



Public Health Division

Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency

Frequently Asked Questions

Calaveras County Health Officer Order and Emergency Regulations Related to COVID-19

On March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, directing all the people of California to stay at home or at their place of resident. On March 27, 2020, the Calaveras County Health Officer issued a local Order to clarify which activities are or are not allowed.

On Friday May 1, 2020, Calaveras Public Health issued a revised Order intended to clarify the requirements related to outdoor physical activities within Calaveras County. This latest Order modifies the Calaveras County Health Officer Order released on April 29, 2020. All other Calaveras County Health Officer Orders related to COVID-19 will continue to remain in place. This Order is in effect until further notice. All other parts of the March 27, 2020 Order will remain in place. If needed, the Health Officer may extend, expand, or modify the local Order to protect the public's health.

Calaveras Public Health urges the public to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Without a vaccine, social distancing measures are necessary to protect the health and well-being of Calaveras communities and safeguard our healthcare system. The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to:

- Stay home
- Only go out for essential supplies or services
- Stay six feet or more away from others
- Use a cloth face covering when near non-household members
- Do not gather in groups of any size

What is the Health Officer Order and Emergency Regulations?

The Health Officer Order and Emergency Regulations is a legal order issued by the Calaveras County Health Officer to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect vulnerable members of Calaveras County. The Order outlines what is considered allowable within the Orders made by the Governor of California and the California Department of Public Health.

Calaveras County doesn't have any new cases, why do we need to continue limits on what we are allowed to do?

COVID-19 is spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet) through droplets made when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Some people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms or have mild illness, which means that they can

spread it to others without knowing they are infected. It can also spread when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus from an infected person on it and then touches their nose, mouth, and eyes with unwashed hands. Everyone is at risk of becoming ill with COVID-19. Some people are more vulnerable to serious illness due to their age and health condition.

The Calaveras County Health Officer is in favor of reopening Calaveras County, but it needs to happen in a very controlled way, bit-by-bit, and informed by science and medicine. Lifting restrictions too early can lead to a spike in new COVID-19 infections, which can lead to a second shutdown to control any spread of COVID-19 into Calaveras communities. Calaveras has a limited healthcare infrastructure and may affect the county's ability to care for a large number of sick people.

Why are outdoor exercise and recreational activities limited to Calaveras County residents only?

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all Californians to stay home or at their place of residence except for essential services or to maintain critical infrastructure sectors during COVID-19. The Calaveras County Health Officer Order outlines what is considered allowable within the Orders made by the Governor of California and the California Department of Public Health. Rural areas such as ours have small hospitals and cannot support a large influx of people who may develop illness. Also, while the rates of COVID-19 infection are low in Calaveras, neighboring counties such as San Joaquin and Stanislaus have higher rates of illness that could be imported.

What does the revised Order address?

The revision to the Order focuses on outdoor exercise and recreational activities. All non-essential public and private gatherings of any size or type are still prohibited.

The amended Order allows for Calaveras County residents to exercise and engage in outdoor activities as long as you maintain a safe physical distance of six feet and gather only with members of your household. Outdoor exercise and recreational activities include:

- Canoeing (singles)
- Golf (singles, walking – no cart)
- Horse Riding (singles)
- Jogging and Running
- Outdoor photography
- Net sports such as tennis, volleyball, and badminton (singles only)
- Jogging and running
- Hunting and Fishing
- Disc golf
- Swimming allowing distancing
- Skateboarding (not in groups)
- Walking/Hiking/trails/paths (allowing distancing)

- Recreational use of non-commercial, privately owned watercraft (motorized and non-motorized)—one person per watercraft
- Recreational use of personal motorized off-road vehicles such as ATVs or dirt bikes (one person per vehicle)

Are all outdoor recreational areas going to be open?

Keep in mind that many outdoor recreational areas not operated by the County may remain closed due to COVID-19. It is best to call or visit their website for closure information.

Who do we report violations of the Calaveras County Health Officer Order?

Call the COVID-19 Community Service Call Center at (209) 754-2896, Monday-Friday, 8:30AM - 4PM.

Can my children use the play equipment at parks?

No. The use of children’s playground areas is not allowed (e.g. swings, slides, monkey bars). Disinfecting the play equipment against COVID-19 after each use becomes a challenge. Parents and children of the same household are encouraged to use the green areas of the park.

What about graduations & promotions, celebrations?

Gatherings of people in groups is still not allowed. Check with your local school for guidance on school-related activities.

Is there a specific timeframe for lifting restrictions?

All counties are subject to the Governor’s Executive Stay-At-Home Order. The Governor’s order defines what essential and non-essential businesses are and what activities can or cannot be conducted in the state. Until the Governor amends executive order, counties must work within those Orders.

What happens if I don’t comply with this order?

Those violating an order of the Public Health Officer are subject to civil penalty, criminal prosecution, or both. Public Health trusts that the people of Calaveras County will voluntarily follow the Order to protect loved ones and Calaveras communities. All people in Calaveras County must comply with the County’s Order, the Governor’s Order and any applicable laws and regulations. While the two Orders largely go hand-in-hand, you must comply with the stricter Order. So if you do not follow the Order, you can be fined.

To view the modified Calaveras County Health Officer Order visit covid19.calaverasgov.us/. Call the Community Service Call Center at (209) 754-2896 if you have questions about the COVID-19 pandemic.