

For the first time in months, restaurants in Tulare County will be permitted to start serving meals inside their dining rooms, as California promoted the county Tuesday out of the most restrictive tier of the state's COVID-19 business-reopening program.

"The declining number of cases is welcome news for Tulare County, with local businesses now able to safely expand operations," Dr. Karen Haught, Tulare County's public health officer, said in a statement issued Tuesday. "However, it is still critical and extremely important for everyone to continue to practice health and safety measures."

"We all must continue to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19 infection—wear a mask, practice physical distancing, limit gatherings with others outside of the household, and get vaccinated when the vaccine is available to you," Haught added.

What restrictions are relaxed?

- Gyms will be allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity,
- Retailers and malls at 50% capacity, Food courts fall under restaurant guidance.
- Restaurants can operate indoors at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer. Restaurants will be required to have 8 feet of distance between all tables, which will be restricted to a maximum of six people from the same household. The rules also call for ventilation to be increased "to the maximum extent possible. Restaurant servers are already required to wear a face mask and/or a face shield.
- Movie theaters and museums can reopen at 25% capacity
- Live outdoor events (assigned seating) will allow for 20% capacity April 1, 2021
- Museums, zoos and aquariums can open indoor activities at 25% capacity
- Middle schools and high schools can reopen
- Higher education institutions can also reopen to in-person, indoors instruction at 25% or 100 people -- whichever is fewer.
- Private indoor gatherings are also permitted for people from up to three different households, with masking and physical distancing. People who are vaccinated can gather in small groups indoors without masking or distancing.
- Youth and Adult Outdoor moderate-contact sports such as baseball, softball, tennis, volleyball, gymnastics, and cheerleading

What's still closed?

- Amusement parks and indoor playgrounds. *In LA and Orange county plans to open April 1st with 15% capacity for in-state visitors only under the red tier*
- Bars, breweries and distilleries where no food is served aren't not open indoors, but *can open for outdoor business only, 90 minute intervals, reservations, seating @ tables, limited hours*
- Bowling alleys are not permitted until Orange Tier
- Saunas, indoor pools and steam rooms. Swim lessons are allowed in both indoor and outdoor pools in all tiers and indoor pools can open in Orange Tier