

Language ▼

Search

Menu



COVID19.CA.GOV
Your Actions Save Lives

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Last updated March 16, 2021 at 11:57 AM

Find what may be open near you

County

Activity

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 16, 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

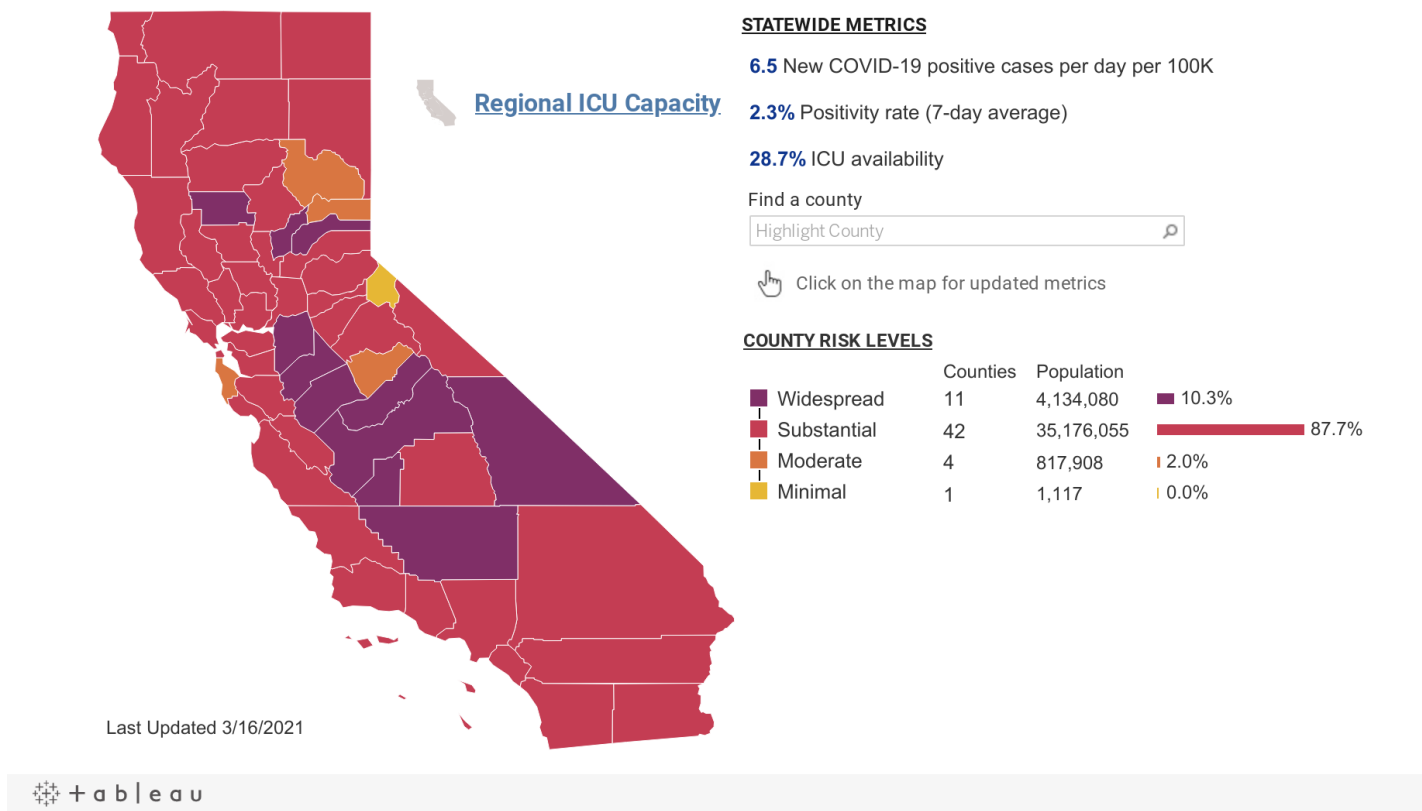
Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed

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 6, 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

7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag,

Daily new cases (per 100k)

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 quartile](#) (HPI). To end the pandemic, we're setting aside forty percent (40%) of vaccines to distribute to in HPI quartile 1. This approach will help lower the rate of community infection, hospitalization, and death, as well as reduce potential new variants that might emerge.

We've reached our immediate goal of reaching 2 million vaccine doses administered to the hardest-hit communities statewide (Vaccine Equity Metric), representing about twenty-five (25%) of eligible Californians. As a result, the Blueprint for a Safer Economy tiers have been updated to 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** people vaccinated in HPI quartile 1



Current: Because CA has **2 million** people vaccinated 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**

MODERATE

When CA has **4 million** people vaccinated 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.

*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.

EXPLORE MORE DATA



Questions and answers

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



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



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



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



Did you find what you were looking for?

Yes

No

**FOR
ALL**

[About COVID-19 restrictions](#)

[Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)

[Vaccines](#)

[Industry guidance](#)

[Local info and alerts](#)

COVID-19 hotline

[1-833-422-4255](#)

M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM

[CA.gov](#)

[Department of Public Health](#)

[Governor's Newsroom](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Register to vote](#)

Official California State Government Website



