



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mono County Health Department

www.monohealth.com/Coronavirus

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REGIONAL STAY-AT-HOME ORDER LIFTED FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION: MONO COUNTY REASSIGNED TO PURPLE TIER

January 25, 2021 – Effective today, officials with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) ended the Regional Stay-at-Home Order issued on Sunday, December 6, 2020 for all regions statewide. Mono County will re-enter the most restrictive **Tier 1 Widespread (Purple)** of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (Blueprint), the State’s “stringent and slow plan for living with COVID-19 (Coronavirus)” based on our high rates of local transmission.

“California is slowly starting to emerge from the most dangerous surge of this pandemic yet, which is the light at the end of the tunnel we’ve been hoping for,” said California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. *“Seven weeks ago, our hospitals and front-line medical workers were stretched to their limits, but Californians heard the urgent message to stay home when possible and our surge after the December holidays did not overwhelm the health care system to the degree we had feared.”*

The State officially announced the Southern California Region’s four-week adult ICU projections on Monday, January 25, 2021. Based on current case rates, the Southern California Region ICU capacity is estimated to remain above 15% four weeks from now. It should be noted that in addition to reductions in case rates and the reproductive number in our region, the State adopted a new method of measuring ICU capacity, which takes proven hospital surge capacity into account, improving the monthly outlook.

“While the ICU capacity in the Southern California Region has improved, the COVID-19 test positivity rate and cases per 100,000 (7-day average) for Mono County remain alarmingly high at 18.4% and 111.5 respectively,” stated Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer. *“In addition, we are also very worried about the effects of the mutant virus strains that are expected to become predominant here and*

across the country. This is definitely not the time to relax safeguards intended to reduce the spread of the virus. While it is great that some small business operators can reopen, many restrictions will remain in place. In addition to the State’s Purple Tier restrictions, as a local jurisdiction we feel it is incumbent upon us to strive to limit the number of visitors to Mono County and Mammoth Lakes during this precarious time by imposing tier-based lodging restrictions and some limits on visitation to our local ski resorts.”

Under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, Mono County will remain in the Purple Tier for at least three weeks. CDPH will assess indicators weekly each Monday and release updated tier assignments each Tuesday. In order to move from the Purple Tier to the next, less restrictive “Substantial” tier (Red), Mono County must achieve a case rate of 7 per 100,000 per day and percent positivity under 8%. A county must meet criteria for the next less restrictive tier for both measures for the prior two consecutive weeks in order to progress to the next tier and can only move forward one tier at a time. In Mono County, that case rate translates into 7 cases per week or less, which is far below our current situation of over 100.

Tier 1 Widespread (Purple) requires the temporary closure of much indoor business and religious activity while allowing many operations to continue outdoors, where the risk of infection is lower. Business owners and residents are encouraged to review the restrictions and plan your business operations and personal behavior accordingly. To view tier level descriptions, statewide county rankings, and what activities are allowable in Mono County, please visit [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_2020.pdf) or **open the Activity and Business**

Tiers

Framework:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_2020.pdf.

Summary Status of Mono County Business Sector Operations (Effective January 25, 2021)

Open Indoors with Modifications* (based on Industry Guidance: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>):

- Critical Infrastructure
 - Open with modifications
- Hair Salons and Barbershops
 - Open indoors with modifications
- Offices

- Remote
- Personal Care Services
 - Open indoors with modifications
- Retail
 - Open indoors with modifications - Max. 25% capacity
 - Grocery stores must limit to 50% capacity

Hotels and Lodging

The Mono County Public Health Officer Order related to Lodging Facilities issued on December 5, 2020 and revised on January 9, 2021 is no longer in effect, but a new order is forthcoming. Hotels and short-term lodging can open with modifications, subject to the following local limits:

- Purple Tier – **60% of capacity at any time** for Hotels, Motels, Condo-Hotels and Management Companies operating 10 or more privately owned properties, and no more than 18 rental days per unit per month for operators with less than 10 privately owned properties.

Vacancy Period:

- Short-term lodging facilities (including short-term rentals, vacation rentals, timeshares, or similar units) are required to maintain a 24-hour vacancy period between each occupancy.
- Hotels and Condo/Hotels are required to leave rooms/units vacant for a 24-hour period between each occupancy (with the exception of cleaning staff with appropriate PPE).

Guest Amenities:

- Fitness centers can be open outdoors only with modifications
- Indoor pools, hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms must remain closed. Outdoor pools/hot tubs are limited to the same household unit.
- Drowning prevention classes, including swim lessons with certified instructors, are permitted in indoor and outdoor swimming pools in all tiers, as they are deemed essential.

Open Outdoors with Modifications, or closed* (based on Industry Guidance:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>):

- Restaurants

- Open outdoors with modifications
- Wineries and tasting rooms
 - Outdoor only with modifications
- Bars, Breweries and Distilleries
 - No meal provided – Closed
 - Meal is provided – Open outdoors with Restaurant modifications
- Museums
 - Open outdoors with modifications
- Places of Worship
 - Open outdoors with modifications
- Movie Theaters
 - Open outdoors with modifications
- Gyms and Fitness Centers
 - Open outdoors with modifications
- Family Entertainment Centers (including Bowling Alleys & Climbing Walls)
 - Outdoor Only with modifications
- Indoor pools, hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms
 - Closed

School Guidance

CDPH Guidance states that if schools have not re-opened, Grades 7-12 can only open in the Red Tier. Grades K-6 can open for in-person instruction in the Purple Tier if the case rate is below 25 cases per 100,000/day for 5 consecutive days. The case rate for Mono County is currently over four-times higher (111.5) than the required state standards for reopening. As per the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Schools that have already re-opened, like the Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD) can remain open even if the tier position worsens.

The Limited Stay at Home Order, which limits non-essential activities between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., expires with the lifting of the Regional Stay-at-Home Order.

***County Health Orders or (within the Town) Town Orders, supersede State guidelines when and if they are stricter than the State. Business operators are required to adhere to current County**

**Health Officer Orders and Interim Business Guidelines published under ‘Directives’ online at:
MonoHealth.com/Coronavirus.**

All Mono County residents and visitors are asked to do their part to **#StaySafeToStayOpen**. This is more than a hashtag – it needs to become a way of life.

Additional information regarding the Blueprint for a Safer Economy is available online: <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/> or by visiting the Mono County COVID-19 Portal in English: **MonoHealth.com/Coronavirus** or Spanish: <https://monohealth.com/coronavirus-es>.

Cover. Distance. Wash. **#StaySafeToStayOpen #VaccinateMono**

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