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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEWS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">San Joaquin Operational Area</p>

For Immediate Release

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**Questions about San Joaquin County Stay At Home Order  
Issued May 8, 2020**

Topics:

- [General Information](#) (pg. 1)
- [Travel](#) (pg. 3)
- [Food](#) (pg. 3)
- [Health](#) (pg. 4)
- [Business](#) (pg. 5)
- [County Landfills](#) (pg. 6)

**General Information**

**Q. What is new to this Order?**

A. On May 29, 2020, Governor Newsom began moving the State into Stage 3 of modifying the State's Stay-at-Home order. The State will issue Guidance for additional sectors of the economy, and the counties, guided by the Public Health Officer and elected officials have the authority to determine when to implement such State Guidance. All residents of San Joaquin are required to comply with the State's Public Health Orders.

**Q. Where can I ask a question?**

A. Send an email to [SJReadyFeedback@sigov.org](mailto:SJReadyFeedback@sigov.org). Responses are generally within 1-2 business days.

**Q. When does this Order become effective?**

A. This Order became effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 2, 2020.

**Q. How long will the order last?**

A. The Order is in place until the Health Officer rescinds it in writing.

**Q. What areas does this Order apply to?**

A. This Order is in effect in all of San Joaquin County.

**Q. Why is this order in place?**

A. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they are carrying and spreading the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily

spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.

**Q. What does this order mean?**

A. The “stay at home” Order means to stay in your home and not leave except to engage in any of the authorized activities identified in any State or local health order.

**Q. Is the Order mandatory or just guidance?**

A. Yes, it is mandatory. This is a legal Order issued under the authority of California law. You are required to comply. It is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community. All persons, businesses, and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

**Q. Am I allowed to leave my home while this Order is in effect?**

A. Yes. Individuals may leave their place of residence to participate in any of the activities identified in any State or local health order, including engaging in outdoor activities. Social distancing requirements must be observed at all times.

**Q. Who do I call if I suspect the Order is being violated?**

A. If you would like to report a suspected violation of the Order, you may call the non-emergency telephone number of the law enforcement agency that provides services in the jurisdiction where the violation is occurring.

- Non-emergency phone numbers
  - Stockton Police Department: (209) 937-8377
  - Lodi Police Department: (209) 333-6727
  - Manteca Police Department: (209) 456-8101
  - Ripon Police Department: (209) 599-2102
  - Escalon Police Department: (209) 838-7093
  - Tracy Police Department: (209) 831-6550
  - San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office: (209) 468-4400

*\* This answer is stated as agreed upon by the agency heads for the city police departments and Sheriff in San Joaquin County.*

**Q. Are we able to have Gatherings?**

A. Gatherings—meetings or other events that bring together persons from multiple households at the same time for a shared or group experience in a single room, space, or place such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or other indoor or outdoor space—pose an especially great danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19. As a consequence, State public health directives prohibit professional, social and community mass gatherings.

On May 25, 2020, in an effort to balance First Amendment interests with public health, the State Public Health Officer created an exception to the prohibition against mass gatherings for faith-based services and cultural ceremonies as well as protests. These types of gatherings are permitted so long as they do not exceed 100 attendees or 25%

of the capacity of the space in which the gathering is held, whichever is lower. All other mass gatherings are prohibited until further notice.

**Q. Can I engage in political protest gatherings?**

A. Yes, as explained below, although in-person protests present special public health concerns.

Even with adherence to physical distancing, bringing members of different households together to engage in in-person protest carries a higher risk of widespread transmission of COVID-19. Such gatherings may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. In particular, activities like chanting, shouting, singing, and group recitation negate the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing. For this reason, people engaging in these activities should wear face coverings at all times.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that those exercising their right to engage in political expression (including, for example, their right to petition the government) should utilize alternative channels, such as the many online and broadcasting platforms available in the digital age, in place of in-person gatherings.

However, state public health directives do not prohibit in-person protests as long as (1) attendance is limited to 25% of the relevant area’s maximum occupancy, as defined by the relevant local permitting authority or other relevant authority, or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower, and (2) physical distancing of six feet between persons or groups of persons from different households is maintained at all times. Failure to maintain adequate physical distancing may result in an order to disperse or other enforcement action. Face coverings are strongly recommended.

Participants must maintain a physical distance of six feet from any uniformed peace officers and other public safety personnel present, unless otherwise directed, and follow all other requirements and directives imposed by local health officers and law enforcement, or other applicable authorities.

This limitation on attendance will be reviewed at least once every 21 days, beginning May 25, 2020. This review will assess the impacts of these imposed limits on public health and provide further direction as part of a phased-in restoration of gatherings that implicate the First Amendment.

**Travel**

**Q. Does the Order allow me to leave the County?**

A. The Order allows travel for urgent matters or if such travel is essential for your permitted work. Nonessential travel for vacation or pleasure should be avoided.

**Q. Can I continue to use public transit?**

A. Public transit will continue to operate on a limited basis. Public transit can only be used to perform “essential activities,” to get to and from work to operate “essential business,” or to maintain “essential governmental functions,” as those terms are defined in the Order. People riding public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

**Food**

**Q. I don’t cook - how can I purchase meals?**

A. Restaurants, cafes, food trucks, and similar establishments are open to the public, following State issued guidance . You can also purchase prepared foods at grocery

stores, supermarkets, certified farmers' markets, convenience stores, and other such food retailers. Older Californians can call 1-833-544-2374 for non-urgent medical needs, to get meals delivered, track down prescriptions and more.

**Q. How can I access free or reduced price meals for my family or myself?**

A. Schools, soup kitchens, food banks, and other entities that provide free or reduced priced food goods or meals to students or other members of the public are encouraged to continue providing these services. However, food provided by these establishments to the public may not be eaten on the premises but must instead be delivered or taken away for consumption. Call 211 for additional programs or benefits that may be available. SJReady.org is also a valuable resource for more information

## Health

**Q. I become anxious when cooped up in my house. Am I allowed to go to a park or on a hike?**

A. It is okay to go outside to go for a walk, to exercise, and participate in healthy activities as long as you maintain a safe physical distance of six feet from people you do not live with and gather only with members of your household. Below is a list of some outdoor recreational activities.

\*Parks may be closed to help slow the spread of the virus. Check with local officials about park closures in your area. Californians should not travel significant distances and should stay close to home.

- Athletics
- Badminton (singles)
- Throwing a baseball/softball
- BMX biking
- Canoeing (singles)
- Crabbing
- Cycling
- Exploring Rock Pools
- Fishing
- Gardening (not in groups)
- Golfing
- Gun/Archery Ranges
- Hiking (trails/ paths allowing distancing)
- Horse Riding (singles)
- Jogging and running
- Kite Boarding and Kitesurfing
- Meditation
- Outdoor Photography
- Picnics (with your stay-home household members only)
- Quad Biking
- Rock Climbing
- Roller Skating and Rollerblading
- Rowing (singles)
- Scootering (not in groups)
- Skateboarding (not in groups)
- Soft Martial Arts – Tai Chi, Chi Kung (not in groups)
- Surfing
- Tennis and table tennis (singles)
- Throwing a football, kicking a soccer ball (not in groups)
- Trail Running
- Trampolining
- Tree Climbing
- Volleyball (singles)
- Walk the dog
- Wash the car
- Watch the sunrise or sunset
- Yoga

**Q. What should I do if I am feeling sick?**

A. Typically, human coronaviruses cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illness. Symptoms are wide ranging and can be similar to the flu, including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain

- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell

COVID-19 can cause more severe respiratory illness.

If you have any of the emergency warning signs listed below, you should contact your medical provider immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Bluish lips or face

**Q. Where can I be tested?**

A. If you are interested in being tested for COVID-19, make an appointment through OptumServe in Lodi at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>. If you do not have internet access, call 1-888-634- 1123. Appointments are available on weekdays. Testing is free, and you do not need to be experiencing symptoms to be tested.

Testing through Project Baseline is provided free of charge Monday through Saturday near San Joaquin General Hospital. Complete the screening at <https://www.projectbaseline.com/covid-19/>. You must remain inside of a vehicle for this locations testing service.

**Business**

**Q. What businesses are allowed to be open?**

A. Stage 2 services provided the business implements the State Guidance and adopts social distancing protocols, such as:

- Pharmacies
- Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores
- Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies
- Banks
- Childcare
- Office-based businesses (telework encouraged)
- Gas stations
- Dine-In Restaurants
- Hair Salons and Barbershops
- Retail and related logistics and manufacturing
- Marinas/Boat Ramps
- Cleaning Services
- Car washes
- Landscaping Services
- Laundry Services
- Pet Grooming
- Outdoor museums
- Open gallery spaces
- Other public spaces with modifications
- Real Estate
- Auto Dealerships

**Q. What is closed?**

- Personal services such as nail salons, spas, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios
- Hospitality services, such as bars and lounges
- Entertainment venues, such as movie theaters, pro sports, gaming, gambling, and arcade venues
- Indoor museums, kids museums and gallery spaces, zoos, and libraries
- Community centers, including public pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas
- Schools or day camps
- Nightclubs
- Concert venues
- Festivals
- Sports of any kind
- Hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism – non-essential travel
- Higher Education

**Q. Where can I find guidance or more information?**

A. Visit the State of California Resilience Roadmap at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/> and check the California Department of Public Health at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Local-Variance-Attestations.aspx>. Or [www.SJReady.org](http://www.SJReady.org)

**Q. What about religious services?**

A. Full information on conditions imposed by the state can be found at the link below. Local public health officials may impose additional conditions. This guidance does not obligate places of worship to resume in-person activity. It is strongly recommended that places of worship continue to facilitate remote services and other alternatives to in-person religious practice for those who are vulnerable to COVID19.

Even with adherence to physical distancing, convening in a congregational setting of multiple different households to practice a personal faith carries a higher risk of widespread transmission of COVID-19, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. In particular, activities like singing and group recitation dramatically increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. For this reason, congregants engaging in singing, particularly in the choir, and group recitation should wear face coverings at all times.

Places of worship must therefore limit attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. This limitation will be in effect for the first 21 days of a county public health department’s approval of religious services and cultural ceremonies activities at places of worship within their jurisdictions.

Guidance for places of worship at <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>

**Q. What if my business is not listed?**

A. The Order retains the prior requirement that all non-exempt businesses in the County cease operations, but adds that they may perform Minimum Basic Operations. The County can only move as fast as the State allows. As guidance is released from the State, County will implement the State Guidance only after considering the availability of local health resources and the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, and determining that the implementation of the Guidance does not create an unreasonable threat to public health.

**Q. Are non-profit organizations allowed to continue to operate?**

A. If they provide support to open sectors as described in the Order, then yes they can and should continue providing those services. This would include non-profits operating food pantries, providing housing for homeless residents, and many other critical services.

**County Landfills**

**Q. What options do I have to dispose of my waste?**

A. The Lovelace Road Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station, North County Recycle Center and Landfill, and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility are open with modifications. Please visit [San Joaquin County Solid Waste Division](#) for reopening criteria and commercial garbage service.

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