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

Updated June 4, 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 issued on May 7, and it supersedes the Order issued on April 22 directing all individuals to shelter at home. The Order continues to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer, and it has no end date. The Order modified 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. When people need to leave their homes for the purposes allowed by this Order, they must comply with physical distancing requirements and wear a cloth face covering when seeking services inside a business or when in an indoor work space and within six feet of other people.

The Order issued on May 7 includes the allowance of outdoor recreation sports that can comply with physical distancing requirements; however, person-to-person contact sports are still prohibited. Drive-in activities that can comply with physical distancing requirements are also allowed by this Order.

Businesses will be permitted to reopen within the State of California's framework that identifies four-stages to reopening.

Finally, the Order issued on May 7 requires wearing cloth face coverings when inside places of business and in workplaces when interacting with any person where six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. The face coverings requirement provides for exclusions, such as when you are engaged in outdoor activities, and exceptions for certain populations.

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. The local order has been amended to largely adopt the State's list of essential business and activities.



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On Friday, May 29, Governor Newsom announced that local governments will be the deciders for counties moving further into Stage 3 of the State’s reopening plan. What does this mean for Napa County?

The State’s current plan is to issue guidance regarding “How” sectors can re-open, but leave the timing (“When”) to the Counties, based on local conditions.

Our current local Shelter-at-Home Order (May 7) and our local conditions permit such reopening to occur as State guidance is issued. This means that Napa County is unable to approve the reopening of any sectors until such guidance documents are posted to the State's website. Once State guidance documents are posted, the local health officer can decide, based on local conditions and disease epidemiology, whether it is prudent to allow such sectors to reopen. Currently, our local Shelter-at-Home Order and our local conditions permit such reopening to occur as State guidance is issued. If local conditions change (i.e., worsen), then a new local Shelter-at-Home Order will be issued that may set forth a different process.

In limited instances, the State of California has announced that a Stage 2 business sector is permitted to reopen, such as summer schools and day camps for children, but has not provided reopening guidance. When that happens, Napa County will develop and post guidance for that sector to follow so that it can reopen safely.

Please remember that this further progression through Stage 2 and into Stage 3 is possible for our community only because the County’s variance attestation that we are sufficiently prepared for a possible surge was posted by the State on May 19. In order for more reopening to occur in Napa County, we must all continue to engage in physical distancing, follow the cloth face coverings requirements, and adhere to all aspects of State industry guidance documents. The County's continued progress depends upon all of us acting in socially and behaviorally responsible ways. Thank you for your help!

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 6 feet or more away from others and no gatherings.



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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 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 indoor activities at their website: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs>.
- To engage in permitted activities allowed per the State of California's "Stage 2" that comply with physical distancing requirements.

May I travel at this time?

No, tourism and travel for non-essential purposes is not allowed at this time. Recreation should be limited to the County of residence.

Are face coverings required?

Napa County's local order requires wearing cloth face coverings when inside places of business or in workplaces, and interacting with any person where six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. The face coverings requirement provides for 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>

What about first responders?

All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement are exempt from this Order.

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.



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Can I obtain gardening and landscaping services?

Yes. Arborists, landscapers, gardeners, and similar service professionals are essential to maintain the habitability, sanitation, maintenance, or safety of a business or residence.

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.

Nail salons, massage parlors, aestheticians and cosmetology, ear piercing salons, and tattoo parlors are not permitted to operate in the State of California at this time. These activities will likely be included in Stage 3 and subject to further guidance from the State of California

Can residential cleaning and repair services resume at this time?

Yes, residential cleaning, repair and maintenance may resume as long as physical distancing 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 now 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.

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 Order 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



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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 do I do if I need to obtain cannabis?

Licensed cannabis businesses will remain open, but shall operate only for the purpose of providing cannabis and only via curbside pickup or delivery.

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 protocols.

Should I stock up on food, necessities like toilet paper, and on medicines?

No, you will continue to be able to purchase these items whenever you need them. Grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores will remain open. To ensure there is enough for everyone, please continue to buy normal quantities of these items on the same schedule you normally do.

Can I still get mail and deliveries?

Yes. You will still be able to get mail and other deliveries at your home.



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Can I still order the things I need online and have them delivered to my residence?

Yes. The Order identifies businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences as “essential businesses” that may continue to operate.

Can I take public transit?

Yes, but public transit can only be used to perform “essential activities,” to get to and from work to operate “essential businesses,” or to maintain “essential governmental functions,” as those terms are defined in the Order. People riding on public transport must practice social distancing. This means maintaining at least six (6) feet distance from one another, which is appropriately two to three steps away.

Can I get my prescriptions or other health care needs? Can I leave home to go to the pharmacy to get my prescription filled?

Yes. Drug stores and other medical supply stores are allowed to operate. When possible you should have the drug store deliver your prescription medicine to your home.

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

If you will be outdoors and not in close contact with other people or using shared equipment that other people outside your household have touched, yes. Otherwise, no. Fitness centers, gyms, recreational centers, fitness equipment at parks, basketball courts, playgrounds and other recreational activities with shared surfaces are not allowed. Bocce ball, corn hole and other like activities are permitted as long as physical distancing is maintained and equipment is not shared with those outside your household.

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

Yes, as part of Phase 2, the California Department of Public Health has already approved the opening of childcare facilities, children’s summer day camps and children’s programs (i.e., recreation and educational programs, including lessons) under Stage 2. The State has provided guidance for childcare facilities, but not for day camps or other recreational and educational programs for children. In the absence of State guidance, the County has prepared guidance for this sector that can be found here: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2840/Industry-Guidance>

When guidance is released from the State of California, it will be posted on the County’s website and will be the controlling guidance that should be followed.

The operation of summer camps and programs for children requires stable groups of no more than 10 children for increments of at least three weeks. Outdoor spaces are encouraged, but if



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indoor spaces are used, the indoor area must be large enough to separately accommodate the number of groups, and each group should be limited to the same location for the entirety of the three-week increment.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and limit interactions outside the household, children should be limited to one activity every three weeks.

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 be closed and you cannot use them while the Order is in effect. You can take your kids to the park or other areas to run around in open spaces, or bring your own sports equipment to an open space as long as it is used only by members of your own household and not shared with other people.

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 maximum compliance with the requirements outlined in Appendix C of the revised Order, except that as of May 27, 2020, the County no longer requires adherence to paragraphs 11 (lifting cups) and 12 (removal of flag sticks) of Appendix C. The owner or manager of each golfing site shall provide security or patrolling to ensure golfers' compliance with the Social Distancing and Golfing Site requirements.



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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.

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.