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Shelter at Home Health Officer Order Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated June 19, 2020
(new updates in red)

When does the County's current Shelter-at-Home Order expire?

The County's current Shelter-at-Home Order (Order) was updated and amended on **June 18, 2020**. The Order continues to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer, and it has no predetermined end date. The Order modifies certain requirements to be consistent with the State of California's "Roadmap to Modify the Stay At Home Order."

What does this Order do?

It requires that people continue to shelter in their places of residence to slow the spread of COVID-19 unless they are engaged in the activities allowed by the Order, which are discussed more below. This Order permits additional businesses and activities in Expanded Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the State's Roadmap to reopen.

How does the Governor's order interact with the local order?

The Governor's order applies statewide. Local health officers can adopt different public health orders, as warranted by local conditions. Once the State issues guidance about how a particular business sector or activity can safely reopen, the local health officer can decide, based on local conditions and disease epidemiology, whether it is prudent to allow such sectors to reopen in Napa County. If local public health conditions change after new sectors or activities reopen, then a new local Shelter-at-Home Order may be issued to address the new local conditions.

Please remember that the opening of additional businesses is possible for our community only because the County could attest to the State that we are sufficiently prepared for a possible surge of COVID-19 cases. In order for more reopening to occur as planned in Napa County, **and to keep businesses and activities open going forward**, we must all continue to engage in physical distancing, follow the [cloth face covering requirements issued by the State on June 18, 2020](#) and adhere to all aspects of guidance documents for safely reopening business sectors and activities. The County's continued progress depends upon all of us acting in socially and behaviorally responsible ways. Thank you for your help!



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What does it mean to “shelter at home”?

The term “shelter at home” means to stay in your home and not leave unless necessary for one of the designated exceptions listed in the Order.

What is the difference between “sheltering at home” and “social/physical distancing”?

Sheltering at home is a more protective form of social/physical distancing. Sheltering at home means: Stay home and only go out for those reasons identified in the Order. Social/physical distancing means: Stay six feet or more away from others and no gatherings.

What activities may I leave my home for?

- To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to your health and safety, or for the health and safety of your household members. This includes activities like obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a healthcare professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home.
- To obtain necessary household services and supplies, or to deliver those services and supplies to others such as food and other products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences.
- To engage in outdoor activities where you can maintain a safe distance of six feet from those not in your household and not share equipment. The State of California maintains a list of those outdoor and activities at their website: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs>.
- To work in or interact with businesses and activities that have been allowed to reopen.

May I travel at this time?

Travel is permitted in Napa County for urgent matters, work, caretaking and household needs, and to participate in open business sectors and permitted recreational activities. Individuals should avoid traveling long distances as much as possible. If you are traveling outside of Napa County, please check with your destination on their local rules and requirements.

Are face coverings required?

On June 18, 2020, the State of California issued new face covering requirements. In general, face coverings are required inside all buildings that are open to the public, when waiting in line to access an indoor public space, or when outside and six feet of distance cannot be maintained from those not in your household. There are exclusions, like when eating and drinking, or when you are engaged in outdoor activities, and there are exceptions for certain populations, like young children or people who have conditions that make it harder to breathe. For more information on face covering requirements, visit: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2813/Shelter-at-Home-Order>.



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May I conduct or participate in faith-based services?

Faith based services that strictly comply with State guidance can be conducted in person. The guidance can be found at: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2840/Industry-Guidance>.

Faith based services that cannot comply with the State guidance should be conducted virtually.

Can I obtain gardening and landscaping services?

Yes.

Can salon services be offered at this time?

Hair salons and barber shops that strictly comply with State guidance can open for limited services. The guidance can be found at: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2840/Industry-Guidance>. Customers and staff must wear cloth face coverings at all times during services.

Personal services including nail salons, massage therapy, aesthetician and cosmetology services, ear piercing salons, and tattoo parlors that strictly comply with State guidance can open. The guidance document can be found here: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2840/Industry-Guidance>. Customers and staff must wear cloth face coverings except when the service cannot be delivered while the customer is wearing a face covering.

Can residential cleaning and repair services resume at this time?

Yes, residential cleaning, repair and maintenance may resume as long as physical distancing and **face covering** protocols are followed.

Is this Health Order mandatory or is it just guidance?

This Order is mandatory. All persons and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order.

Why is this Order in place?

This Order is in place to address the ongoing spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 within the County and throughout California. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, which is a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. It is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.



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Please also remember that the COVID-19 virus is as contagious and transmissible as it was when the Shelter-at-Home Orders were first issued in March 2020. There is still no cure and no vaccine. The only reason why prior Orders are being relaxed slightly is because we have been able to preserve and protect our healthcare capacity. This only means that should you require hospitalization, including being in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and needing a ventilator, we believe there is sufficient availability. However, no one should feel overly comforted by this fact, since the most ideal outcome is that no one should need to be hospitalized in the first place. Not only does this mean that your physical health is significantly compromised, it also means we are subjecting our frontline healthcare workers to the virus. Therefore, it is imperative that we all continue to take the virus seriously.

What happens if I don't comply with this Order?

This Order is a legal Order issued under the authority of California law. You are required to comply, and it is a misdemeanor not to follow the Order punishable by fine, imprisonment or both (although the intent is not for anyone to get in trouble). It is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community.

Can I still seek non-essential medical care like eye exams, teeth cleaning, elective procedures, etc.?

As Shelter-at-Home orders are being relaxed a bit, more health care services are being made available, with adaptations. Please check with your provider of routine care for specific guidance about what they are offering at this time. If a health care service is being offered, you should make a personal choice about the risk of exposure balanced against the associated risk of delaying preventative care.

What if my pet needs access to care?

Animal care facilities that provide food, shelter, veterinary and/or routine care and other necessities of life for animals may operate with proper physical distancing **and face covering** protocols.

Can I take public transit?

Yes, but public transit should be avoided if possible. People riding on public transportation must practice social distancing. This means maintaining at least six (6) feet distance from one another, which is approximately two to three steps away. Riders should also wear cloth face coverings and should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after riding.



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Can I leave home to work out or engage in recreational activities?

Outdoor group recreation is allowed at this time for both youth and adults as long as guidance for physical distancing and face coverings is adhered to and there is no shared equipment use. Fitness equipment at parks, playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities with shared surfaces should remain closed.

Indoor gyms and fitness studios may now open with strict adherence to State guidance. Guidance can be found here: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2840/Industry-Guidance>

Are summer day camps and youth education and recreational programs that provide childcare allowed to resume?

Yes. The County initially provided reopening guidance, but State guidance is now available, and that is what providers and parents should follow.

Can I take my kids to the playground?

No. Recreational areas with equipment that is shared or areas where people gather close together, like playgrounds and picnic areas, must remain closed at this time.

Can I visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?

Generally, no. Please contact the facility you want to visit by phone before you visit to inquire about the status of visits. This is difficult, but it is necessary in order to protect hospital staff and other patients. When possible, streaming or similar technology is recommended.

Can I attend a funeral?

Yes, if the funeral has no more than 10 individuals present. If the funeral anticipates having more than 10 individuals, streaming or similar technology can be used.

Can I get together with family, friends and neighbors?

No, all public and private gatherings with those outside a person's household are prohibited, except as set forth by the State Public Health Officer. The exception to this is the provision of necessary care for a family member or pet in another household that has no other source of care.

Is golfing permitted?

The use of golf courses and golf driving ranges is permitted with proper physical distancing.



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Is tennis and pickle ball permitted?

Yes. The use of tennis courts is permitted with physical distancing. Equipment should only be shared with members of your household.

Are swimming pools able to open?

Yes, public and semi-private (i.e. homeowners associations) swimming pools are permitted subject to the rules of the facility/association, proper maintenance including disinfection, and adherence to physical distancing protocols.

Private residential pools may also be used but should be limited to the members of the household. Gatherings are not permitted under State's Stay At Home Order.

Indoor pools may open based on the fitness center guidance:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf>

I still have questions, whom should I contact?

Businesses are encouraged to work with and through their local Chamber of Commerce or industry group to answer questions. Questions for the County can be emailed to

coronavirus@countyofnapa.org.