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Press Release

Contra Costa Updates Health Order to Align with California's COVID-19 Blueprint

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Monday, September 14, 2020

Contra Costa County today aligned its COVID-19 social distancing health order with California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/) (<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>), so the county no longer has different reopening rules for businesses and activities beyond what the state requires or allows.

The change, effective at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, simplifies the plan for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Contra Costa so that residents and local businesses can better understand and identify the steps we all need to take to keep ourselves, our families, workers and customers safer during the pandemic.

The update to Contra Costa's health order does allow some additional businesses to reopen, following the state health guidelines for their industries:

- Personal care services that involve close contact with the face may begin operating outdoors, except for tattooing, piercing and nonmedical electrolysis
- Racetracks and cardrooms may operate outdoors
- Music, television and film production may resume
- Professional sports without live audiences

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may resume

These changes are consistent with Contra Costa's placement in the purple tier of the state's blueprint, indicating that COVID-19 is widespread in the county. When the data tracked by the state show sustained improvement for two weeks, the county will move into the red tier, allowing more businesses and activities to reopen.

Information about the state's blueprint, including health guidelines for businesses and activities, which business sectors are not currently safe to operate in Contra Costa, and how the guidelines will change as the county makes progress against COVID-19, are all available at covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy (<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>).

Contra Costa's current health orders retain health guidelines for social bubbles and structured contact between people from different households, face coverings and physical distancing. The [FAQ](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions>) and [Safer Social Interactions](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/safer-social-interactions) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/safer-social-interactions>) pages at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>) have information about keeping safer during the pandemic.

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) continues to monitor data that show how the virus is spreading through our community, including hospitalizations and how the pandemic is impacting the county's healthcare system. If there is a sudden surge in COVID-19 transmission in the future, the county may need to temporarily impose more restrictions to protect the public health.

One way Contra Costans can help keep our county's healthcare system running smoothly is to get a flu vaccine – talk to your health provider about getting one. CCHS is also planning community vaccination clinics beginning in October.

Anyone who lives or works in Contra Costa can help make the county safer from COVID-19 and reopen more quickly is to get a fast, free COVID-19 test at a community testing site (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested>).

The state has reduced the requirements for moving into less restrictive tiers for counties that test many people every day, and other Bay Area counties have already qualified for this benefit.

Make a COVID-19 testing appointment today by calling 1-844-421-0804 or booking online at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/coronavirus) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>) – hit the "Get Tested" button. This site is also an official source for local information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

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