



# INYO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## INYO COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UPDATE

*November 16, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.*

<https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19>

- **Inyo County Stays in Orange Tier:** While 40 counties moved backward into more restrictive tiers because of rapidly increasing case rates, Inyo County remains in Tier 3 (Orange Tier). County tier assignments were issued on Monday this week, posted to <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> at noon today. In light of the recent, unprecedented surge in rate of increase of cases in California, the following changes are effective until further notice:
  - Tier assignments may occur any day of the week and may occur more than once a week when CDPH determines that the most recent reliable data indicate that immediate action is needed to address COVID-19 transmission in a county.
  - Counties may be moved back more than one tier if CDPH determines that the data support the more intensive intervention. Key considerations will include the rate of increase in new cases and/or test positivity, more recent data as noted below, public health capacity, and other epidemiological factors.
  - The most recent reliable data will be used to complete the assessment.
  - In light of the extreme circumstances requiring immediate action, counties will be required to implement any sector changes the day following the tier announcement.

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

- **Inyo County Flu Vaccination Clinics:** The Inyo County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health and Prevention division is hosting their final drive through flu vaccination clinics this week on **Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** in **Tecopa** (Tecopa Community Center, 400 Tecopa Hot Springs Rd) and **Shoshone** (Death Valley School, Old State Highway 127), and **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** in **Furnace Creek** (Furnace Creek Visitor's Center). Please ensure that you comply with the following drive-up safety guidance:
  - Patients must remain in their vehicles
  - Children must remain restrained in car seats
  - Vehicle occupants must wear face covering or shield with drape at all times
  - Dogs or other animals should not accompany the patient

This is a no cost clinic and appointments are **not** necessary. For more information please contact Public Health at 760-873-7868.

**CRITICAL REMINDER - Failure to comply with Health Officer Orders places individuals and our community at increased risk of infection. Violation of Health Officer Orders may also result in a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both (Health and Safety Code §120295).**

## Statewide/ Federal Information, Action, & Recommendations

	Global	U.S.	California
Confirmed Cases	54,814,867	11,188,766	1,037,307
Deaths	1,322,963	247,101	18,279

Global: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (11/16/20 – 4:30 pm)

US: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (11/16/20 – 4:30 pm)

CA: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (11/16/20 – 4:30 pm)

- **Travel Advisory for Non-Essential Travel:** The incidence of COVID-19 is increasing in many states and countries. Persons arriving in California from other states or Californians returning from other states or countries could increase the risk of COVID-19 spread. In addition, travel itself can be a risk for exposure to COVID-19, particularly travel through shared conveyance such as air, bus or rail travel.
  - Persons arriving in California from other states or countries, including returning California residents, should practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival. These persons should limit their interactions to their immediate household. This recommendation does not apply to individuals who cross state or country borders for essential travel. [2]
  - Californians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to California.

For more information visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Travel-Advisory.aspx>

- **Updated Gathering Guidance:** This guidance provides an updated plan for Californians to gather outside their household and applies to private gatherings. It also applies to activities protected by the First Amendment to the extent that they are not already permitted by other guidance, notwithstanding any guidance, orders, or directives to the contrary. Gatherings are defined as social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place. When people from different households mix, this increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19. All persons planning to host or participate in a private gathering, as defined above, must comply with the requirements identified below.
  - Gatherings that include more than 3 households are prohibited. This includes everyone present, including hosts and guests. Remember, the smaller the number of people, the safer. Keep the households that you interact with stable over time. By spending time with the same people, risk of transmission is reduced. Participating in multiple gatherings with different households or groups is strongly discouraged. The host should collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later.
  - Gatherings must be outdoors for counties in the Purple Tier and indoor gatherings are strongly discouraged in Red, Orange and Yellow Tiers.
  - Anyone with any COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, night sweats, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headaches, confusion, or loss of sense of taste/smell), must stay home and not come into contact with

anyone outside their household. Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a gathering should notify the organizer of the gathering and/or other attendees as soon as possible regarding the potential exposure.

- People at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 (such as older adults and people with chronic medical conditions) are strongly urged not to attend any gatherings, especially indoor gatherings.
- Practice physical distancing and hand hygiene
- Wear a face covering
- Gatherings should be two hours or less. The longer the duration, the risk of transmission increases.
- Singing, chanting, shouting, cheering and similar activities are strongly discouraged at outdoor gatherings and prohibited at indoor gatherings.

For more information visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-November-2020.aspx>

- **Updated Face Covering Guidance:** In addition to the local health officer order requiring face coverings in Inyo County, the State of California released updated statewide face covering guidance. Individuals in California must wear face coverings when they are outside of the home, unless one of the exemptions below applies:

**Individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings in the following specific settings:**

- Persons in a car alone or solely with members of their own household.
- Persons who are working in an office or in a room alone.
- Persons who are actively eating or drinking provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing from others not in their household. Such persons must have a face covering with them at all times and must put it on if they are within 6 feet of others who are not in their household.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Workers who are required to wear respiratory protection.
- Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face coverings by other CDPH guidance.

**The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times:**

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. Such conditions are rare.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

- Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

For more information on the Inyo County face covering order: <https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19/orders-directives>

For more information on CDPH face covering guidance:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

- **Cleaning and Waste Management Considerations for Residences:** The California Department of Public Health released a document providing guidance to people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 who are able to receive care at home, and to their household members and/or caregivers, regarding the cleaning of residences and disposal of waste.
  - Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol. Handwashing - Clean Hands Save Lives.
  - Respiratory etiquette: Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw into a lined trash container.
  - Avoid sharing personal household items, dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, wash thoroughly with soap and water.
  - Wash laundry thoroughly: Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items. Read and follow the directions on the labels of bedding, clothing, detergent and/or washing machines. Dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.
  - Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, fixtures, toilets, phones, etc. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a regular household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions, which include precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure to have good ventilation during use of the product.
  - When removing personal protective equipment, first remove and dispose of gloves. Then immediately clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Next, remove and dispose of facemask, and immediately clean your hands again with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer.
  - Place all used gloves, facemasks and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing of them with other household waste.
  - Clean your hands (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after handling these items.

For more information visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Cleaning-and-Waste-Management-Considerations-for-Residences.aspx>