Reopening – Blueprint for a Safer Economy

When will Madera County “re-open”?
Madera County’s ability to safely “reopen” is based on the Governor’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy which establishes four tiers: Purple, Red, Orange, and Yellow. In the blueprint, purple is the most restrictive tier which means many non-essential indoor business operations are closed within the county. Yellow is the least restrictive, allowing more businesses to re-open.

Madera County is in the purple tier. There is not a set date when Madera County will progress through the tiers. To move to the red tier and the following less restrictive tiers, Madera County must meet the criteria for those tiers for 2 weeks. Learn more at https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/

What determines what tier a County is in?
The two main factors are adjusted case rate and positivity rate:
- Adjusted case rate - 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

Each Tuesday, the state of California releases information for case rate and positivity rate for each County and announces each County’s tier. You can find Madera’s along with all county’s current tier and numbers at https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/

What is allowed to be open in Madera County?
Madera is in the purple tier which means many non-essential indoor business operations are closed inside. For a complete list visit https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/covid-19/covidreopening

Where can I find out more information about reopening?

Testing and Symptoms

Is COVID-19 testing free?
Yes. Testing offered at the fairgrounds and through the MCDPH mobile clinics is free, fast, and easy.

Should I get tested? You should get tested if -
- You are experiencing symptoms;
- You are certain or believe you have been exposed to someone who has COVID (wait 2-3 days after exposure)
- You have been around others
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

Find testing options by visiting www.maderacounty.com/covid19testing. While waiting to get tested and get testing results you should self-isolate. Learn more at valleycovidhelp.com

What are the symptoms?
COVID-19 symptoms are similar to the Flu and include fever, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, runny nose, nausea, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Symptoms may be mild or severe. See “Flu FAQs at www.maderacounty.com/flu for more information about the flu.

I believe I’ve been exposed- what should I do?
An exposure is 10-15 minutes within close contact. We’d encourage you to get tested if you’ve been exposed or if you’ve simply been around others. Make sure to self-isolate while waiting to test and waiting for results. Learn about self-isolation at www.valleycovidhelp.com

Where can I get tested?
In addition to private providers, there are two primary options for free, fast, and easy testing in Madera County. Option 1 is the Madera Fairgrounds from 7:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. every day except Sunday and Thursday. Option 2 are mobile clinics offered by Madera County Department of Public Health. Find detailed information at www.maderacounty.com/covid19testing

Is the serology (antibody) testing available at the Madera Fairgrounds testing site?
No. Both the Fairgrounds sites and the mobile testing clinics are only doing the PCR test which is a nasal swab that only tests if you currently have COVID. Check with local labs and your provider if you are interested in a serology test.

How do I make an appointment to get tested?
Appointments are only required for testing at the Madera Fairgrounds. To make an appointment online visit go to the Optum Serve (fairgrounds) site at https://lhi.care/covidtesting. You may also call (888) 634-1123. Testing at the MCDPH mobile clinics do not require appointments.

When will I receive my test results?
It varies. Check with the location where you were tested for current test turnaround time. Generally, it is about 3-5 days.

How will I be notified?
That depends where you were tested. You must contact the location where you were tested to find out how/when you will be notified of your results.
Gatherings and Events

What is an event/gathering?
Gatherings are defined as social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place, indoors or outdoors. That space could be as large as an arena or as small as a private home.

Why are events/gatherings discouraged?
When people from different households mix, this increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Gatherings provide an opportunity for the spread of COVID-19 and many people to be exposed which is defined as being in close contact for 10-15 minutes.

What gatherings are allowed and what is the maximum number of people at a gathering?
The type of gathering and maximum capacity depends on a county’s tier. The information below is based on the CDPH gathering guidance released October 9, 2020 available at www.maderacounty.com/covid19

- **Private gatherings:** Based on the guidance released by the California Department of Public Health on October 9, 2020, *gatherings that include more than 3 households are prohibited*. The guidance also provides guidelines for gathering outdoors and mandates wearing masks. The gathering guidance is under “Health Orders & Guidances” at www.maderacounty.com/covid19

- **Church Services:** Because Madera County is in the purple tier, religious services (i.e., churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues) *may only take place outside or online*. Outdoor venues are limited by their natural limits meaning it must allow for social distancing based on the space. All religious services must follow the July 29, 2020 *guidance for places of worship*. As a county progresses through a tier, churches are able to move indoors and increase capacity:
  - Red – indoors with modifications and 25% capacity
  - Orange – indoor with modification and 50% capacity
  - Yellow – indoor with modifications

- **Wedding Services:** Wedding ceremonies are allowed but wedding receptions are not. Ceremonies are subject to the *guidance for places of worship*. Because Madera County is in the purple tier, weddings may only take place outdoors. As a county progresses through a tier, churches are able to move indoors and increase capacity:
  - Red – indoors with modifications and 25% capacity
  - Orange – indoor with modification and 50% capacity
  - Yellow – indoor with modifications

- **Funerals:** Funeral services are subject to the *guidance for places of worship*. Because Madera County is in the purple tier, funeral services may only take place outdoors. As a county progresses through a tier, funeral services will be able to move indoors and increase capacity:

- **Wedding receptions are not allowed at this time.**
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

- Red – indoors with modifications and 25% capacity
- Orange – indoor with modification and 50% capacity
- Yellow – indoor with modifications

Are drive-through/drive-in events permitted?
Generally, drive-through events are considered lower risk if participants remain in their cars and follow safety measures. The drive-through guidance can be found at www.maderacounty.com/covid19 under Health Orders & Guidance. We suggest that organizers consider other methods for “virtual” group meetings that can be held online, on conference calls, or by other means.

I have an event, do I have to cancel?
Gatherings that bring together more than 3 households should be cancelled. Exceptions include religious ceremonies, wedding ceremonies, and funerals. Consider hosting a virtual event (lowest risk) or drive-through event (lower risk).

Face Coverings (Masks)

Should I be wearing a face covering/ mask?
Yes. The California Department of Public Health issued statewide guidance for the use of face coverings as of June 18, 2020. The guidance mandates that face coverings be worn statewide.

When should I wear a face covering?
The guidance specifies when face coverings should be worn and the exceptions for wearing a mask. Generally, one should be worn when in public, when inside or enclosed places where you cannot socially distance or outside where you cannot socially distance.

Who does not need to wear a face covering?
Those under 2; those with medical conditions or disabilities; those working in a job where it is deemed a safety hazard; those eating or drinking; those recreating outdoors where social distance can be maintained; and those who are incarcerated (because they have specific rules they will follow).

Should I use an N95 or surgical mask?
Do not purchase masks designed for health care professionals. N95 and surgical masks are in limited supply and designed to protect those who are working in high risk situations with a likelihood of exposure.

What type of face covering should I use?
The statewide guidance issued on June 18, 2020 specifies cloth face coverings. A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. Those with a medical condition may wear a non-restrictive alternative such as a face shield.
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

I am an employer; should my employees wear a face covering/masks?
Based on the CDPH guidance issued on June 18, 2020 face coverings should be worn when in at a workplace or performing work off-site when:

- Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
- Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person’s own household or residence) are present
- When unable to physically distance

Find the CDPH mask guidance here

General COVID-19 Information

What is the 2019 novel coronavirus?
The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness. This virus is part of the coronavirus family and should not be mistaken as another coronavirus that causes the common cold. Not all coronaviruses are the 2019 novel coronaviruses.

How did the novel coronavirus come about?
Many coronaviruses originate from animals. Rarely, these animal coronaviruses will spread from animal to human and even rarer, from human to human. The COVID-19 is suspected to be one of these rare cases.

How is COVID-19 spread?
The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person when in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

- It may be possible to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object contaminated with the virus, but to-date, this is not thought to be the main means of virus spread.

How do I avoid getting it?
There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being close (within 6 feet) of someone with the virus. Follow these steps every day to prevent getting sick from not only COVID-19 but also other respiratory diseases.

- Don’t come close to someone who is sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover or cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after using the restroom. If soap is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Actively discuss hand washing methods with your children and family members.
- Effective use of hand sanitizer requires adequate amount (two full pumps) for the hands to be wet and scrubbed for 20 seconds. Keep rubbing until dry.
- Clean and disinfection items that are regularly touched with cleaning sprays or wipes.
- Flu prevention steps can be used to prevent COVID-19.
- Keep adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and no-touch trash cans.

What does social distancing mean?
It is a way to avoid unnecessary physical contact with another person such as:
- Waving or fist-bumping instead of shaking hands or hugging.
- Not sharing food, drinks, utensils, electronics, etc.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Keeping at least six feet between you and another person.

What is the Department of Public Health doing about COVID-19?
The Madera County Department of Public Health is always in contact with the CDC, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other local public health departments, and health care providers in Madera County to ensure we are taking all necessary recommended steps to be prepared and protect the Madera County community.
- You can find more information at www.maderacounty.com/publichealth or www.maderacounty.com/covid19.
- Plans are in place to protect residents and limit exposure to the community.
- The Department is working closely with other County agencies and leaders to get the necessary resources to County residents.

What is community transmission? A confirmed case where the patient has had no contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case or travel history to an affected country.

Should I cancel or postpone my trip? Avoid travelling long distances for vacations or pleasure as much as possible. You can travel for urgent matters or if such travel is essential to your permitted work. See the CDC website for additional travel recommendations during COVID.

What if I show signs? Self-isolate. If you are experiencing symptoms and feel medical care is needed, call ahead to the doctor for instructions so illness is not spread in waiting rooms.
- Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing. Call ahead to the doctor for instructions to reduce spread of illness in waiting rooms.
- If you don’t currently have a doctor contact your local clinic or urgent care.
- Visit www.valleycovidhelp for more information on self-isolating at home away from other members of the household.
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

**Should I avoid going out in public?**

- That stay-at-home order has been modified but is still in place. While you may now do more things, you should avoid mixing with other households; follow flu prevention steps while out in public; and practicing physical distancing of 6 feet between you and another person when available.
- Avoid attending all mass social gatherings. This includes family parties and weddings not in compliance with guidance.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- If you are age 65 or older or medically vulnerable with a compromised immune system you should stay at home.

**Health Officer’s Order and Enforcement**

**What is a Health Officer’s Order?** It is official action authorized under the health and safety code taken by the state or local health officer to control the spread of a communicable disease.

**What health orders are in effect?**

- State Health Officer’s Stay-at-Home Order
- Febrile Respiratory Illness Order
- Expand COVID-19 Testing Accessibility Order
- Health Officer Isolation Order
- Health Officer Quarantine Order

**Do these orders affect everyone in Madera County?**

Yes. The State Health Officer’s Order and local health orders affect everyone including the cities of Madera and Chowchilla, as well as the unincorporated communities of Ahwahnee, Bass Lake, Coarsegold, Fairmead, Madera Ranchos, North Fork, Oakhurst, and Raymond. The Governor’s order is in effect throughout the State of California. The isolation order affects anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and the quarantine order anyone identified as a direct contact of a positive case during a contact tracing.

**How long are the health orders in effect?**

The Governor’s order is in effect until further notice. The end date of the local orders varies. You can find all orders at on the COVID-19 webpage at [www.maderacounty.com/covid19](http://www.maderacounty.com/covid19) under “Health Orders and guidances.” Orders may be renewed if deemed necessary by the Health Officer.

**What will be done to ensure people are following these orders?**

If community members are violating the orders and law enforcement is notified, we will seek voluntary compliance of the orders. Ongoing violation of the orders is considered a misdemeanor. Both civil and criminal enforcement actions are permitted under the Health and Safety Code.
Frequently Asked Questions (updated 10/15/2020)

**What should I do if I notice a gathering in progress or business opened that is should be closed in progress?**
Call 311 to report the complaints or the appropriate agency’s non-emergency dispatch based on location.
- Madera County Sheriff – (559) 675-7770
- City of Madera Police – (559) 675-4200
- City of Chowchilla Police – (559) 665-8600

**Where can I get more information?**
Get information from a trusted source:
- Madera County Department of Public Health:
  - Community feedback form or email public.health@maderacounty.com
- State of California
  - California CDPH updates: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCoV2019.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCoV2019.aspx)
  - CDPH guidance page: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx)
  - Governor’s COVID-19 webpage: [https://covid19.ca.gov/](https://covid19.ca.gov/)