

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*County Directive Expiration, Travel to Lake Tahoe, Essential vs. Nonessential workforce & activities,  
Reopening El Dorado County*



## *El Dorado County*

**Q: What Does the Expiration of the County’s Stay-At-Home Directive Mean?**

**A:** The expiration of the County Stay-At-Home directive doesn’t materially change anything.

It means residents are to continue to follow the Governor’s Stay-At-Home Order, which has always superseded County directives. See the [Governor’s Stay-At-Home Order here](#).

Nonessential businesses that have been closed from March 19<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup> are to remain closed. Nonessential activities you haven’t been allowed to participate in from March 19<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup> are still prohibited.

Nonessential travel bans that were in place on April 30<sup>th</sup> remain in place.

**Q: Can I reopen my business?**

**A:** No. Businesses that are nonessential and are currently closed are to remain closed, per the Governor’s Order.

**Q: How do I know if my business is considered essential or nonessential?**

**A:** For the list of essential workforce under the Governor’s Order, click [here](#). For specific questions about what activities are allowed under the Governor’s Order, email [essentialservicesinquiries@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:essentialservicesinquiries@cdph.ca.gov)

**Q: Can I reopen my business if I provide proper sanitizing and physical distancing of at least six feet?**

**A:** No. If the Governor’s Order does not explicitly exempt it, nonessential businesses are still to remain closed.

**Q: Will gyms, hair and nail salons, pet grooming, smoke shops, and other businesses be open if they require physical distancing of at least six feet?**

**A:** No. Under the Governor’s Order, these remain nonessential businesses.

**Q: Can my yard person mow, edge and blow my yard?**

**A:** No. Under the Governor’s Order, this is still prohibited.

**Q: Can I have contractors doing construction and/or landscaping on my property?**

A: No. If it is for cosmetic purposes rather than essential purposes, it is considered nonessential.

**Q: Can I go to the park with a group of friends now?**

A: No. Under the Governor's Order, gathering for any reason that is considered nonessential is prohibited, but you may go to the park with members of your household if you are there to recreate rather than socialize.

**Q: Can I go camping, fishing or boating?**

A: County parks are open (with the exception of playgrounds); if boat ramps are open and you are a local resident, you may boat with your household members; you may fish with your household members; check with [US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin](#) and [CA State Parks](#) for information about camping and recreating in those areas.

**Q: If letting the County directive expire doesn't change anything in how we provide businesses, services and the way we can recreate and gather, why did the County let it expire?**

A: The Public Health Officer decided not to extend the County Stay-At-Home directive because it mirrors the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order and in hopes of preventing confusion about whether residents should follow the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order or the County Stay-At-Home directive.

**Q: Can I travel to Lake Tahoe for recreation?**

A: No. The County extended the nonessential travel ban to the El Dorado County portions of Lake Tahoe indefinitely.

**Q: Can I go to my second home in Lake Tahoe, and if so, under what circumstances?**

A: It is allowable if you need to do repairs or prepare it for the change in seasons.

We ask that you only travel with household members and that you practice physical distancing and personal hygiene on your way to and while in Lake Tahoe.

**Q: Do I have to wear a face covering?**

A: The Governor's Order does not require the use of face coverings, but some essential retail outlets are requiring them. Face coverings do not, in any event, take the place of physical distancing and personal hygiene.

**Q: When will the County begin to "reopen"?**

A: The County Board of Supervisors sent a [letter](#) to Governor Newsom Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> signed by the Board Chair and Public Health Officer requesting approval to move into a careful, four-step phased approach to relaxing restrictions in El Dorado County. We requested a response by May 8, 2020.

**Q: Why does El Dorado County feel that it is ready to move into a new phase?**

A: **The Public Health Officer and public health staff closely track** the occurrence of the COVID-19 cases in El Dorado County. Their assessment is that there is a very low transmission rate presently, our hospitals, healthcare system, public health, and other responders are prepared should a rise in cases occur, and appropriate guidance will be given to residents, employers, and employees to continue to protect themselves against COVID-19.

**Q: What are the four phases to “reopening” our County?**

**A:** The County cannot and will not loosen restrictions and allow for greater commerce and personal mobility without the Governor’s approval.

We are currently in Phase 1.

Phase 2 still requires physical distancing, bans nonessential travel and gathering of people from different households, and directs high-risk people and those who feel ill to stay home except for necessary activities like medical visits. It allows some currently nonessential businesses to open, as long as they provide for physical distancing, limits the number of people allowed in at a time, and are non-contact related.

Phase 3 allows for gatherings of a limited number of people outside their households, nonessential travel farther from one’s home, and additional businesses and activities.

Phase 4 is essentially a return to normal.

All phases include evaluations and mitigation that would determine when and how we would move to the next Phase, with the Governor’s approval, and the ability to return to a previous Phase if warranted.

**Q: Where can I go for general guidance on what’s prohibited and what’s allowed?**

**A:** The California Department of Public Health has an extensive [website](#) with current updates on guidance.

You can also call (833) 544-2374 for guidance and information.

**Q: Where can I find changes and updates to the Governor’s Order?**

**A:** The Governor’s Stay-At-Home order and clarifications can be found [here](#). It is updated regularly to reflect changes in reopening the State.

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