



Santa Clara County
**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

MANDATORY DIRECTIVE:



Amusement Parks

Issued October 30, 2020

sccgov.org/coronavirus

Revised: November 16, 2020

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department

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MANDATORY DIRECTIVE FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS

Please confirm that your facility or worksite may open under the State Order. Where there is a difference between the local County Order and the State Order, the more restrictive order must be followed. The State also has specific guidance for certain facilities and worksites that must be followed in addition to this mandatory directive.

Information on the State’s Order and State guidance is available at covid19.ca.gov.

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On August 28, 2020, the State issued a Statewide Public Health Officer Order (“State Order,” available [here](#)) and the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“Blueprint,” available [here](#)). The State Order and Blueprint establish statewide restrictions applicable to each “tier” to which counties are assigned.

Amusement parks must follow the mandatory requirements in this Directive and any other applicable County Health Officer Directive, the County Health Officer’s Revised Risk Reduction Order issued on October 5, 2020, the applicable restrictions under the State Order and Blueprint, the State’s COVID-19 Industry Guidance documents, and any applicable health and safety regulations. When there is a difference between these rules, the most restrictive rule must be followed.

The COVID-19 virus continues to circulate locally, nationally, and globally. Current medical and scientific evidence shows that COVID-19 is spread more easily when large numbers of people gather in crowds, especially if they are also using high-touch equipment. Because amusement parks both attract crowds and involve high-touch equipment, they pose a high risk of COVID-19 transmission.

This Directive explains the County Health Officer’s closure of all indoor and outdoor amusement parks. **This Directive is mandatory, and failure to follow it is a violation of the Health Officer’s Order issued on October 5, 2020** (“Order”).

Closure of All Indoor and Outdoor Amusement Parks

1. Definition of “Amusement Park”

As used in this Directive, “amusement park” refers to a temporary or permanent business facility (including a fair, carnival, theme park, or waterpark) that operates multiple amusement rides at the same business location.

For clarity, the term “amusement park” does not include business facilities operating a single amusement ride (such as a standalone carousel, train ride, or Ferris wheel). Any business facility operating a single amusement ride must operate that ride in compliance with the rules in the State’s [COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Family Entertainment Centers](#).

2. Amusement Parks May Not Operate

Because they pose a particularly high risk of COVID-19 transmission, **amusement parks may not operate either indoors or outdoors**. Amusement park personnel may be on-site to perform minimum basic operations (such as payroll activities or ride maintenance), but amusement parks must be completely closed to the public.

Note: Business facilities with multiple amusement rides onsite may be open to the public *only* if they do not operate as amusement parks. This means they must close all or all but one of their amusement rides. As explained above, business facilities that operate *two or more amusement rides* are considered amusement parks.

Stay Informed

For answers to frequently asked questions about this industry and other topics, please see the [FAQ page](#). **Please note that this Directive may be updated**. For up-to-date information on the Health Officer Order, visit the County Public Health Department’s website at www.sccgov.org/coronavirus.