



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: San Francisco Joint Information Center, dempres@sfgov.org

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**SAN FRANCISCO TO ROLL BACK SELECT ACTIVITIES IN
RESPONSE TO STATE ASSIGNMENT TO MOST
RESTRICTIVE REOPENING TIER**

Due to a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases across the City and State, San Francisco is required to roll back most non-essential indoor activities including indoor fitness, indoor theaters, indoor worship and indoor museums. The City must also limit certain outdoor family entertainment and reduce capacity at retail stores.

San Francisco, CA — Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax today announced the City will adjust its reopening of businesses and activities. Due to the continued increase in COVID-19 cases in San Francisco, the State has placed the City in the most restrictive Purple tier for reopening. Beginning Sunday, November 29 at noon, San Francisco will roll back or reduce capacity of certain activities to conform with California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) tier assignments. Additionally, beginning Monday, November 30, San Francisco will comply with the Limited Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor on Thursday, November 19th for any counties in the Purple tier.

As a result of its assignment to the most restrictive Purple tier, San Francisco must close indoor worship, indoor movie theaters, indoor gyms and fitness centers, and indoor operations at museums, aquariums, and zoos. San Francisco will also close outdoor carousels, Ferris wheels, and train rides. Additionally, retail stores must limit capacity to 25%. Restaurants may continue to operate outdoors.

All schools – TK-12 -- that are already open for in-person learning may continue to offer indoor instruction. Under the Purple tier, TK-6 schools that have not yet opened, may apply for a waiver from the Health Officer to open for indoor in-person instruction. Middle schools and high schools that have not yet opened may not open for indoor instruction, however they may apply to provide outdoor-only learning.

San Francisco, along with California and the United States is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 more aggressive than what the City has experienced to date. We are currently averaging 130 new Covid-19 positive cases per day compared to the 73 per day that we experienced the first week of November. Moreover, we currently have approximately 900 COVID-19 cases diagnosed per week in San Francisco compared to 217 diagnosed COVID-19 cases the week of October 12th.



Last week, San Francisco was the only urban area in the State to avoid being assigned to the Purple tier. Today it is 51 of 58 counties at the “Widespread” maximum risk level and, as a result, is mandated to significantly restrict non-essential, indoor activities.

“While the number of cases is increasing significantly, the people of San Francisco have shown they can take action and follow the guidance to get us through this pandemic,” said Mayor Breed. “This is about protecting ourselves, our families, and our community, and getting us to a better place so we can get people back to work and support our small businesses. Every single person needs to do what they can over the next few weeks. The decisions you make today will impact where we are tomorrow. Do not travel, stay with the people in your household, and wear your masks.”

Both the City and the State are taking decisive action in order to contain the aggressive spread of the virus. In addition to the rollbacks that will take place, San Francisco will implement the State required Limited Stay at Home Order that requires non-essential businesses to close and prohibits members of different households from gathering indoors or outdoors between 10:00pm and 5:00am until December 21st. This Limited Stay at Home Order will begin Monday November 30th at 10 pm.

"The data are clear: the current surge of COVID-19 cases is more aggressive and widespread than we have previously experienced," said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health. "We must take decisive action now -- as a City and as individuals -- to stay ahead of this virus. The assignment by the state to the most restrictive tier is indicative of how widespread this virus is. We need everyone to be diligent or a further roll backs of activities may be necessary.”

The following activities will be required to suspend outdoor operations until further notice:

- Outdoor Family Entertainment Centers. Outdoor stand-alone amusement attractions must close, including carousels, Ferris wheels, train rides, and bungee trampolines.
 - The following may remain open subject to existing required safety protocols: outdoor playgrounds, outdoor skate parks, outdoor roller and ice rinks (at 25% capacity up to a maximum of 25 total people), outdoor batting cages, and outdoor mini-golf.

The following activities will be required to suspend indoor operations until further notice:

- Indoor Gyms. Indoor gyms and fitness centers must close indoor operations. Limited one-on-one training may continue indoors, with specific ventilation measures in place. Outdoor activities at gyms and fitness centers, including fitness classes up to 25 people, may continue subject to existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Museums. Indoor museums, zoos and aquariums must close indoor operations but can continue outdoor activities subject to existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Movie Theaters. Indoor movie theaters must close though drive-in movies may continue with existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Houses of Worship. Indoor religious services and cultural ceremonies at houses of worship must cease with the following caveats:
 - Indoor individual prayer is still allowed with updated safety protocols.



- Live streaming and broadcasting of services indoors is still allowed with existing capacity limits and safety protocols.
- Indoor funerals of up to a total of 12 people are permitted.
- Outdoor religious services is still allowed up to the existing local limit of 200 people and subject to existing safety protocols.

The following activities will be required to reduce indoor capacity:

- Indoor Retail. All retail stores, including shopping centers and essential retail businesses *other than standalone grocery stores*, must reduce capacity to 25% (down from 50%)
 - Standalone grocery stores can operate at 50% capacity, but other essential retail such as pharmacies and hardware stores must decrease to 25% capacity.
 - Reduced capacity to 25% includes low-contact retail services, like dog groomers and shoe repair shops.
 - Reduced capacity to 25% also includes equipment rental businesses, like bike rentals.

The following activities will be required to proceed with modifications in place:

- TK-12 Schools. TK-12 schools that are already open can continue to operate in accordance with approved health and safety plans. TK-6 schools that have not yet opened may receive a waiver to open for indoor instructions. Middle schools and high schools may apply for a waiver to provide outdoors-only in-person learning, with health and safety conditions required by the Department of Public Health in place.
- Institutes of Higher Education and Vocational Programs. Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and vocational programs that are open for indoor in-person instruction may continue to operate until their term ends, at which point only indoor programs that train students to provide essential functions may continue. New IHEs and vocational programs cannot open or begin programming not already underway, except for programs that train students to provide essential functions as defined in the health order.

Outdoor dining, as well as indoor retail, indoor personal services (including hair and nail salons, massage and esthetician services, etc.), outdoor fitness and limited indoor one-on-one personal training at gyms or fitness centers may still continue at this time. Additionally, outdoor playgrounds, skate parks (with a 25% capacity limit up to 25 people at a time), batting cages and mini golf, as well as outdoor zoos and art or museum exhibits may remain open.

The Department of Public Health will continue to monitor the [key indicators](#) of COVID-19 prevalence in the city and take actions it believes are necessary to limit the spread of the virus and manage the City's case count. Over the last month, San Francisco's cases per 100,000 have steadily climbed.

The Department of Public Health released a [Travel Advisory](#) on November 12, urging San Franciscans to refrain from travelling outside of the county and recommending a 14-day quarantine for those who travel outside the state or that have engaged in higher risk activities as described in the travel advisory. As cases continue to climb throughout California and the rest of the country, this advisory is even more important to follow. The City strongly encourages San



Franciscans to avoid gatherings, wear face coverings when leaving home, keep their distance from other people, and to get tested for COVID-19 if they feel sick.

More information about changes related to San Francisco's assignment to the Purple tier can be found at <https://sf.gov/LimitedStayHome>. San Francisco's reopening timeline can be found at <https://sf.gov/step-by-step/reopening-san-francisco>.

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