

County Moves from Red to Orange

The State of California announced on October 13 that Santa Clara County has been moved from red (substantial transmission) to orange (moderate transmissions) on the State's color-coded [safety measurement system](#), which opens the door for indoor dining and indoor gatherings. On September 8, the County moved from purple (widespread transmission) to red.

This new Orange Tier status became effective on Wednesday, October 14, with revised directives from the County Public Health Department for protocols and safety precautions that must be followed under the County's [Risk Reduction Order](#), which was revised last week in anticipation of the Orange Tier status. Click [here](#) for a summary of the changes.

Indoor dining and indoor gatherings will still be limited in the County's efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, with indoor gatherings of up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer, and indoor dining up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer. Use this link to read the revised [directives for dining](#) and this link for revised [directives on gatherings](#).

All businesses must submit to the County an update protocol form.



Thank you to everyone who during the past seven months has vigilantly followed the safety measures and made sacrifices in our efforts to stop COVID-19. Your actions have helped bring the County to where we are today and contributed to the State's decision to move the County into the Orange Tier.

The rate of new cases of COVID-19 in the County is declining, along with the rate of people being hospitalized. The County continues to test at the 7-day average rate of 6,000 to 7,000 a day, with a very low positivity rate of 1.7%. The rate of cases among the Latino population is also declining slightly.

But under the State's system, a County could be moved back a tier if numbers or transmission and other health indicators were to spike. So, we need to keep up the practices that we know have worked to keep us healthy: Wear masks when outside your home, keep a physical distance of at least six feet from others not in your household, wash your hands frequently, keep in mind that outdoors is safer than indoors and keep gatherings at a size that is safe for participants.

You can keep up with the changes, including all the revised directives, at sccgov.org/coronavirus. You can also watch the October 13 news conference on the changes by clicking [here](#).