California Reopening!

Effective tomorrow, a new State Public Health Officer Order issued on June 11, 2021 goes into effect, which essentially eliminates all restrictions except as noted: Order of the State Public Health Officer Beyond Blueprint (ca.gov)

The Governor has also lifted the Stay-at-Home Order and terminated the Blueprint for a Safer Economy effective June 15th: CAP14-20210611124926

At this time there are no local Alpine County Public Health Orders in effect.

What does this mean for residents, visitors, and businesses in Alpine County?

1. We were the first county in California to be in the Yellow Tier and have been there for more than 12 weeks. This means that our case rates and test positivity rates have been very low, with very few positive tests or new cases in the last 3 months. Our risk is very low at this time. Although the tiers will now go away, we will be closely monitoring the situation so that we can respond to any changes and keep you informed.

2. Beyond the Blueprint Framework for Industry and Business Sectors, with Limited Exceptions (ca.gov)

3. New face coverings guidance takes effect tomorrow. Please review the requirements for those vaccinated, those unvaccinated, and guidance for businesses, venue operators, and hosts. Note that for vaccine verification and self-attestation to work, a high level of honesty and trust needs to be in place. Are we as a society ready to take on this responsibility for the common good as we look out for each other?

guidance for face coverings (ca.gov)
4. Employees/employers - just announced by Governor Newsom:

California will let fully vaccinated workers go maskless after Thursday, June 17, pending a vote from the state’s workplace safety board.

Newsom said he will issue an executive order on Thursday codifying the state’s new COVID workplace safety rule, which lets fully vaccinated California workers not wear masks at work and also ends social distancing. Those not vaccinated will still have to wear masks when working indoors or in vehicles.


“That should clear up any ambiguity,” Newsom said Monday. “We’ll be consistent with the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s) guidelines.”

The standards board of the state’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health, commonly called Cal-OSHA, is expected to approve the rule at its June 17 meeting. But without the executive order, the earliest the rule could go into effect would have been June 28, because of the administrative process.

Under the rule — which has changed repeatedly — workers can request masks from employers at no cost and wear them at work regardless of vaccination status. Employers are also required to provide respirators such as N95 masks for unvaccinated workers who want them when they are working indoors or in vehicles with more than one person.

5. Testing: Various testing options are available for anyone who has symptoms consistent with a possible COVID-19 infection. Please call Public Health at 530-694-2146 for assistance in obtaining a test.

6. Vaccinations are still the only way out of this pandemic. Alpine County has one of the highest rates of vaccinations completed in the state, especially for our seniors, but we are not there yet. In addition, surrounding and more distant locations may have lower rates of completion of vaccinations, presenting the possibility of unvaccinated residents or visitors bringing infections into the county. Remember that this is not just about “me” – it is about “we” as a community working together to protect each other. Call us at 530-694-2146 for more information about obtaining vaccinations.

7. We have effectively used our Warm Line over the last 6 months to handle over 300 calls per week. However, call volume has now markedly decreased, so all questions will be addressed by our staff by calling Public Health at 530-694-2146 during office hours M-F, 8-12 and 1-5.

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