

[Select language](#) ▼[Search this site](#)
Menu**FOR
ALL****[COVID19.CA.GOV](https://covid19.ca.gov)**
[Your Actions Save Lives](#)

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Last updated March 24, 2021 at 11:19 AM

Find what may be open near you

County**Activity****GET STATUS**

California's blueprint for reopening has criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities based on the level of spread of COVID-19.

On this page:

› [Current tier assignments](#)

› [Reopening safely for all communities](#)

› [Questions and answers](#)

Current tier assignments as of March 23, 2021

Every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its positivity rate, adjusted case rate, and health equity metric. Counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving to a less restrictive tier. Counties must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks to move to a less restrictive tier. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. Read more about [tier assignment rules](#).

On March 12, 2021, California reached 2 million vaccination doses in the vaccine equity metric. New Blueprint tier assignments were announced and went into effect on March 14, 2021.

California's county risk levels

WIDESPREAD

Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed

SUBSTANTIAL

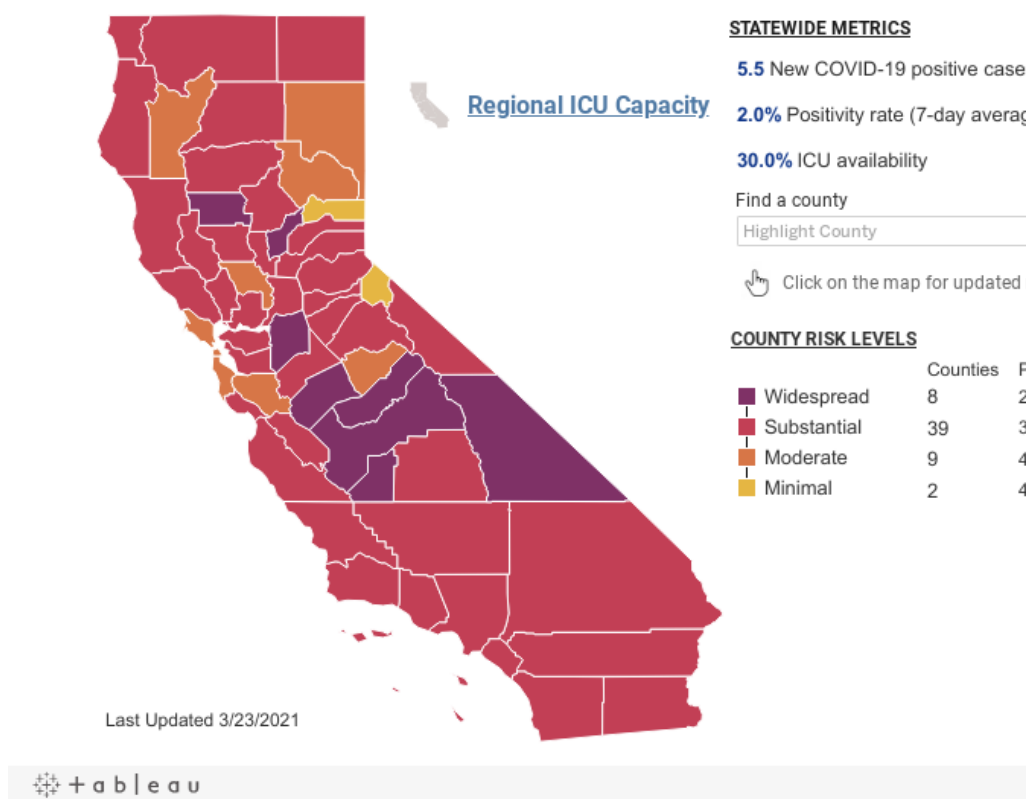
Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed

MODERATE

Some indoor business operations are open with modifications

MINIMAL

Most indoor business operations are open with modifications



All data and tier assignments are based on results from week ending March 13, 2021. See how tiers are assigned and changed, as well as county historical data (**California Blueprint Data Chart**), at [CDPH's Blueprint for a Safer Economy framework](#). Learn about regional ICU capacity at [CDPH's ICU Data](#).

Reopening safely for all communities

COVID-19 has impacted some communities more than others. Adults 65 and older, people with pre-existing health conditions, Latinos, Blacks, Pacific Islanders, people who are low-income, and our essential worker community all

face higher rates of infection and death.

Key indicators that determine reopening

Adjusted case rate Daily new cases (per 100k)	7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed
Positivity rate	7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive
Health equity metric (Positivity rate for HPI quartile 1)	7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive for the lowest quartile, quartile 1, according to the Healthy Places Index
Vaccines administered	Number of vaccines doses administered statewide to people in the Health Places Index lowest quartile, quartile 1 (Vaccine Equity Metric)

Health equity metric

Counties must address COVID-19 in **all** communities to open further, including making sure the positivity rate in certain neighborhoods (health equity metric) does not significantly lag behind overall county positivity rates. These efforts need cross-sector and broad partnerships to succeed. The health equity metric is only used to decide whether a county can move to a less restrictive tier. Learn more about this [focus on equity](#).

Vaccine equity metric

Forty percent (40%) of COVID-19 cases and deaths occur in California's lowest Healthy Places Index (HPI) quartile. The [Healthy Places Index](#), developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, helps us visualize community conditions such as low income, education completeness, and health care access. To end the pandemic, we're setting aside forty percent (40%) of vaccines to distribute to people in HPI quartile 1. This approach will help lower the rate of community infection, hospitalization, and death. It will also help reduce potential new variants that might emerge. You can track the progress of vaccines administered to HPI quartiles on our [vaccine dashboard](#).

We've met our goal of administering 2 million vaccine doses to the hardest-hit communities statewide. Because of this, the Blueprint for a Safer Economy tiers allow for somewhat higher case rates in the Substantial (red) tier. Learn more about these changes in CDPH's Blueprint for a Safer Economy framework.

How to move between risk levels

There are two measures to determine how counties move through tiers: case rates and test positivity. We've been tracking these measures through regular progression and accelerated progression. To move to a higher tier with regular progression, a county must meet the case rate and test positivity thresholds for that tier for two consecutive weeks. Accelerated progression requires that test positivity and health equity metric are especially low with a declining case rate to move to a less restrictive tier. Read

comprehensive detail about [how counties can move through tiers](#).

When CA had **less than 2 million** vaccine doses administered in HPI quartile 1



Current: Because CA has **2 million** vaccine doses administered in HPI quartile 1



The case rate, test positivity, and health equity metric thresholds must be met to move forward toward more reopening.

WIDESPREAD

- More than 10.0 daily new cases (per 100k)*
- More than 8.0% positive test for entire county**

SUBSTANTIAL

- 4.0 – 10.0 daily new cases (per 100k)*
- 5.0 – 8.0% positive tests for entire county**
- Less than 8.1% positive tests for health equity quartile**

When CA has **4 million** vaccine doses administered in HPI quartile 1



The positivity rate in the matrix above excludes people in state and federal prisons, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, US Marshal detention facilities, and Department of State Hospitals facilities.

Did you find what you were looking for?

*Small counties (those with a population less than 106,000) may be subject to alternate case assessment measures for purposes of tier assignment.

**Health equity metric is not applied for small counties. The health equity metric is used to move to a less restrictive tier.

FOR
EXPLORE MORE DATA 
ALL

Questions and answers

About COVID-19 restrictions

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Why can some activities and businesses open while others have to stay closed?

Vaccines



Industry guidance

What happens if my county's case rate and positivity measures fall into two different tiers?

Local info and alerts



Can my school open under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy?

COVID-19 hotline



1-833-422-4255

What can I do to help my county reach a lower tier?

COVID-19 hotlines and resources



[CA.gov](#)

[Department of Public Health](#)

[Governor's Newsroom](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Register to vote](#)

Official California State Government Website

