



Edward D. Hill
Director

Milton Teske, M.D.
Health Officer

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Date: June 29, 2020

To: All Kings County Businesses

From: Kings County Public Health Officer

Stage 3 Business Reopening Process Update – Mandated Closure of Bars

On June 28, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) released further guidance mandating closure of bars in counties on the [County Monitoring List](#), including Kings County which has been listed for more than 14 days. Counties which have been on the list for 14 days or more are required to immediately close bars within the county. Reopening will be subject to county health office approval. The State guidance for the closure of bars does not allow for variances and should be implemented as presented.

The CDPH has stated the bar closures are necessary because:

- Bars are purely social settings where different people and groups mix
- Alcohol consumption impairs judgment and may lead to less compliance with social distancing guidance
- People often spend more time in a bar than other establishments, like restaurants, etc.
- Loud bars require loud conversation/yelling, which can spread droplets more efficiently
- People who may not know each other often congregate in bars, making it more difficult to engage in thorough contact tracing

Kings County is among 15 counties on the County Monitoring List; all of them will have been on the list for three or more days. Seven will have been on the list for 14 days or more.

The scope of this action is defined by CDPH Guidance as follows:

- Brewpubs, breweries, bars, and pubs, should close until those establishments are allowed to resume operation per State guidance and local permission, unless they are offering sit-down, dine-in meals. Alcohol can only be sold in the same transaction as a meal.

- Dine-in restaurants, brewpubs, breweries, bars, and pubs that provide sit-down meals should follow the [dine-in restaurant guidance](#) (PDF) and should continue to encourage takeout and delivery service whenever possible.
- Brewpubs, breweries, bars, and pubs that do not provide sit-down meals themselves, but can contract with another vendor to do so, can serve dine-in meals provided both businesses follow the [dine-in restaurant guidance](#) (PDF) and alcohol is only sold in the same transaction as a meal.
- Venues that are currently authorized to provide off-sale beer, wine, and spirits to be consumed off premises and do not offer sit-down, dine-in meals should follow the [guidance for retail operations](#) (PDF) and offer curbside sales only, until local and/or statewide rules allow additional retail activity.
- Producers of beer, wine, and spirits should follow the [guidance for manufacturing operations](#) (PDF).

California's Pandemic Resiliency Roadmap for reopening is a risk-based framework that guides State and local governments on a path to re-opening industries under strict workplace modifications. The CDPH guidance documents provide direction on how local jurisdictions with attestations to readiness – which Kings County has – should monitor and modify business behaviors and operations to reduce risk for infection. The specific COVID-19 protocols include establishing a workplace-specific plan, training employees, implementing screening and control measures, cleaning and disinfecting and social distancing best practices. These protocols can be found by visiting the CDPH COVID-19 website at www.Covid19.Ca.Gov/Roadmap-Counties. The Resiliency Roadmap always anticipated that if there was a sustained surge in the number of COVID-19 cases, some businesses might have to close again as mitigation against further spread.

Kings County Department of Public Health will be available to assist local businesses throughout the County to help interpret the guidelines and to provide educational assistance, if needed, to bars that are required to close. The CDPH has suggested that if bars do not follow local health orders to close in counties where closures are required, State enforcement may be necessary, including enforcement by the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (“ABC”).

Although the State stay-at-home order has been modified several times, State law continues to require that all possible steps be taken to ensure the safety of workers and the public from the spread of the virus. Preventative measures include physical distancing, the use of face coverings by employees and customers, frequent handwashing, regular cleaning and disinfection, and training employees on these and other elements of the COVID-19 prevention plan.

As such, all businesses that reopen must follow and implement the Statewide COVID-19 industry guidance specific to your operation and must implement appropriate preventative

measures in all the operational aspects of the business. This requirement includes avoiding situations and actions, such as sales, promotions or other incentives or enticements that can cause mass public gatherings, which will have negative public health and economic impacts that could force businesses throughout the County to close once again. Therefore, **businesses that are found incapable of effectively controlling the risk factors for spread of COVID-19 through proper implementation of the guidelines may be subject to closure by order of the Kings County Health Officer.**

For any questions, please call us at 559-584-1411.