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Stanislaus County receives Variance Approval to move forward into Expanded Phase 2 of Reopening

Stanislaus, CA – Stanislaus County has received approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to move forward into Expanded Phase 2 of reopening. The County's COVID-19 [Variance Attestation](#) showing that the County meets the State's Public Health Officer's [readiness criteria](#), was posted on CDPH website today. This approval allowed additional County businesses and services to open with modifications. These businesses would include:

- Retail stores, including shopping malls and swap meets
- Dine-in restaurants

“Our goal is to open Stanislaus County in a way that minimizes the risk for COVID-19 transmission, and we have a business community that is committed to reopening safely and responsibly to ensure our residents remain healthy and safe,” said Dr. Julie Vaishampayan, Stanislaus County Health Officer. “I have faith that members of our community will do their part in preventing the spread of the coronavirus, because that is what it is going to take for all of us to succeed including washing hands frequently, staying home when sick, and wearing a face covering”.

All businesses that are allowed to reopen, are urged to review the [State of California standards](#), or may follow [Good To Go Stanislaus](#) Guidance for Businesses. Pursuant to the State, all facilities must do the following prior to reopening:

- Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan.
- 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.
- Implement individual control measures and screenings
- Implement disinfecting protocols
- Implement physical distancing guidelines

In addition, CDPH requires the preparation of a Written Worksite Specific Plan. The Stanislaus County's [Business Social Distancing Protocol](#) can be used as a template to assist in the preparation of CDPH's required Worksite Specific Plan. For additional questions or guidance related to reopening criteria in Stanislaus County, businesses can reach out to Business Services line at (209) 558-4473.

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[California Stay at Home Order](#) remains in effect and requires residents to stay home unless they are engaged in activities allowed by the Order. Members of the community are encouraged to visit the [state website](#) as changes may occur in state guidance on a daily basis. The opening of schools for in-person learning will be delayed as more planning still needs to take place.

The [State's Roadmap to Recovery](#) does not allow the opening of personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios, Limited-capacity religious services and cultural ceremonies, Nightclubs, Concert venues, Live audience sports, Festivals, Theme parks, Hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism – non-essential travel, and Higher Education. They are currently listed by the State of California as eligible for reopening when California moves into Stage 3 of the gradual reopening process.

Stanislaus County Public Health continues to work closely with all our partners in the Emergency Operations Center to address the COVID-19 pandemic through guidance provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health, and other partners.

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