical provider that they shouldn't wear a cloth face covering must wear one, unless they're eating, drinking, or while in the water. Playgrounds, and concession stands remain closed. Basketball courts and volleyball courts at public sites are also closed at this time. However, streets or other areas can be temporarily closed to car traffic for recreation such as walking or riding bikes, although no events or gatherings can be held on closed streets.

See the [Reopening Protocol](#) for the site you'd like to visit and the [Outdoor Recreation Guidance](#) for additional information on activities that are allowed and those that are not permitted.

- **Can you rent or check-out outdoor equipment?**

Outdoor equipment, such as kayaks, surf or paddle boards, canoes, bikes, fishing gear, and helmets may be available for rental/check-out, if operators can follow instructions for cleaning. However, whenever possible, you should bring your own equipment, since sharing equipment can increase the risk for spread of COVID-19. If you rent self-service equipment, you should sanitize it before use by wiping down surfaces with an [EPA registered disinfectant](#).

- **What kinds of sports can you or your children play?**

You can do outdoor recreational activities or sports, such as walking, hiking, bicycling, running, or horseback riding, as long as you follow social (physical) distancing, the appropriate County [Reopening Protocol](#), and the [Outdoor Recreation Guidance](#), as applicable. You can also play some non-contact sports, such as golf, tennis, pickleball, bocce, or lawn bowling. Unless you're participating in a youth sports league activity as described below, you can't play sports that involve shared equipment or physical contact such as soccer, basketball, football, volleyball, baseball, paintball, or miniature golf with anyone outside of your own household.

Recreational youth sports leagues, youth club sports, youth travel sports, and sports that are sponsored by TK-12 private and public schools are allowed, as long as activities are held outdoors and players can stay 6 feet or more (or 8 feet or more during times of heavy physical exertion) from each other and from coaches. Youth are required to wear a [cloth face covering*](#), except when the outdoor activity requires heavy exertion. For those activities, they can remove the cloth face covering as long as they stay at least 8 feet apart from others.

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Youth sports activities are limited at this time to conditioning, training and skills-building activities only. Youth sporting events, such as tournaments, competitions, games, or matches are prohibited until further notice. However, as part of practices, teams that play non-contact sports that allow for 8-foot physical distance between players at all times may play intra-squad scrimmages, matches or practice games among players of the same team. Review the Youth Sports League [Reopening Protocol](#) to learn more.

- **Can you go to the movies? Are drive-in theaters open?**

Movie theaters are not yet open, but drive-in theaters can be open, as long as [social \(physical\) distancing and infection control practices](#) are followed. Live concerts and performances at these sites will be allowed as long as Public Health requirements are followed. If you go to a drive-in, everyone in your vehicle should be from your household and you should park at least 6 feet from other vehicles, stay inside your vehicle unless you're using the restroom or picking up refreshments, and wear your face covering over your nose and mouth any time you're out of your vehicle. You can sit in the bed of a truck or put the top down if you have a convertible.

- **Can you go to a museum, botanical garden, gallery, zoo, or aquarium?**

Outdoor portions of museums and galleries, botanical gardens, zoos and aquariums are open but the indoor portions and exhibits at these venues are closed at this time. This includes the closure of indoor playgrounds, play areas, climbing structures, petting zoos, and movie theaters, at these venues. Hands-on interactive exhibits are also closed at these sites and demonstrations (including live animal shows) can only be held if social (physical) distancing and sanitation guidelines are followed. To help prevent spread of COVID-19, please only include only members of your own household in your visit, buy your tickets online in advance, avoid sharing vehicles, wear [cloth face coverings*](#), and keep a distance of 6 feet from staff and other visitors.

- **What types of family entertainment centers are open?**

Outdoor batting cages, go kart racing, and miniature golf may reopen with modifications, as long as the requirements listed in their specific [County reopening protocol](#) are followed. All other outdoor family entertainment activities (e.g., roller skating, ice skating, laser tag) and indoor family entertainment activities (e.g., bowling alleys, arcades) are closed at this time. Amusement parks, theme parks, and water parks are also closed, except for stand-alone outdoor batting cages, go cart racing, or miniature golf at those sites. To help prevent spread of COVID-19, only include only members of your own household in a visit to a family entertainment center, buy your tickets online in advance, wait in your car until your reservation time, wear [cloth face coverings*](#) at all times, and keep a distance of 6 feet from staff and other visitors. If possible, bring your own equipment (e.g., batting helmets, bats, kart helmets, kart suits and gloves, golf clubs) and be sure to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after using any shared equipment. Also, food may only be consumed in designated dining areas, so don't take food or drinks into the entertainment areas.

- **Can you attend professional sporting events?**

Professional sports and training can resume, but at this time, all events must be held without in-person spectators.

- **Are breweries and wineries open?**

Breweries and wineries that have permits to prepare food onsite can be open for outdoor sit-down dining, if they follow the [County's reopening protocol requirements](#). If they don't have a permit to prepare food onsite, breweries and wineries with certain production licenses can serve beer or wine outdoors, provided that it is paid for in the same transaction as a sit-down bona fide meal that is prepared or served onsite by another approved food provider (e.g., a food truck or a catering company) and [infection control requirements](#) are followed. The hours will be limited, reservations are recommended, alcohol can only be bought with a bona-fide meal, and food and drinks must be ordered and consumed while sitting outdoors at a table. Only wineries that produce their own wine may offer outdoor tastings without a food purchase, if they follow all required County protocols.

- **Are bars, craft distilleries, and tasting rooms open?**

Unless they have certain public health restaurant permits, which allow them to prepare and serve sit-down meals

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in an outdoor dining area, bars, brewpubs, craft distilleries, and tasting rooms, as well as bar areas inside restaurants will remain closed at this time, except for retail sales. If they do offer retail sales, you can buy products to take home, such as a bottle of wine or a growler of beer.

- **Are cardrooms, satellite wagering, and racetracks open?**

[Cardrooms](#) can be open outdoor services. No food or drinks can be served or consumed at the gaming tables and alcohol can only be served with a meal. The number of customers at gaming tables and machines may be limited so that employees and customers can keep a distance of at least 6 feet from each other. Customers will need to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times while on the gaming facility property, including at all gaming tables and machines and in the outdoor area, except when eating or drinking in a designated outdoor dining area. Satellite wagering facilities and racetrack onsite wagering facilities are closed at this time.

Travel

- **Can you take public transit or ride-sharing services (e.g. Lyft or Uber)?**

You can take public transportation or use ride-sharing services as long as you wear a [cloth face covering](#)* during your ride and at stops/stations where others are present and stay 6 feet or more from people who aren't part of your household when possible.

- **Can you take a trip?**

Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick. Airports, bus stations, train stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus in the air and on surfaces and it can be hard to keep 6 feet apart from other people. COVID-19 cases and deaths have been reported in all 50 states and in many international locations. If it's not essential for you to travel, it's best for you to postpone your trip. And if you're sick or have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, you shouldn't travel.

You can travel outside of your area if you need to address essential needs, such as essential business needs or to take care of after-death arrangements. Before traveling, check for any travel restrictions in the area you're traveling to, including any requirements for funerals and gatherings. See LA County's [Guidance for Funerals](#). If you do need to travel, you can take simple steps to reduce the chance for spread of COVID-19. Don't travel with people from outside of your household or with anyone who is sick. Wash your hands often and/or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content and wear a [cloth face covering](#)* whenever you're not in your room. Consider other ideas when traveling, such as making sure you're out of your room when your baggage is delivered or when your room's being cleaned, only using ice machines if they're hands-free, and bringing your own items (e.g., towels, goggles, and nose clips) to the fitness center or pool (if they're open). When returning after any travel, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days.

- **Are campgrounds and RV parks open?**

Yes, campgrounds and RV parks can be open if they follow reopening rules, which may include reducing the site's capacity to allow for adequate spacing. In addition, outdoor spaces used for gatherings and group functions such as pavilions, communal fire rings, public-use kitchens, and amphitheaters should be closed and public events/gatherings such as group bonfires, group campsites, presentations at amphitheaters, or musical or other performances are not allowed.

To reduce the chance of spread of COVID-19, wear [cloth face coverings](#)*, stay 6 feet from people who aren't part of your household and bring your own equipment. If possible, pre-purchase firewood, food, or other items or have them delivered to your campsite or RV. When using shared restrooms, avoid placing personal items such as toothbrushes directly on counter surfaces. Finally, only participate in boat rides, basketball/volleyball games, rope courses, or climbing walls, with your own household.

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LEARN MORE

- Los Angeles County Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Health Officer Order and Protocols to Protect Workers and the Public from COVID-19: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus/>.
- Call 2-1-1 (LA County Information Line) if you have questions about COVID-19. 2-1-1 can provide information on nonprofit and social services such as food pantries, homeless shelters, rental assistance, mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

* **Important Information regarding Cloth Face Coverings:** [Cloth face coverings](#) are used to reduce the risk of someone who has the virus and does not know it from transmitting the virus to others. Individuals who have been instructed by their medical provider not to wear a cloth face covering are exempted from requirements to wear cloth face coverings. Children under the age of 2 years (including infants) and anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or is unable to remove a face cover without help should not wear one. Those between the ages of 2 and 8 should use them but under adult supervision to ensure that the child can breathe safely and avoid choking or suffocation.

Individuals who are exempt from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition and who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others are required to wear an alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their medical condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred.

People who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms should not be going out of their homes except for medical visits. If they must leave the home for these visits, they may use a surgical mask but can use a cloth covering if a mask isn't available. If a mask is used, it shouldn't have a one-way valve.

