

Compliance with Stay-at-Home Orders and Reopening Procedures in the Los Angeles Area

Note: These FAQs provide general guidance on how small businesses in the Los Angeles area can comply with COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and reopening procedures. Each business owner must carefully evaluate the applicable orders to determine the compliance steps required for their individual business. This document does not constitute legal advice.

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General Reminders

- The current COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation. Governmental and private actors continue to assess the impact of the pandemic on small businesses and others, and new programs (or changes to existing ones) continue to develop. The current stay-at-home orders in effect in the Los Angeles area will continue to be modified as restrictions are relaxed and businesses are gradually allowed to reopen over the coming weeks and months. Check reliable sources (see list at the end for some suggestions) for updates. A general roadmap of the reopening process can be found [here](#).
- It is important that your business comply with all applicable stay-at-home orders and reopening requirements, including those issued at the **state**, **county** and **city levels**. Carefully evaluate the requirements of each applicable order to ensure that your business operations are in full compliance.

Q: Which stay-at-home orders apply to my business?

Businesses in the greater Los Angeles area must comply with the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and related rules issued by the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and the government of the City or Cities in which they are located.

The statewide and countywide orders do not preempt stricter rules imposed at the city level. You should therefore review the requirements of each applicable order and ensure that you operate your business in compliance with each of them.

Q: What’s in the California statewide stay-at-home order?

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all California residents to stay home except as needed to maintain critical infrastructure sectors. Since the original order was issued, the statewide rules have been gradually modified to allow certain additional non-essential businesses to reopen on a county-by-county basis. Most recently, on August 29, 2020, Governor Newsom released an overhauled statewide reopening plan called the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy.” General information about the new reopening plan can be found [here](#).

1. **Essential Businesses:** Businesses classified as “Essential Critical Infrastructure” are exempt from the order and may remain open. Examples of exempt businesses include gas stations, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, and essential government functions. A full list of businesses deemed “essential” under the statewide order can be found [here](#).
2. **Non-Essential Businesses:** Under the original statewide order, all California businesses classified as non-essential were required to close all in-person operations. Examples of non-essential businesses include dine-in restaurants, entertainment venues, gyms and hair salons. Certain non-essential businesses have now been allowed to reopen on a county-by-county basis pursuant to the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” reopening plan described below.
3. **Blueprint for a Safer Economy:** Governor Newsom’s new COVID-19 reopening plan, the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy,” revises the criteria and procedures for loosening restrictions on certain business activities on a county-by-county basis. The prior reopening plan placed restrictions on certain counties listed on a statewide County Monitoring List. The new reopening plan eliminates the County Monitoring List and instead classifies counties into four color-based groupings based on current COVID-19 rates:

<p>WIDESPREAD</p> <p>Most non-essential indoor business operations are closed.</p>	<p>More than 7</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>More than 8%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>SUBSTANTIAL</p> <p>Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.</p>	<p>4-7</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>5-8%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>MODERATE</p> <p>Some business operations are open with modifications.</p>	<p>1-3.9</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>2-4.9%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
<p>MINIMAL</p> <p>Most business operations are open with modifications.</p>	<p>Less than 1</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>Less than 2%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>

A county's assigned color, ranging from purple for "Widespread" cases to yellow for "Minimal" cases, determines the reopening restrictions and procedures applicable to businesses in that county. A detailed chart of reopening rules by color tier can be found [here](#), and more information about the county classification process can be found [here](#).

The new reopening plan also contains revised criteria for counties to move forward to a less restrictive color classification. At a minimum, counties must remain in each tier for at least three weeks and must meet the next tier's criteria for at least two weeks before moving into that tier. The state has created an online tool to check the current restrictions that apply to your business under the new reopening plan. You can visit [this website](#) and enter your business type and county to view the current status (but it is important to remember that you must also comply with applicable county and city rules, which may be stricter than the statewide rules).

Q: What's in the Los Angeles County stay-at-home order?

Los Angeles County issued a revised stay-at-home order on September 4, 2020 that addresses the gradual reopening process for non-essential businesses. The county order aligns with the updated statewide reopening plan and reflects certain reopening restrictions arising from Los Angeles County's current classification in the purple or "Widespread" tier under the statewide classification system (further described above). The full text of the revised county order can be found [here](#).

1. **Essential Businesses:** Essential businesses are allowed to remain open during the COVID-19 emergency, but must implement and maintain a Social Distancing Protocol, which can be found [here](#) (non-essential businesses must follow separate reopening protocols, as discussed below). Los Angeles County operates an online Business & Worker Disaster Help Center, which is available to assist businesses in determining whether they qualify as "essential" under the countywide order. The Help Center can be accessed [here](#). An FAQ sheet with additional guidance from the county can be found [here](#).
2. **Gradual Reopening of Non-Essential Businesses:** Non-essential businesses in Los Angeles County were initially required to close all in-person operations, but certain low-risk non-essential businesses are now being allowed to gradually reopen with restrictions. These businesses include non-essential retail, manufacturing and logistics businesses that support retail, office-based businesses, indoor malls and shopping centers, and hair salons and barbershops. More information about which non-essential businesses are currently allowed to reopen can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Reopening non-essential businesses must adhere to the applicable county reopening protocol, as listed below. These protocols address safety requirements such as social distancing, cloth facemasks, and building occupancy limits. Reopening businesses should carefully review the applicable protocol to make sure all requirements are met. The full list of

reopening protocols can be found [here](#), and reopening toolkits for certain business sectors can be found [here](#).

- a. Non-essential retail businesses reopening for in-person shopping must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Retail Establishments: Opening for In Person Shopping, which can be found [here](#).
- b. Manufacturing and logistics businesses that support non-essential retail businesses must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Warehousing, Manufacturing and Logistic Establishments, which can be found [here](#).
- c. Non-essential office-based businesses must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Office Worksites, which can be found [here](#).
- d. Places of worship must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Places of Worship, which can be found [here](#).
- e. Indoor malls and shopping centers must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocols for Shopping Center Operators, which can be found [here](#).
- f. Hair salons and barbershops must prepare, implement and post the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Hair Salons and Barbershops, which can be found [here](#).
- g. Restaurants reopening for on-site dining must prepare, implement and follow the Protocol for Restaurants, which can be found [here](#).
- h. Music, television and film production must prepare, implement and follow the Reopening Protocol for Music, Television and Film Production, which can be found [here](#).
- i. Gyms and other fitness facilities must prepare, implement and post the Reopening Protocol for Gyms and Fitness Establishments, which can be found [here](#).
- j. Museums and galleries must prepare, implement and post the Reopening Protocol for Museums, Galleries, Zoos, and Aquariums, which can be found [here](#).
- k. Campgrounds and RV parks must prepare, implement and post the Reopening Protocol for Campgrounds, RV parks, and Cabin Rental Units, which can be found [here](#).
- l. Hotels, lodging and short-term rental services must prepare, implement and post the Reopening Protocol for Hotels, Lodging and Short-Term Rentals, which can be found [here](#).
- m. Personal care establishments must prepare, implement and post the Reopening Protocol for Personal Care Establishments, which can be found [here](#).

3. **Cloth Mask Requirement:** The Social Distancing Protocol (for essential businesses) and reopening protocols (for non-essential businesses) require employers in Los Angeles County to provide cloth facemasks to all employees whose duties require contact with other employees and/or the public.

Q: What's in the City of Los Angeles stay-at-home order?

On September 3, Mayor Garcetti issued a revised stay-at-home emergency order describing the process for reopening non-essential businesses in the City of Los Angeles. The restrictions and reopening process in the city order align with the current Los Angeles County order and statewide reopening plan. The full text of the city order can be found [here](#).

1. **Essential Businesses:** As the county and statewide orders, the city order allows essential businesses to remain open during the COVID-19 emergency. The city order's classification of essential and non-essential businesses aligns with the county and statewide orders. An FAQ sheet and more detailed guidance for businesses under the city order can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
2. **Gradual Reopening of Non-Essential Businesses:** The process for reopening non-essential businesses under the city order aligns with the Los Angeles County order. Certain low-risk non-essential businesses are now being allowed to gradually reopen with restrictions. These businesses include non-essential retail, manufacturing and logistics businesses that support retail, office-based businesses, indoor malls and shopping centers, and hair salons and barbershops.

Reopening businesses in the City of Los Angeles must adhere to the applicable Los Angeles County reopening protocol (as discussed above). Additionally, public-facing businesses, including retail stores and restaurants, must comply with the following notice requirements:

- a. The applicable protocol must be posted at or near the entrance to the facility so that it is easily viewable by the public and employees;
 - b. Copies of the protocol must be provided to each employee performing work at the facility; and
 - c. The business must be able to provide evidence that the applicable protocol is being implemented.
3. **Cloth Mask Requirement:** Pursuant to the city stay-at-home order and a separate Worker Protection Order (which can be found [here](#)), businesses conducting in-person operations in the City of Los Angeles must require workers and customers to wear cloth face coverings. These businesses must provide their employees with face coverings at the employer's

expense and employees must be permitted to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at least every 30 minutes. Businesses may refuse service to any customer not wearing a face covering.

Q: What resources are available if my business is adversely impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic?

For general guidance on resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19, please refer, among other resources, to Bet Tzedek's FAQ sheets regarding [EMERGENCY FINANCING], [ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS MODELS], [TAX], and [INSURANCE/WORKERS]. The following specific resources are also available:

1. **SBDC Advisors:** Advisors from the Los Angeles Regional Small Business Development Council are available to assist small business owners at no cost with questions about disaster preparedness and recovery. Call **(562) 938-5020** for more information, or view the LA SBDC COVID-19 Response Guide [here](#).
2. **Microloan Program:** The City of Los Angeles will support small businesses impacted by the stay-at-home orders through its Small Business Emergency Microloan program. This program offers no-fee microloans of up to \$20,000 to cover working capital. Information about the program can be found [here](#). Additional financing resources are described in our [EMERGENCY FINANCING FAQ].
3. **Resilience Toolkit:** A COVID-19 Small Business Resilience Toolkit prepared by the City of Los Angeles can be found [here](#).

Q: Are in-person religious services allowed?

Places of worship in the greater Los Angeles area generally are not exempt from compliance, and thus must comply, with the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and related rules issued by the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and the government of the city or cities in which they are located.

1. **Statewide Rules:** Under the new statewide reopening plan, the reopening restrictions applicable to places of worship vary based on the color-based classification of the county in which they are located (as further described above). In counties classified in the purple or "Widespread" category, including Los Angeles County, places of worship may only open for outdoor services with certain restrictions. In counties classified in lower color tiers, places of worship may open for indoor services with capacity restrictions. Guidelines and restrictions regarding places of worship under the statewide order can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

2. **Los Angeles County Rules:** Places of worship in Los Angeles County must comply with the statewide guidelines referenced above. As of September 28, because Los Angeles County is classified in the purple or “Widespread” tier under the statewide order, places of worship may only open for outdoor services subject to certain restrictions. For allowable activities, places of worship must refer to the mandatory Reopening Protocol for Places of Worship, which can be found [here](#).
3. **City of Los Angeles Rules:** Places of worship in the City of Los Angeles must also comply with the Los Angeles County protocols and statewide guidelines referenced above. Thus, as of September 28, places of worship in the City of Los Angeles may only open for outdoor services subject to certain restrictions. Also, places of worship must refer to the Los Angeles County Public Health Department for the required protocols for allowable activity at this time, which can be found [here](#).

Q: What if my business is in a different county or city?

Owners of businesses located outside of Los Angeles County should contact their county health department for information on any applicable county stay-at-home orders. Not all counties have issued stay-at-home orders. Links to county-level COVID-19 guidance and orders can be found [here](#).

Owners of businesses located in a city other than Los Angeles (whether within or outside of Los Angeles County) should contact their city mayor’s office or health department for information on any applicable city stay-at-home orders. Not all cities have issued stay-at-home orders.

Q: Where should I look for updates to the stay-at-home orders?

1. [Here](#) is where to find statewide updates.
2. [Here](#) is where to find Los Angeles County updates.
3. [Here](#) is where to find City of Los Angeles updates.