

FAQ for Santa Clara County Schools and Districts

As of July 21, 2020 these are the frequently asked questions regarding the [most recent executive order from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department](#). Please note that this document is updated on a regular basis as additional information becomes available.

Q: When will the shelter-in-place be lifted?

A: The bay area counties that are collaborating in their efforts to combat COVID-19 will ease restrictions as [five indicators](#) are met with supporting data. The county of Santa Clara, while still strongly encouraging the community to shelter-in-place, is moving to a risk reduction approach.

Q: What does shelter in-place mean?

A: People are currently strongly encouraged by the Santa Clara County Public Health Officer to stay in their residence until further notice. While sheltering-in-place has its own stressors, it is one of the known combatives in fighting the transmission of the virus. More information can be found at the [Santa Clara Public Health Department](#) website.

Q: What other safety precautions are there to keep people safe?

A: In addition to sheltering-in-place and practicing good hygiene, the other precautions include [wearing a face covering](#) when conducting essential business, running essential errands, visiting retail shops, going to and from outdoor dining establishments, and/or riding on public transportation. Individuals must also continue practicing physical-distancing. Physical-distancing is the practice of maintaining a minimum of six-feet between you and those around you. Businesses that are performing essential business must have a posted [Social Distancing Protocol](#).

Q: Should I get tested for COVID-19? If so, where can I get tested in Santa Clara County?

A: Per the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, the recommendation for [testing](#) of people even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 includes:

- All persons who were notified that they were exposed to someone who was confirmed to have COVID-19;
- All persons who work in high-risk congregate settings such as skilled nursing facilities, other long-term care facilities, jails, or shelters; and

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- All hospital employees, including healthcare workers and essential service employees.

If testing capacity allows, Public Health also recommends that additional categories of people without symptoms should be tested, including:

- Other healthcare workers, first responders, and essential service employees (e.g. grocery clerks, utility workers, food supply workers, or other employees with frequent contact with the public);
- All hospitalized persons and persons undergoing elective surgeries/procedures;
- All residents of congregate living facilities;
- All persons >60 years of age OR of any age with chronic medical conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

There are currently more than 30 free testing sites in Santa Clara County, click [here](#) for more information including a complete list of testing sites.

Q: What is contact tracing and case investigation?

A: Contact tracing and case investigation is designed to identify people who either have COVID-19 and/or have been exposed to COVID-19. Contact tracing and case investigating is intended to ensure the safety of, and limit exposure to, the community at large as well as support those in quarantine. For more information, please visit the [Santa Clara Public Health Department website](#).

Q: If there is a difference between the county and the state ordinance, which am I supposed to follow?

A: When there is a difference in ordinance, the more strict ordinance takes precedence. For example, if the county health ordinance is more strict than the state's, you must follow the ordinance that is outlined by the county.

Q: Will schools be open to student attendance in the fall?

A: On July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom announced that schools and school districts within the counties on the CA Department of Public Health's "watch list" must conduct distance learning only until their county has been off the list for at least 14 days. Santa Clara County is currently on that list. Accordingly, at this time schools and districts in Santa Clara County must conduct distance learning. School districts are currently developing plans for the 2020-21 school year with the support of both the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). Please visit the SCCOE's [Stronger Together website](#) for more information.

Q: Can sports teams resume their activities?

A: No, sports teams may not resume their activities under the [new order](#). Solo sports and/or recreational activities with members of your direct family are allowable. While parks may be open, playgrounds, public drinking fountains and restrooms, and other high touch points are closed to the public. Non-contact sports and athletic activities that have low-to-moderate risk levels of transmission may resume. Sports and activities that have high touch points will not be allowed and face coverings must be worn when engaging in activities with people outside of your immediate household.

Q: What food services are available if I need help providing my family with meals?

A: Currently school districts are providing meal service for summer. [A complete list of sites with details can be found by clicking here.](#)

Q: What businesses are currently open?

A: Please [click here](#) for a list of current businesses operating under the new risk reduction guidance.

Q: Under the new guidance, are gatherings allowed?

A: While indoor gatherings are still not permitted, restrictions were eased on some outdoor gathering activities such as weddings, festivals, protests, religious services, barbecues, performances, etc. Details on the mandatory directive for gatherings can be found [here](#).

Q: I have questions about supporting my child's needs while at home. Where can I find support?

A: The Santa Clara County Office of Education's Inclusion Collaborative has expanded its [Inclusion Support Warmline Service](#). This service is available 8 hours per day and has the following language capabilities: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean. Support will be provided by answering questions, addressing concerns and providing social stories to support children's understanding of 'social distancing', etc. Also available, will be alternative educational resources, support for distance learning (media, etc.) and information on addressing individual needs for children with IEPs.

The Inclusion Collaborative is also hosting weekly Family Resource Chats where parents and educators can join a virtual chat with an Inclusion Specialist to discuss the weekly topic, have their questions addressed and network with other parents and educators. Call (408) 453-6651 or email WarmLineRemoteLearning@sccoe.org.

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A:The California Parent and Youth Helpline provides support and resource referrals to parent and youth during the current COVID-19 pandemic, 7-days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call or text 1-855-4APARENT (855-427-2736) for services in English, Spanish and other languages. For more information, please visit:

<https://caparentyouthhelpline.org/>

A: Additional distance learning resources can also be found on the [Santa Clara County Office of Education's COVID-19 Learning Resource Portal](#).

Q: Are school boards still meeting during the shelter in-place?

A: Per the March 4th executive order issued by Governor Newsom, there is additional flexibility around Brown Act requirements for school board meetings. Refer to Item 3 in the [executive order N-29-20](#).

Q: Where can I find COVID-19 updates?

A: Updates can be found at the following websites: [Santa Clara Public Health Department](#); [Governor Newsom's Newsroom](#); [Santa Clara County Office of Education](#). The Santa Clara County Office of Education also has a hotline available at (408) 453-6819.