FAQ for Santa Clara County Schools and Districts

As of June 5, 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.

Q: What does shelter in-place mean?
A: People are currently directed 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 the only known combative in fighting the transmittal 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, conducting curb-side pick-up, and/or riding on public transportation. Individuals must also continue practicing social-distancing. Social-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. Effective 12:01am on June 5, 2020, face coverings must be worn and social distancing must be practiced when visiting outdoor eating establishments while waiting to be seated, retail shopping, etc.

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
   - 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, including: Christopher High School (850 Day Rd, Gilroy, CA 95020) in south county and James Lick High School (57 N White Rd, San Jose, CA 95127) in east county, as well as PAL Stadium (680 S 34th St, San Jose, CA 95116), and the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds (344 Tully Rd, San Jose, CA 95111). For a complete list, click here.

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 stricter ordinance takes precedence. So, if the county health ordinance is stricter than the state’s, you must follow the ordinance that is outlined by the county.

Q: Are childcare facilities, schools, summer camps, etc. allowed to re-open under the new guidance?
A: Per the revised guidance, essential workers, employees of outdoor businesses, and government workers may either employ a nanny or babysitter or may access an open childcare facility, summer camp, etc. Childcare, camps, and other educational or recreational facilities may offer services to all children if the following requirements are met:

1. Programs must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer children (“stable” means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
2. **Children within a program shall not change from one group to another within that program.**
3. **If more than one group of children is at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.**
4. **Providers or educators shall remain solely with one group of children.**
5. **Children may not move from one program to another more frequently than once every three weeks, or take part in more than one program simultaneously.**

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

**A:** The Santa Clara County Office of Education, local public school districts, and the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health are working in close partnership to develop deliberative and responsible guidance for local schools as they plan for the opening of school with the appropriate mixture of in-person and distance learning that prioritizes student safety while also considering the learning needs of students and the needs of parents and the broader community. An announcement with an update of how schools may open in the fall is anticipated by Wednesday, July 1st. Please visit the [Stronger Together website](https://www.strongertogether.org/) for more information.

**Q: Can sports teams resume their activities?**

**A:** No, sports teams may not resume their activities under the [new order](https://www.sccgov.org/government/departments/health/). 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 activities, including graduation ceremonies, can my senior participate in?**

**A:** In-person graduations are not permitted under the [new guidance](https://www.sccgov.org/government/departments/health/). Schools are encouraged to conduct virtual graduations. However, you may also choose to celebrate your graduate with a car parade, which is now allowed. Car parades must comply with all laws and permitting requirements. Only members of the same household may ride in the same car, and participants may not leave their cars or congregate at a fixed location. For further guidance, please see the joint statement released by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and the Santa Clara County Office of Education.
Q: What food services are available if I need help providing my family with meals?
A: Currently each district is providing meal service for summer. A complete list of sites with details can be found by clicking here.

Q: What businesses are currently open and/or opening on June 5th?
A: Please click here for a list of current businesses.

Q: What flexible learning options are available to my student?
A: Each district is working under the guidance of the California Department of Education to create flexible learning plans. District flexible learning plans can be found on each district’s website. Additional resources are also available under the "For Students" tab on www.sccoe.org/COVID-19.

Q: How does distance learning affect grading, graduation, college admission, etc.?
A: While the California Department of Education has provided guidance regarding distance learning grading, the decision whether or not to grade distance learning assignments will remain a decision to be made by each district.

“All seniors who are on track for graduation should be able to graduate,” said State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond. “This new guidance further illustrates how students can and should be held harmless in grading, and how their work can be acknowledged.”

The university systems are willing to accept credit/no credit grades in lieu of letter grades for all courses, including A–G courses, completed in winter/ spring/ summer 2020 for all students. Grades of credit/no credit will not affect the UC or CSU calculations of GPA. In addition, the universities have identified a range of other flexibilities they will offer to support students’ access to college during this time. Please see the joint statement between the colleges, universities, State Board of Education and the Department of Education (DOCX).

Q: My child has an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). What is being done to support their IEP?
A: Under the guidance from the California Department of Education, flexible learning options are being designed with an equity and accessibility lens. The United States Department of Education also has special education guidance. The California Department of Education developed guidance on March 20th.
**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 Services. 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 flexible learning (media, etc.) and addressing individual needs for children with IEPs. Visual Support, individual schedules, etc. are also available. 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.

**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/

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

**A:** Per the March 4th executive order issued by Governor Newsom, there is now some additional flexibility around Brown Act requirements for school board meetings. Refer to Item 11 in the executive order.

**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.