

## More Businesses and Services Can Reopen in Contra Costa Thanks to Improving COVID Situation

Thanks to progress being made in the fight against COVID-19 in Contra Costa, indoor restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, personal care services and places of worship may now open with restrictions in the County. It is encouraging to note that Moraga's stats are the lowest in the County, with 366 cases per 100,000 and the remaining cities with 418 to 4,666 cases per 100,000.

The changes come after the County qualified to move into the less restrictive red tier ("substantial") of the state's [four-tiered, color-coded reopening system](#) today. Contra Costa had been in the state's purple or "widespread" tier, the most restrictive tier.

### Moving into the red tier means the following sectors can reopen with modifications:

- Places of worship, restaurants, movie theaters and museums can be operated indoors at 25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is less
- Gyms can reopen indoors at 10 percent capacity
- All personal care services, including massage, can move indoors
- Indoor shopping malls can operate at 50 percent maximum occupancy (instead of 25 percent). Food courts can also open following the state's guidelines for restaurants.
- Indoor retail stores can now operate at 50 percent capacity (instead of 25 percent)

Elementary and secondary schools can reopen for in-person instruction on October 13 if the County remains in the red tier for two more weeks. Currently, elementary schools can apply for a waiver from the health officer to reopen.

The Town is preparing to open all Moraga playgrounds and play structures starting Thursday, October 1. Parks maintenance staff is currently conducting playground inspections, cleaning play equipment, and posting the required signage to open safely. The Town looks forward to opening the playgrounds to the community this week.

### What's behind the move to the red tier

In order to move into the more permissive red tier, the County had to see average case rates drop below 7 per 100,000 people and testing positivity rates dip below 8 percent. For the past two weeks, Contra Costa has met those benchmarks. As of Tuesday, the case rate was 6.7 per 100,000 people and the testing positivity rate was 3.7 percent.

View a [chart](#) showing what can be open in each of the four tiers. View [Contra Costa County Openings at a Glance](#) for an overview of new openings.

### Let's keep making progress in stopping COVID

Health officials caution that COVID is still circulating in the community. Please keep doing all the things we've been doing to stay healthy and reduce the spread!

- Cover your face in public
- Maintain social distance
- Wash your hands frequently
- Stay home if you are sick

### Especially for businesses and workplaces

Businesses and other organizations should review their [applicable industry guidance for reopening safely](#) from the state.

For more information about COVID-19 in Contra Costa, visit [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://cchealth.org/coronavirus).