

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



*El Dorado County*

## COVID-19 Stage 2

- Q: Can dine-in restaurants begin service starting May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 if I make modifications to ensure physical distancing and other appropriate safety measures?**  
**A:** No. Dine-in service is not allowed as the State has not yet provided safety guidelines for this function.
- Q: Can I open my retail store for in-store shopping and purchases if I make modifications to ensure physical distancing and other appropriate safety measures?**  
**A:** No. In-store shopping is not allowed as the State has not yet provided safety guidelines for this function.
- Q: Can I gather with friends in small groups at a park or other outdoor recreation site?**  
**A:** Small group gatherings for socialization or nonessential purposes are still prohibited under the State Order. You may recreate together if you can maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Q: Are campsites open?**  
**A:** At this time, State Park campgrounds are closed. Please check with the site to ensure the status.
- Q: Are nail and hair salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, or gyms able to open if they make modifications to ensure physical distancing and other appropriate safety measures?**  
**A:** No. The State has not yet provided guidelines for those businesses to open at this time. These are categories are considered part of Stage 3.
- Q: Are churches able to provide services if they make modifications to ensure physical distancing and other appropriate safety measures?**  
**A:** No. Churches are not considered part of the State's Stage 2 allowable business or organization.
- Q: What previously nonessential retail businesses are allowed to operate in El Dorado County now?**  
**A:** Curbside retail such as bookstores, jewelry stores, toy stores, clothing stores, shoe stores, home and furnishing stores, sporting goods stores, antique stores, music stores and florists may now open if they have the proper modifications in place in line with the State's guidelines that have been published. Also, manufacturing and logistics companies may open. See the guidelines [here](#).
- Q: If nothing has materially changed in terms of businesses being allowed to open in El Dorado County, what does having the variance from the State really accomplish?**  
**A:** Although the beginning of Stage 2 of the State's reopening began May 8<sup>th</sup>, with nonessential retail businesses, such as clothing stores, florists, bookstores and sporting goods stores being allowed to open for curbside pickup and delivery in all counties (except those with local restrictions still in place).

Because El Dorado County meets the qualifications for a variance, we can “fast track” into a full Stage 2 reopening as soon as the State provides the guidance. Other counties that do not meet the criteria for the variance cannot move fully into Stage 2, even when State guidance is provided until Gov. Newsom says the whole state can do so.

The second phase of Stage 2 will allow include dine-in restaurants, shopping malls, swap meets, car washes, pet grooming, tanning facilities, landscape gardening once the State releases safety guidelines. Those are expected next week.

**Q: What is the County doing with regards to businesses that are opening early, before the State guidelines for their business are published?**

**A:** The Sheriff’s Office and the County’s Environmental Management division continue to use education and awareness as a way to ensure business owners are aware of the Governor’s Order and that they are subject to fines and other punitive measures by the State if they operate in ways that are currently prohibited by the State Order.

**Q: Are facemasks or face coverings required for employees or patrons at businesses that are open in El Dorado County?**

**A:** At this time, facemasks and coverings are not required in El Dorado County. The Public Health Officer believes that at this time, due to the currently low level of COVID-19 virus and the actions taken by the vast majority of people to maintain physical distancing and engage in personal hygiene. This guidance may change in the future.

**Q: What Stage 2 businesses are allowed to open, what businesses are waiting for State guidance for and what businesses aren’t parts of Stage 2.**

**A:** Please note the businesses under the *Expanded Stage 2* can open once the State guidelines are provided and businesses have their safety plans in order.

<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Not Permitted in Stage 2</b>
<p><i>Early Stage 2 Opening (Whole State)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curb-side Retail</li> <li>• Manufacturers</li> <li>• Logistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios</li> </ul>
<p><i>Expanded Stage 2 with Attestation (Variance)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality services, such as bars, wineries, tasting rooms and lounges</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destination retail, including shopping malls and swap meets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment venues with limited capacities, such as movie theaters, gaming facilities, and pro sports</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal services, limited to: car washes, pet grooming, tanning facilities, and landscape gardening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor museums, kids museums and gallery spaces, zoos and libraries</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged)</li> <li>• Dine-in restaurants (other amenities, like bars or gaming areas, are not permitted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community centers, including public pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor museums and open gallery spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited-capacity religious services and cultural ceremonies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools and childcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nightclubs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concert venues</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live audience sports</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festivals</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme parks</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism – non-essential travel</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education</li> </ul>

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