



ORDER OF THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICER  
May 7, 2020

On March 19, 2020, I issued an order directing all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home except as needed to facilitate authorized, necessary activities or to maintain the continuity of operations of critical infrastructure sectors. (See <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>.) I then set out California's path forward from this "Stay-at-Home" Order in California's Pandemic Roadmap <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/5.4.20-Update-on-Californias-Pandemic-Roadmap.pdf>. That Roadmap identifies four stages of the pandemic: safety and preparation (Stage 1), reopening of lower-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 2), reopening of higher-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 3), and finally an easing of final restrictions leading to the end of the stay at home order (Stage 4).

Today, COVID-19 continues to present a significant risk to the health of individuals throughout California. There are confirmed cases of the virus in 54 of the 58 counties across the State, and each day over the past two weeks over one thousand new cases have been confirmed in California and dozens of people have lost their lives due to the virus. However, owing to Californians' mitigation efforts, statewide data currently demonstrates stable rates of new infections and hospitalizations, the maintenance of surge capacity, and an improved ability to test, contact trace, isolate, and provide support to individuals exposed to COVID-19. As State Public Health Officer, I have determined that the statewide data now supports the gradual movement of the entire state from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of California's Pandemic Resilience Roadmap.

Gradual movement into Stage 2 is intended to reintroduce activities and sectors in a phased manner and with necessary modifications, in order to protect public health and result in a lower risk for COVID-19 transmission and outbreak in a community. Such deliberate phasing is critical to allowing the State to protect the public, and to mitigate and manage the impact of the re-openings, such that our health care delivery system has the capacity to respond to potential increased demands. Differences across the state in the prevalence of COVID-19, as well as testing rates, containment capability, and hospital capacity, have resulted in differences among local health jurisdictions' ability to safely progress through the various stages. The low and stable data reported by some local health officers in their local health jurisdictions, combined with sufficient COVID-19 preparedness, justifies allowance for some variation in the speed with which some local health jurisdictions will be able to move through the phases of Stage 2.

NOW, THEREFORE, I as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health, order:

1. All local health jurisdictions in the state may begin gradual movement into Stage 2, as set forth in this Order, effective on May 8, 2020; however, a local health jurisdiction may implement or continue more restrictive public health measures if the jurisdiction's Local Health Officer believes conditions in that jurisdiction warrant it.
2. I will progressively designate sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities that may reopen with certain modifications, based on public health and safety needs, and I will add additional sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities at a pace designed to protect public health and safety. Those sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities that are permitted to open will be designated, along with necessary modifications, at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>, as I announce them.
3. To the extent that such sectors are re-opened, Californians may leave their homes to work at, patronize, or otherwise engage with those businesses, establishments, or activities and must, when they do so, continue at all times to practice physical distancing, minimize their time outside of the home, and wash their hands frequently. To prevent further spread of COVID-19 to and within other jurisdictions within the State, Californians should not travel significant distances and should stay close to home. My March 19, 2020, Order otherwise remains in full effect.

4. The California Department of Public Health has set forth criteria to help local health officers assess the capacity of their local health jurisdictions to move through Stage 2. Local health jurisdictions that meet the criteria and follow the process set forth <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-County-Variance-Attestation-Memo.aspx> will be permitted to move through Stage 2 more quickly than the State as a whole and reopen additional low-risk businesses before the rest of the state, if they choose to do so. A list of the sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities, and any necessary modifications, that such a qualifying jurisdiction may choose to reopen will be available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>, and may be expanded if I deem it to be in the interest of public health and safety.

Pursuant to the authority under EO N-60-20, and Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120140, 131080, 120130(c), 120135, 120145, 120175 and 120150, this Order is to go into effect immediately and shall stay in effect until further notice.

This Order is being issued to protect the public health of Californians as we move as expeditiously to minimize risk to the extent possible throughout the Stages of the Pandemic Resilience Roadmap.



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