



Public Health Brief

Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH **Nichole Williamson**
Public Health Officer HHS Director
Office: 530-694-2146, Ext 249 Office: 530-694-2235
e-mail: rjohnson@alpinecountyca.gov

24/7/365 Emergency Contact Number
Dispatch: 530-694-2231, Ext 330
Warm Line: 530-694-1011



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Alpine County Graduates to the Orange Tier

It was announced today that Alpine County has been moved from the Red tier into the less restrictive Orange Tier in the California Color-Coded County Tier System. Each county is assigned to a risk-level based on new cases, positive tests, and health equity. We have the best numbers in the state and join Trinity and Sierra Counties as the only 3 counties in the state in the Orange Tier. Mariposa is in the Red Tier, and all other counties are still in the Purple Tier. For more information and what it means, see the following pages, and go to:

[Blueprint for a Safer Economy - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)

How did we get there? I give full credit to all individuals who use the tools in our toolkit to prevent COVID-19 illness in our community, including masking, social distancing, handwashing, and minimizing gatherings, especially indoors. I also applaud businesses as they do everything they can to protect both their employees and their customers.

How will we not only stay in the Orange Tier, but move to the least restrictive Yellow Tier? We will become eligible to move into the Yellow Tier if we can maintain our good status for another 3 weeks. In addition to the above tools, we encourage those who are eligible to get vaccinated. This includes all persons who are Alpine County residents who are >64 years of age, and workers in the following sectors: healthcare, emergency services, education and child-care, and food and agriculture (including restaurants and bars). As more vaccine becomes available, we will continue to expand our ability to reach those in our community who are at highest risk for serious disease.

For any questions about vaccine or to be interviewed for possible eligibility, please call 530-694-1011.

For daily updates on cases and # of vaccines given, go to: <http://alpinecountyca.gov/516/COVID-19>

It's up to all of us to move together toward the goal of preventing illness and death, and a return to "normal".



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.




Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120
Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281
District 1: January Riddle, District 2: Ron Hames, District 3: Irvin Jim,
District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

California's Color-Coded County Tier System



Every county in California is assigned to a COVID-19 risk-level tier based on:

- ▶ **New cases:** the average number of new cases per day, over 7 days, per 100,000 residents
- ▶ **Positive tests:** the percentage of coronavirus tests given per day that are positive for COVID-19
- ▶ **Health Equity:** positive test rates in a county's most disadvantaged neighborhoods do not significantly lag behind the county's overall test positivity rate

Tier Level	New Cases per 100,000*	Positive Tests
Widespread PURPLE	 More than 7	More than 8% testing positivity rate
Substantial RED	 4 to 7	5 - 8%
Moderate ORANGE	 1 to 3.9	2 - 4.9%
Minimal YELLOW	Less than 1	Less than 2%

* Case numbers are adjusted up or down based on testing volume above or below the state median.

Tier Assignments Determine What Can Be Open

Your County

- ▶ Can make *tighter* restrictions through the local health department, but it cannot loosen them.
- ▶ Can move towards wider reopening as new COVID-19 cases decrease and fewer people test positive.
- ▶ Must remain in its current tier for a minimum of 3 weeks before being able to advance to a less restrictive tier.
- ▶ Can move to a less restrictive tier, if it has met that tier's criteria for 2 weeks in a row including the [California Health Equity Metric](#).

Moving from Tier to Tier

- ▶ Every week, all counties' case numbers (existing and new) and positive testing numbers are evaluated.
- ▶ Changes in tier levels are announced on Tuesdays.

Find your county's current tier at covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy.

What's Open in Each Tier?

Widespread PURPLE

Most indoor businesses are closed. Many can open outdoors with modifications, for example, restaurants, places of worship, and family entertainment (mini golf). Personal care services, for example, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, and piercing shops, can open indoors with modifications.

Substantial RED

Some indoor businesses are closed, including places that serve alcohol but don't serve food. **Many can open indoors at 25% capacity** (or 100 people, whichever is fewer) for example, restaurants, places of worship, and movie theaters. Gyms can open indoors at 10% capacity. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications. Schools may re-open for full in-person instruction once a county has been in the red tier for at least 2 weeks. However, schools that have already reopened may remain open if the county moves back to the purple tier.

Moderate ORANGE

Some indoor businesses can open with modifications. Many can open indoors at 50% capacity (or 200 people, whichever is fewer), for example, restaurants, places of worship, and movie theaters. **Some can open indoors at 25% capacity** for example, gyms, bowling alleys, and cardrooms. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications.

Minimal YELLOW

Most indoor businesses can open with modifications. Some can open indoors at 50% capacity for example, restaurants, places of worship, movie theaters, gyms, cardrooms, and bars. Personal care services can open indoors with modifications.

Find [which activities and businesses are open in the four tiers \(PDF\)](#)

Why Some Activities and Businesses Can Open While Others Stay Closed

- ▶ Activities and businesses that have a lower risk of spreading COVID-19 are allowed to open sooner.
- ▶ Higher-risk activities or businesses will be allowed to open when the risk is determined to be less.
- ▶ In each tier, an activity or business's operations depend on whether it has the:

Ability to Accommodate

- ✓ Mask wearing at all times while not eating and drinking
- ✓ Physical distance between individuals from different households
- ✓ Increased airflow (such as operating outdoors or opening windows and doors)

Ability to Limit

- ✗ Number of people per square foot
- ✗ Time that an individual spends at the business or activity
- ✗ Time that an individual spends in close contact with others
- ✗ People from one household mixing with other households
- ✗ Amount of physical interactions of visitors/patrons
- ✗ Activities known to increase the spread of COVID-19 (singing, shouting, and heavy breathing)

Schools in **purple-tiered** counties cannot reopen for in-person instruction. However, schools that have already reopened may remain open if the county moves back to the purple tier. Local health departments can grant waivers for TK-6 grades, and schools can provide supervision, or instruction, and other services for small groups (16 individuals total per group). Schools may re-open for full in-person instruction once a county has been in the **red tier** for at least 2 weeks.

[School Re-opening Framework \(PDF\)](#)

See full [Blueprint for a Safer Economy guidance](#)

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