

Executive Summary of the Revised Risk Reduction Order Issued October 5, 2020



The Revised Risk Reduction Order, which will go into effect when the County moves into Tier 3 (the Orange Tier) under the State's "[Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)," generally allows all businesses in the County to operate if the State allows them to be open. Under the Revised Risk Reduction Order, many additional activities and business operations can resume, including indoor dining and indoor gatherings. *Importantly, this does not mean that the Health Officer considers all open activities to be safe.* COVID-19 continues to pose a severe risk to residents of Santa Clara County, and the Health Officer urges residents to continue taking precautions, including staying home when possible, minimizing interaction with people outside one's household, maintaining social distance, wearing face coverings, and moving as many activities outdoors as possible. Individuals over age 50 and those with serious underlying medical conditions are at greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Indoor dining and indoor gatherings are particularly high risk activities.

Below are key changes that will occur when the Revised Risk Reduction Order takes effect:

Consistency with Orange Tier

Unless otherwise specified in the County's Revised Order or Mandatory Directives, businesses are allowed to open to the extent allowed under the State's Orange Tier.

Gatherings

The Order strongly discourages gatherings, especially indoor gatherings, because convening with other households for long periods poses a particularly high risk of COVID-19 transmission. The Order does, however, allow both outdoor gatherings (up to 200 people) and indoor gatherings (up to 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer). The rules for gatherings (including theaters) are in the Health Officer's revised [Mandatory Directive for Gatherings](#).

Indoor Dining

Indoor dining will be allowed, subject to various safety requirements. However, because indoor dining is a high-risk activity, the Health Officer particularly discourages persons at high risk for serious illness if they contract COVID-19, or those who have frequent contact with persons at high risk, from partaking in indoor dining. Under the revised order, restaurants may open for indoor services up to 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer. The new rules for indoor and outdoor dining will be set forth in a forthcoming Mandatory Directive for Dining.

Modification of Directives

In order to better align with the State's restrictions applicable in counties in the Orange Tier, forthcoming modifications to various other directives will likewise take effect at the time the County moves into the Orange Tier and the Revised Risk Reduction goes into effect.

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 home whenever 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 Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities on the County's website at [COVID19Prepared.org](https://www.sccgov.org/sites/cphd/COVID19Prepared.org). *Prior Social Distancing Protocols must be updated within 14 days of when the Revised Order takes effect using a revised template for the Social Distancing Protocol that will be made available soon.*
- 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.