

Health Officer Orders in COVID response

San Francisco Health Commission

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<http://healthofficersf.us> (web)



Federal vs state police powers

- Federal government can collect taxes, wage wars, and regulate interstate commerce
- All other powers are vested in the states (federalism)
- State “police powers” are used for public health authority
- In California,
 - police powers are delegated to counties,
 - there are 58 counties but 61 health jurisdictions (58 + cities of Berkeley, Pasadena, and Long Beach)
 - by law, every county must have a physician local health officer



Health officers ...

- must provide: “Communicable disease control, including availability of adequate isolation facilities, and the control of acute communicable diseases..., based upon provision of appropriate preventive measures for the particular communicable disease hazards in the community.”
- are authorized to control contagious, infectious, or communicable disease and may “take measures as may be necessary” to prevent and control the spread of disease within the territory under their jurisdiction.



1. The processes for developing Health Officer Orders and in making decisions for reopening various businesses/entities in SF.

- California Blueprint for a Safer Economy
- SF Department of Public Health
- SF City Attorney
 - Health Orders and Directives
- COVID-19 Command Center Information & Guidance
 - Guidance and Tip sheets



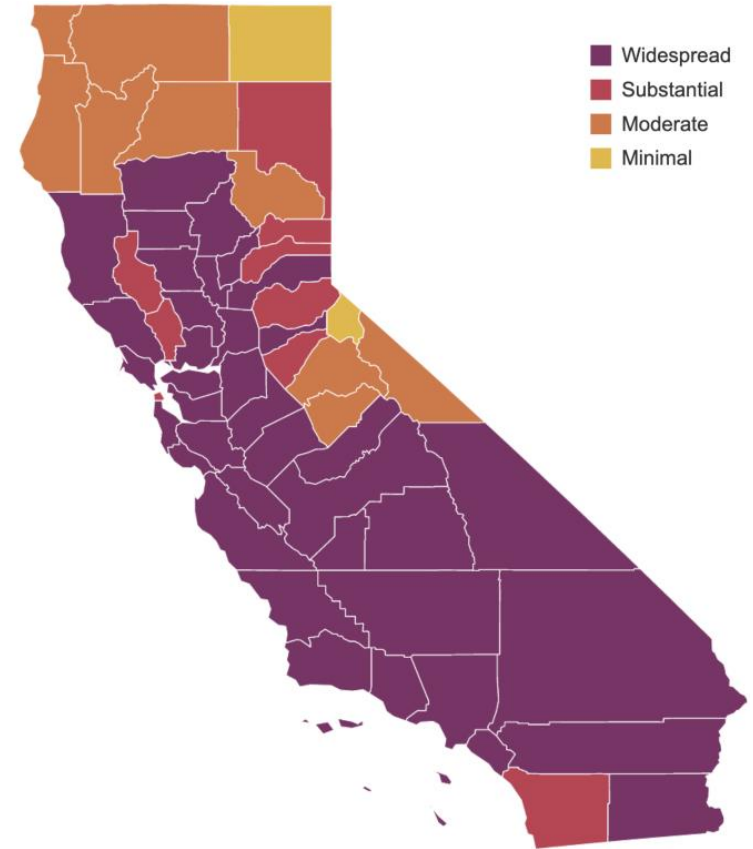
California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Measure*	Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Adjusted Case Rate for Tier Assignment** (Rate per 100,000 excluding prison cases, 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
Testing Positivity*** (Excluding prison cases, 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>8%	5-8%	2.4-9%	<2%

Statewide Metrics

10.9
New COVID-19 Positive cases per day per 100K

6.0%
Positivity Rate



<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx>



2. How does health officer and other city leadership includes input from impacted stakeholders when decisions are made on Health Orders and reopening decisions.

- Subject matter experts
- Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)
 - Consult with stakeholders to review directives
- Mayor's Office
- Board of Supervisors
- Others as needed



3. How are concerns from the public incorporated into revisions of existing Health Officer orders and decisions regarding reopening?

- Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- Communication through SFBOS and Mayor's Office
- Meeting with stakeholders (associations, webinars, public hearings)
- Emails



4. Since the SF Economic Recovery Taskforce is sunseting, how will health officer interact with the business community when considering future Health Orders and reopening decisions?

- California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy
- Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)
- Industry specific engagement
 - Unions
 - Associations
 - Coalitions



5. Since there are so many issues to consider, how are topics prioritized for both health orders and reopening decisions?

- SFDPH strategic priorities
- COVID Command Center priorities
- Decision intelligence (decision quality + complex problem-solving + performance improvement): e.g., **(HELP)² checklist**

H Health impact	H Health equity
E Ethical issues	E Efficiency issues
L Legal exposures	L Logistical issues
P Public trust	P Political support



6. What kinds of CCSF staff are supporting the Health Officer in Health Order and reopening decision work? Is there one consistent team or does it vary depending on the topic?

- SF Department of Public Health
 - Subject matter experts
 - Administrative support
- SF City Attorney
 - Health Orders
 - Directives
- SF COVID-19 Command Center
 - Information & Guidance



7. The Language of the orders is complex legalese; how does the Health Officer ensure making it easier to understand?

- Information and guidance
 - Tip Sheets
 - Translation
- Joint Information Center
 - Posters
 - Infographics
 - Social media



8. What is the average length of time to develop a Health Officer Order from conception to final document? Why does it take so long?

- Depends on complexity of topic (e.g., LTCF visitation)
 - Legal framework
 - State laws, statues, regulations
 - Review of other county health officer orders and guidance
 - Consultation with subject matter experts
- For non-complex topic: 10 – 14 days
- For emergencies: 1 day (e.g., March 16 Shelter-in-Place order)



9. Can you provide any additional information about reopening of schools, including commenting on whether we have available resources to conduct the necessary testing / contact tracing.

- 75 waiver letters of intent
- 28 applications submitted
- Site assessment started this weekend
- Approved elementary school will be able to start next week



Gratitude to staff and communities!

