



County of Fresno DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

December 2, 2020

Dear Funeral Directors and Cemetery District Managers,

Based on what is presently known about COVID-19 and the current status of COVID-19 in Fresno County, below is the Funeral and Cemetery guidance for Fresno County while in the “Purple Tier” or “Red Tier”. The following guidelines are applicable to both service tiers, while Attachment A outlines permissible activities within each tier.

- No off-site visitation or viewing of decedent, e.g. family residence, community centers, etc.
- All persons shall wear a mask/face covering.
- All persons must maintain physical distancing practices to the maximum extent possible.
- No ill persons in attendance.
- No quarantined persons shall be in attendance.
- Clergy and guest speakers may remove mask during eulogy, provided safe distancing is accommodated.
- Standard Military funerals allowed and may include Honor Guards, Chaplain and Rifle Party (does not count toward number of attendees).
- No food, drinks, potlucks, catered food services, etc. are allowed, except for services lasting longer than 24hours. Such services will be allowed single serve disposable containers.
- If holding a gathering outside and using a shade structure, ensure that structure is at least open on three sides.
- People with underlying medical conditions that weakens their immune system and those who are elderly are at high risk for serious outcomes from COVID-19 infection should stay at home and not participate in events or gatherings unless necessary.
- Must post health department guidance for public viewing.
- The guidelines provided are the minimal standards expected from all in the industry. We are in full support when additional measures are implemented to protect the health and safety of the families you serve and your staff.

Respectfully,

Rais Vohra, M.D.
Fresno County Interim Health Officer

RV/smg

cc: Joe Prado, Community Health Division Manager, Fresno County Department of Public Health
David Luchini, Assistant Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health
David Pomaville, Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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ATTACHMENT A

FUNERAL & CEMETERY COVID TIERS		
ACTIVITY	PURPLE TIER	RED TIER
FUNERAL HOMES AND MORTUARYS		
Number of Persons in Attendance for Visitation and Viewing Indoor	No more than 10 persons.	Limit attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower.
Number of Persons in Attendance for Visitation and Viewing Outdoor	No more than 25 persons.	Limit attendance to 25% of capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower.
Rotation of Attendees	Not Allowed	Permissible with a thorough cleaning between each rotation.
Allowable time	Limited to 15 minutes.	Limited to 30 minutes.
Chanting - Singing- Live Music	Not Allowed	Follow FCDPH band and choir guidance (see Attachment B). Attendees not permitted to sing or perform. Performers will count towards the 25-person limit in attendance.
CEMETERIES		
Burials - Number of Persons in Attendance	No more than 15 persons.	25-person limit in attendance.
Rotation of Attendees	Not Allowed	Permissible with a thorough cleaning between each rotation.
Allowable time	Limited to 15 minutes.	Limited to 45 minutes.
Chanting - Singing - Live Music	Not Allowed	Follow FCDPH band and choir guidance (see Attachment B). Attendees not permitted to sing or perform. Performers will count towards the 25-person limit in attendance.
General Public Access & Visitation Subject to Gathering Guidance	Follow the Guidance for Private Gatherings (see Attachment C)	Follow the Guidance for Private Gatherings (see Attachment C)
MAUSOLEUMS		
Number of Persons in Attendance	Limited to 10 persons in attendance.	Limited to 25% of building capacity with social distancing.
Rotation of Attendees	Not Allowed	Permissible with a thorough cleaning between each rotation.
Allowable time	Limited to 15 minutes.	Limited to 30 minutes
Chanting - Singing - Live Music	Not Allowed	Follow FCDPH band and choir guidance (see Attachment B). Attendees not permitted to sing or perform. Performers will count towards the 25-person limit in attendance.



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

October 23, 2020

RE: New Guidance on Bands and Choir

This guidance is intended to help K-12 schools, Institutes of Higher Education, and professional performers practice band and choir activities in a safe and healthy manner. This guidance is not intended for live performances or bands in restaurants, wineries, or bars. Refer to the [CDPH Industry Guidance](#) for those sectors. Guidance is a current reflection of the red/substantial tier and is subject to modifications.

- Masks should be worn by all engaging in band or choir activities. This includes modified masks (masks with mouth slits) for all wind and brass instrument players.
- All participants should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms including temperature checks prior to entering any facility.
- Bell covers should be placed on all wind and brass instruments.
- No sharing of any type of musical instruments is allowed. Limit and discourage the sharing of other items especially those that are hard to clean/disinfect.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment and musical instruments before and after engaging in band or choir activities.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet for all performers, musicians, and staff for those that do not generate respiratory droplets (percussion, string, flag carriers, etc.). Physical distancing of 9 feet for all singers, 12 feet for all wind and brass musicians, and 15 feet for all trombone musicians.
- Limit indoor activities to no more than 25 participants. No audience or fans are allowed.
- Limit outdoor activities to no more than 50 participants. No audience or fans are allowed.
- Require breaks of a minimum of 5 minutes every 30 minutes to allow the dispersion of droplets when practicing or performing indoors.

FCDPH will consider alternative plans on a case by case basis if they include other steps to ensure the health and safety of participants such as COVID-19 testing prior to participation.

Rais Vohra MD

Rais Vohra, M.D.
Fresno County Interim Health Officer

David Pomaville

David Pomaville
Director

ATTACHMENT C

Guidance for Private Gatherings

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-10-09.aspx>)



Erica Pan, MD, MPH
Acting State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

October 9, 2020

TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: Guidance for Private Gatherings

Summary

This guidance provides an updated plan for Californians to gather outside their household and replaces the March 16, 2020 and prior [gatherings guidance](#). It applies to private gatherings, and all other gatherings not covered by existing sector guidance are prohibited. 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.

Mandatory Requirements for All Gatherings

All persons planning to host or participate in a private gathering, as defined above, must comply with the following requirements. Local health jurisdictions may be more restrictive than this guidance. Refer to your local guidance for what is allowed in your area.

1. Attendance

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. The host should collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later.

2. Gather Outdoors

- a. Gatherings that occur outdoors are significantly safer than indoor gatherings. All gatherings must be held outside. Attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized.
- b. Gatherings may occur in outdoor spaces that are covered by umbrellas, canopies, awnings, roofs, and other shade structures provided that at least three sides of the space (or 75%) are open to the outdoors.
- c. A gathering of no more than three households is permitted in a public park or other outdoor space, even if unrelated gatherings of other groups up to three households are also occurring in the same park or other outdoor space. If



multiple such gatherings are occurring, mixing between groups gatherings is not allowed. Additionally, multiple gatherings of three households cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time – this would constitute a gathering exceeding the permitted size.

3. *Don't Attend Gatherings If You Feel Sick or You Are in a High-Risk Group*
 - a. 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.**
 - b. Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a gathering should notify the other attendees as soon as possible regarding the potential exposure.
 - c. 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.
4. *Practice Physical Distancing and Hand Hygiene at Gatherings*
 - a. For any gatherings permitted under this guidance, the space must be large enough so that everyone at a gathering can maintain at least a 6-foot physical distance from others (not including their own household) at all times.
 - b. Seating must provide at least 6 feet of distance (in all directions—front-to-back and side-to-side) between different households.
 - c. Everyone at a gathering should frequently wash their hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. A place to wash hands or hand sanitizer must be available for participants to use.
 - d. Shared items should not be used during a gathering. As much as possible, any food or beverages at outdoor gatherings must be in single-serve disposable containers. If providing single-serve containers is not possible, food and beverages must be served by a person who washes or sanitizes their hands frequently, and wears a face covering. **Self-serve items from communal containers should not be used.**
5. *Wear a Face Covering to Keep COVID-19 from Spreading*
 - a. When gathering, **face coverings must be worn** in accordance with the CDPH [Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings, unless an exemption is applicable.](#)
 - b. People at gatherings may remove their face coverings briefly to eat or drink as long as they stay at least 6 feet away from everyone outside their own household, and put their face covering back on as soon as they are done with the activity.
 - c. Face coverings can also be removed to meet urgent medical needs (for example, to use an asthma inhaler, take medication, or if feeling light-headed).
6. *Keep it short*

- a. Gatherings should be two hours or less. The longer the duration, the risk of transmission increases.
7. *Rules for Singing, Chanting, and Shouting at Outdoor Gatherings*
- a. Singing, chanting, shouting, and physical exertion significantly increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission because these activities increase the release of respiratory droplets and fine aerosols into the air. Because of this, singing, chanting, and shouting are strongly discouraged, but if they occur, the following rules and recommendations apply:
 - i. All people who are singing or chanting **should wear a face covering at all times** while singing or chanting, including anyone who is leading a song or chant. Because these activities pose a very high risk of COVID-19 transmission, face coverings are essential to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets and fine aerosols;
 - ii. People who are singing, shouting, chanting, or exercising are strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing beyond 6 feet to further reduce risk.
 - iii. People who are singing or chanting are strongly encouraged to do so quietly (at or below the volume of a normal speaking voice).
 - b. Instrumental music is allowed as long as the musicians maintain at least 6-foot physical distancing. Musicians must be from one of the three households. Playing of wind instruments (any instrument played by the mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet) is strongly discouraged.

Context

COVID-19 continues to pose a severe risk to communities and requires all people in California to follow necessary precautions and to adapt the way they live and function in light of this ongoing risk. The safest way to gather is to spend time with people in the same household or to gather virtually.

In general, the **more people from different households** a person interacts with at a gathering, the **closer** the physical interaction is, and the **longer** the interaction lasts, the higher the risk that a person with a COVID-19 infection, symptomatic or asymptomatic, may spread it to others. Public health studies have also shown that the risk of transmission is increased **in indoor spaces**, particularly when there isn't appropriate ventilation.¹ Unlike indoor spaces, wind and air in outdoor spaces can help reduce spread of the virus from one person to another.

Planning scenarios published by the CDC estimate that, on average, a person with COVID-19 goes on to infect between 2-4 people, with a best estimate of 2.5 when there are no preventive

¹ See, e.g., Hiroshi Nishiura, et al., Closed environments facilitate secondary transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.28.20029272v2.full.pdf>; Hu Qian, et al., "Indoor transmission of SARS-CoV-2" [pre-print] published in medRxiv on April 4, 2020, available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.04.20053058v1>.

measures.² For example, if each infected person spreads the virus to two people, who in turn spread it to two others each; those four will spread the virus to eight others; those eight will spread the virus to 16; and so on. As a result, after 10 transmission cycles, one person could be responsible for 1,024 other people contracting the virus.³ Additionally, there is broad agreement that people who are not experiencing symptoms can still spread COVID-19⁴. The fact that COVID-19 can be spread by people who don't have symptoms or aren't showing symptoms yet is one of the aspects of the COVID-19 that makes it difficult to control.

All gatherings pose a higher risk of transmission and spread of COVID-19 when people mix from different households and communities. The likelihood of transmission and spread increases with laughing, singing, loud talking and difficulty maintaining physical distance. Limiting attendance at gatherings is a way to reduce the risk of spread as it lowers the number of different people who are interacting. Additionally, by limiting attendance there is an improved ability to perform effective contact tracing if there is a positive case discovered, which can help to slow the spread of COVID-19⁵. People who do choose to attend gatherings should discuss and agree upon the specific group rules before convening together.

² See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

³ See, e.g., Report 3: Natsuko Imai et al, WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Modelling, MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, J-IDEA, "Imperial college London, UK. Transmissibility of 2019 -n-CoV)." See also Inglesby T B JAMA Public Health Measures and the Reproduction Number of SARS-CoV-2. JAMA Network.2020.7878 (May 1, 2020).

⁴ Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: implications for infection prevention precautions," <https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/transmission-of-sars-cov-2-implications-for-infection-prevention-precautions>

⁵ See <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/preventing-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus>