



# 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 12, 2020

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Alameda County Public Health Department

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

*Residents should continue to limit contact with people outside their Social Bubble, maintain physical distance, and wear face coverings.*

*Organizations and businesses strongly advised to continue virtual, takeout, curbside and delivery services. Local guidance expected early next week.*

**ALAMEDA COUNTY**—Alameda County plans to allow more activities under its Health Officer Orders next Friday, which will move the county further along its path to reopening the economy. As of June 19, 2020, the Health Officer Orders will relax restrictions by reopening outdoor museums, outdoor restaurant dining, religious services, indoor/outdoor retail, and outdoor fitness classes.

The most recent update to the Orders took effect on Monday, June 8 and the next update will go into effect nearly two weeks later. The County expects to loosen restrictions in 2-4 week increments per its [Reopening Plan](#).

“The indicators we monitor to determine if we should continue moving forward through reopening are stable or improving,” said Dr. Erica Pan, Health Officer for Alameda County. “We will continue to have more cases, but the steady increase in hospitalizations and the steep increase in the case rate we were seeing in late May has slowed and the hospitalizations have stabilized. We are also making significant progress in expanding and improving the efficiency of our contact tracing teams.”

In alignment with the state’s guidance, indoor and outdoor retail and outdoor dining will be allowed at reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing and safety plans are in place. Residents and businesses are still strongly recommended to continue focusing primarily on pick-up and delivery options to limit lines and crowds.

Similarly, based on state guidance, limited religious services will be permitted to resume for up to 100 people or less than 25 percent building capacity, whichever is lower. Faith partners are strongly recommended to continue virtual services, especially for their high-risk congregants, and to limit attendance to 25 people and provide services outdoors.

“I’m glad to see that we can take this step forward as a county,” said District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “It’s important to have parity across our small and large businesses, as well as across the region. The health

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of Alameda County residents is paramount and I'm confident that our restaurants, retailers and faith communities will prioritize the safety of their staff, customers, and community." All businesses allowed to operate under the Health Officer Orders must complete the [Site-Specific Protection Plan](#) template and implement risk assessment and individual control measures, physical distancing, disinfecting and cleaning protocols, and employee training to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Additional local guidance to supplement that state guidance will be available early next week at <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/covid-recovery.aspx> and restaurants will be expected to work with the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health and their respective cities on their outdoor operation plans.

"We're balancing the economic and spiritual health of our community with public health," said District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley. "These openings, including the services industries, may disproportionately affect our already burdened communities of color, and we will need to be mindful of protecting everyone's health while we're out and about."

[Employers are advised to implement COVID-19 health screenings](#) before staff enter a facility to start their workday and [employees must complete a self-assessment](#) to ensure they do not go to work sick or during their infectious period after being exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19. Employers have an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and should support their employees in staying home if sick, and should not require a negative test result or doctor's note to return to work if ordered to isolate or quarantine under the County's blanket Isolation/Quarantine order.

We also remind our residents who are exercising their right to protest to wear a face covering and if you protested, get tested. A list of community testing sites are available here <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/testing.aspx>. You don't need insurance and you won't be asked about your immigration status.

The Health Department reminds all residents planning to participate in the newly authorized activities that we are still in the first wave of the pandemic. The virus that causes COVID-19 is highly infectious and it is critical that we take precautions to protect people who are at high risk for health complications or working in settings that expose them to more people.

"Next week's action to allow additional activities outside of the home relies heavily on all of us continuing the consistent use of face coverings, maintaining physical distancing, and practicing good hand hygiene," said Colleen Chawla, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director. "These measures ensure that we are not only protecting ourselves and our families, but also the frontline workers in the businesses we will enjoy."

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

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

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