



# ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services  
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 18, 2020

Neetu Balram, Public Information Manager  
Alameda County Public Health Department

## **Alameda County Health Officer Issues Order to Allow All Retail, Outdoor Dining, Outdoor Fitness, Limited Religious and Cultural Services, and Outdoor Museums**

*Orders offer guidance on protesting safely to prevent spread of COVID-19 and newly allowed activities include visiting dog parks and college sports training.*

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** – On Thursday, June 18, 2020 Alameda County issued Health Officer Orders to reopen outdoor museums, outdoor restaurant dining, limited religious and cultural services, indoor and outdoor retail (including malls), and outdoor fitness classes on Friday, June 19. A summary of the Orders and a full list of permissible businesses and activities are available here: <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/health-officer-orders.aspx>.

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has stabilized over the past two weeks in Alameda County, and the number of tests conducted daily is over two-thirds of the County's testing goal of 3,100 tests conducted per day, with overall positivity rates dropping to an average of 3.5%.

"Further relaxation of the Shelter-in-Place Orders is possible thanks to efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 by Alameda County's residents and continued expansion of our case and contact investigation resources" said Dr. Pan. "With an increasing number of opportunities for consumers and workers to interact with each other, it's more important than ever to wear a face covering whenever you leave home, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people outside of your household, practice good hand hygiene, and stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19."

### Highlights for Outdoor Dining

- Outdoor seating arrangements must be limited to 6 people per table, all from same household or Social Bubble
- Tables must be 6 feet apart
- Entertainment events not allowed
- Bars must remain closed to customers and alcohol may only be sold with a meal
- Restaurant must comply with relevant laws, regulations and permitting requirements
- Takeout and delivery options are strongly recommended
- On alcohol sales:

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- Alameda County is not a Variance County at this time, and restaurants seeking a Temporary Catering Permit to serve alcohol outdoors from the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control may experience delays
- Wineries with on-site restaurants may do tastings with food pairings outdoors
- Brewpubs, breweries, bars, pubs, craft distilleries, and wineries that do not provide sit-down meals themselves can contract with another vendor to do so. The alcohol must be sold in the same transaction as a meal.
- Bars must remain closed to the public but may provide pickup/takeaway service with the sales of bona fide meals. These meals may be provided by an affiliate restaurant or by a food service provider that partners with the bar. Alcohol and meal delivery must occur in the same transaction at the same location.

## Highlights for Indoor/Outdoor Retail and Shopping Centers

- Limit capacity to 50% of normal maximum capacity or the number of people who can always maintain 6 feet of distance from each other, whichever is lower
- Stores may move goods outside for display or sale if local permits allow for it
- Curbside and delivery are strongly recommended to continue as much as possible

## Highlights for Religious and Cultural Ceremonies

- Limit to fewer than 100 people or 25% of the building/area capacity, whichever is lower
- Permitted indoors or outdoors, but a strongly recommended outdoor limit of 25, and an indoors limit of 12
- Continuing virtual services is strongly recommended
- Food and beverage sales/distribution are discouraged
- Local guidance includes recommended modifications for common practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission

Additionally, outdoor events where residents and community members are exercising their First Amendment Rights are permitted. Everyone should wear a face covering and stay at least 6 feet apart. If you protested, watch for symptoms and get tested within 7-10 days of the event at any of the [community testing sites](#) in Alameda County. You do not need health insurance and you won't be asked about your immigration status.

It's critical for residents, faith leaders, and employers to remember that this pandemic is far from over and we are not out of the woods yet. This virus has a disproportionate impact on our communities of color, who are also highly overrepresented in the retail and service sectors. Simple actions—like wearing a face covering,

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washing your hands often, and staying six feet away from people outside your home—can help protect everyone, especially people working in the services industries.

Local employers must demonstrate their commitment to keeping their staff, customers, and communities safe by complying with their Site-Specific Protection Plan, just as Alameda County residents are going to show their support for local businesses.

All businesses allowed to operate under the Health Officer Orders must complete a [Site-Specific Protection Plan](#). Protocols and procedures that must be in place when businesses reopen include employees always wearing protective equipment and face coverings, [employee symptom or temperature checks at the beginning of shifts](#) to ensure no one works while sick, thorough cleaning and disinfecting routines, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, and physical distancing measures to protect customers and employees.

Restaurants are expected to work with the city where their restaurant is located on zoning regulations to ensure they safely use contiguous sidewalks and/or parking lot spaces for seating and to submit a reopening plan that complies with the Outdoor Dining Guidance to the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health for review.

Ensuring the health and well-being of employees at their workplace is the responsibility of employers and will be a part of how the Public Health Department and the Department of Environmental Health will evaluate compliance with COVID-19 workplace safety plans.

[Employees must also complete a self-assessment](#) to guard against spreading the virus while they are infectious. Employees must stay home from work if they test positive for COVID-19, are a close contact of someone who tests positive, or are experiencing symptoms. Employers can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by supporting employees’ decisions to stay home. A negative test result or doctor’s note is not required to return to work if an employee is ordered to isolate or quarantine under the County’s [blanket Isolation/Quarantine Orders](#).

“Newly added activities increase our interactions with those outside of our households or Social Bubble and increase the risk of infection” said Colleen Chawla, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director. “By continuing to take every precaution and limiting unnecessary contacts, we can enjoy Alameda County’s vibrant restaurants and businesses while also protecting our friends, families, and frontline workers.”

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*For more information on the Health Officer Orders and accompanying documents, visit:*

- <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/covid-recovery.aspx>
- <http://acphd.org/2019-ncov/shelter-in-place.aspx>
- <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/health-officer-orders.aspx>
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