

Executive Summary of Revisions to the Health Officer's Mandatory Directives Issued November 28, 2020

The number of Santa Clara County residents contracting COVID-19 and the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has continued to rise significantly over the last several weeks. If these trends continue, hospitals in the County will reach or exceed their capacity within the next few weeks. At present, several hospitals in the county, particularly those serving the eastern and southern parts of the county have few if any ICU beds available.

To reduce the likelihood of a surge in hospitalizations that would exceed the capacity of hospitals in the county, the Health Officer is making several modifications to the current Mandatory Directives applicable to businesses and county residents, including requiring that certain sectors modify their operations to increase safety, reducing the number of persons allowed in facilities at any one time, and reducing the size of outdoor gatherings. Further, certain higher risk activities will be prohibited.

The Health Officer is also issuing a Mandatory Directive on Travel, which strongly discourages leisure and non-essential travel, and requires persons entering the county to quarantine for 14 days upon return from travel of more than 150 miles.

These revised and new Mandatory Directives will take effect on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and will remain in effect until December 21, 2020 at 5:00 a.m. unless they are extended.

Below are key changes being made to the Mandatory Directives:

Capacity Limits for Indoor Facilities Open to the Public:

Stores and other facilities open to the public will be limited to 10% capacity indoors. Grocery stores, drug stores, and pharmacies, however, will be allowed to operate at 25% capacity indoors to ensure adequate access to food and medicine.

All facilities open to the public must establish a "metering system" to ensure that the applicable capacity limits are not exceeded by, for example, posting an employee at the facility entrance to track the number of people entering and exiting.

Outdoor Gatherings:

Gatherings continue to be allowed only outdoors, with a maximum of 100 people. The State limits such gatherings to First Amendment protected activities, such as religious services or protests.

Professional, Collegiate, and Youth Sports:

All recreational activities that involve physical contact or close proximity to persons outside one's household, including all contact sports, will be temporarily prohibited. People can continue to engage in outdoor athletics and recreation where social distancing can be maintained at all times.

Cardrooms:

Cardrooms are temporarily closed.

Hotels and Other Lodging Facilities:

Hotels and other lodging facilities will be open only for essential travel and for use to facilitate isolation or quarantine.

Quarantine Post-Travel:

Leisure and non-essential travel are strongly discouraged, and a new Mandatory Directive on Travel will require people to quarantine for 14 days upon return to the County from travel of more than 150 miles. Healthcare workers traveling into the county to provide care or patients traveling into the county to obtain treatment will be exempted from this requirement.

Below are key rules under the Revised Risk Reduction Order:

Consistency with State's Blueprint: Unless otherwise specified in the County's Order or Mandatory Directives, businesses are allowed to open to the extent allowed under the State's Blueprint and the restrictions applicable to the tier to which the County is assigned.

Requirements Applicable to All Businesses: The Revised Order continues to require that all businesses follow a set of rules to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, including:

- 1. Telework:** All businesses must continue to require workers to do their jobs from homewhenever possible. Workers can go into work only to complete the job duties they can't complete from home.
- 2. Social Distancing Protocol requirements:** All businesses must complete and submit a Revised Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities on the County's website at COVID19Prepared.org. **Social Distancing Protocols submitted prior to October 11, 2020 are no longer valid.** The Revised Social Distancing Protocols must be filled out using an updated template for the Social Distancing Protocol at COVID19Prepared.org.
- 3. Positive case reporting:** All businesses (and governmental entities) are legally required to report to the Public Health Department within 4 hours if they learn that any of their workers are confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. They must also ensure workers alert them if they test positive.
- 4. Capacity Limitation:** All businesses must comply with applicable capacity limitations established in the [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#).