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For Immediate Release

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## Nevada County Public Health Officer Rescinds Local Stay-at-Home Order

*Nevada County still under statewide Order*

*State announced the "soft opening" of Stage 2 begins today*

*"Soft opening" includes curbside pickup only for some low-risk retail businesses*

Nevada County Public Health Officer, Dr. Ken Cutler, has rescinded Nevada County's local Stay-at-Home Order which was originally set to expire on May 15, 2020. Nevada County is now under the statewide Order and looking towards meeting the state's "readiness criteria" that will allow counties to move more quickly through Stage 2. Progress into Stage 2 will continue to be a thoughtful and phased approach to reopening.

"We thank everyone for following the Stay-at-Home Order closely," said Dr. Ken Cutler. "We are looking forward to working with our local businesses and employers to move safely with the state into Stage 2, but this is not a return to normal yet."

For frequently asked questions about Nevada County rescinding Nevada County's Stay-at-Home Order, visit [www.mynevadacounty.com/coronavirus](http://www.mynevadacounty.com/coronavirus).

### State Guidelines on Stage 2

The [Resilience Roadmap](#) stages that California is using to guide its gradual reopening process are:

- Stage 1: Safety and Preparedness
- Stage 2: Lower-Risk Workplaces
- Stage 3: Higher-Risk Workplaces
- Stage 4: End of Stay at Home Order

The state has published guidelines for the initial "soft opening" of Stage 2 and the businesses that includes at [covid19.ca.gov/roadmap](http://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap). All businesses should review the guidance, prepare a plan, and post the checklist for your business industry in your workplace to show customers and employees that you've reduced the risk and are open for business. Before reopening, all facilities should:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including how to [screen themselves for symptoms](#) and stay home if they have them
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings
4. Implement disinfecting protocols

## 5. Implement physical distancing guidance

The State is all allowing local health jurisdictions that meet the criteria set forth by the California Department of Public Health and follow the process in the [Guidance to County governments](#) to move through Stage 2 and reopen more businesses before the State as a whole. The State's readiness criteria were released yesterday and Nevada County is on track to attest to being prepared to advance through Stage 2 reopenings.

"We are well-positioned and well-prepared to meet the state's criteria," said Jill Blake, Public Health Director. "This readiness is due to the hard work and forward thinking of our Public Health team as well as the dedication and preparedness of our local partners including the hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and others who serve vulnerable populations."

The state is planning to provide additional restaurant industry guidance for this latter part of Stage 2 on Tuesday.

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# FAQ on rescinding the local Stay-at-Home Order

## 1. Why is the local Nevada County stay-at-home order begin rescinded?

On Thursday, March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order requiring Californians to stay home in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, except for essential needs. The Nevada County Health Officer issued a local stay-at-home order on April 27, 2020 as a complement to the state order and to align with regional jurisdictions.

The rescinding of the local Order aims to remove any confusion over areas of difference between the state Order. This transition will allow a local focus on planning for a phased reopening in partnership with local governments, health care, business and other stakeholders, as well as regional and state partners. The statewide order still applies to Nevada County.

## 2. What does the expiration of the local health officer's stay-at-home order mean?

Because Governor Newsom's statewide order still applies to Nevada County, residents must continue to stay home except for essential needs. However, the Governor has announced 4 stages of re-opening or relaxing the stay-at-home order. This week the state is moving from Stage 1, where we have been since March 19<sup>th</sup>, to Stage 2, which allows some lower risk businesses to start to open with modifications in place to decrease the risk of transmission. **Importantly, Stage 2 has a gradual re-opening starting with retail curbside only.** The re-opening process is a balance process and will move forward incrementally. It is still very important to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from non-household contacts as the COVID-19 virus is still actively circulating, most people are susceptible to the infection, it can be serious and deadly, and it can be transmitted by people who have no or few symptoms.

## 3. Is the state Order mandatory or just guidance?

The state Order is mandatory.

## 4. What is the difference between "staying at home" and "social distancing"?

Staying home is a rigorous form of social distancing. Staying at home means:

- Only going out for "essential activities," to work for an "essential business," or for "essential travel" as those terms are defined in the Order
- Stay 6 feet or more away from others (physical distancing)
- No formal gathering

The other principles of social distancing and mitigative hygiene should continue to be applied whenever feasible. These include washing hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting surfaces, and not going out if sick

## 5. Am I allowed to leave my home at this time?

Yes. Individuals may leave their place of residence to get necessities such as food, prescriptions, and health care, and for exercise and to pick up retail products. Gatherings of people other than households are still not allowed nor is travel for tourism.

## 6. How do I know if my business is "essential" under the state Order?

Now that Nevada County's local health order has been rescinded and residents will be guided by the governor's Executive Order to shelter in place, please see answers to frequently asked questions about the state order by visiting [covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov).

7. **Are daycares still open? Can my babysitter still come to the house?**

Yes. Daycares are still open, but only for children of parents working in essential sectors and sectors opening in Stage 2. Daycare centers that remain open should employ heightened cleaning and distancing requirements. Babysitters may also come to the house to care for minors of parents working in essential sectors.

8. **What about short-term rentals?**

The Nevada County Short Term Rental Order still stands. Also, under the governor's Executive Order, which remains in effect until further notice, vacation lodging is not on the list of allowed business operations. These restrictions apply to the commercial use of short-term rentals.

9. **Can the county "reopen"?**

The state Order has applied statewide, including Nevada County, since March 19. Local Orders can be stricter, but not looser, than the state Order. Nevada County's local Order was rescinded but the state 'layer' of Order remains.

The governor has announced four [stages](#) around how California may modify the statewide stay-at-home Order in the future, as part of a "Resilience Roadmap." State has begun limited movement to the second stage will be a statewide shift on May 8, 2020. Of note, the state on May 7<sup>th</sup> released a process for jurisdictions to apply for a variance to move through Stage 2 at a different pace than the statewide Order. Nevada County is actively reviewing the just published criteria but at this point looks well positioned to potentially attest for a county variance late next week if laboratory-confirmed cases stay low and there are no outbreaks.

10. **Are drive-in activities, such as modified church or graduations, permitted?**

According to the California Department of Public Health: "Drive in activities are permissible as long as all public health precautions [are taken], social distancing is maintained and only members of the same household are in the same car."

11. **What about preventive and other deferred health care services?**

[Per the state](#), preventive care services and other deferred services can now take place if hospitals have enough capacity and protective equipment to do so safely. The exception is dental care is currently only provided for urgent and emergent care.

12. **Do I have to wear a face covering?**

The health officer continues to recommend that residents wear face coverings when maintaining 6 feet of physical distance in public is not possible. Businesses may require employees who can cover their face to do so as well as requiring that of customers.

13. **If the county is able to attest for a variance, will that allow movement into California's Stage 3?**

No. Current sectors that are in Stage 3 and are **not permitted** include personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios, bars, wineries, entertainment venues like movie theaters, public pools, playgrounds and picnic areas, nightclubs and hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism.