

LA County Moves to “Red Tier” For Safer Economy

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, all of us have had to make difficult decisions about how we live our lives and help reduce the spread of the virus across our communities. The City of Azusa is committed to public health and safety, and keeping the community informed. Please continue to follow public health experts' recommendations to avoid spreading COVID-19 including frequent handwashing, wearing a face covering, keeping a safe distance from one another, and complying with the most recent State and County Orders. For up-to-date Department of Public Health guidance, more information is available [here](#). To stay informed on City-specific updates, residents may also tune in to the City Manager Update provided at the beginning of each City Council meeting and/or follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and/or [Instagram](#).

L.A. County Begins Lifting COVID-19 Restrictions: The California Department of Public Health has announced that Los Angeles County has entered the Red Tier of the [State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and that it is lifting some local activity-specific restrictions effective Monday, March 15, 2021. The revised County Order on reopening Safer at Work is available [here](#).

Public Health said the County is principally aligned with the state's reopening framework for the red tier, with mandatory mask wearing, distancing and infection control practices for every business and permitted activity. Additional safety modifications are required or recommended for certain sectors. Businesses, entities and residents are encouraged to continue exercising caution even as certain restrictions are lifted. Although certain activities are allowed or certain reopening protocols are revised, that does not mean that those activities are "safe".

Newly permitted activities and modified safety protocols in the red tier include the following:

Schools

Permitted to re-open for in-person instruction for students in grades 7-12 adhering to all state and county directives. Institutions of higher education can re-open all permitted activities with required safety modifications except for residential housing, which remains under current restrictions for the Spring semester.

Gyms, Fitness Centers, Yoga and Dance Studios

Allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity with masking requirements for all indoor activities. [Appendix L](#)

Retail and Personal Care Services

Can increase capacity to 50% with masking required at all times for all services. [Appendix R](#)

Restaurants

Can open indoors at a 25% max capacity or 100 persons (whichever is fewer) with specific modifications for both outdoor and indoor dining listed in [Appendix I](#). Indoor dining may reopen under the following conditions:

- 8 feet distance between tables
- 1 household per table with a limit of 6 people
- HVAC system is in good working order and has been evaluated
- To the maximum extent possible ventilation has been increased
- Public Health strongly recommends that all restaurant employees interacting with customers indoors are provided with additional masking protection (above the currently required face shield over face masks)

- Public Health strongly recommends that all employees working indoors are informed about and offered opportunities to be vaccinated
- Outdoor dining can accommodate up to 6 people per table from 3 different households

Use this [Table Top Safety Graphic](#) to communicate with your patrons.

Movie Theaters

Can open indoors at 25% capacity with reserved seating only where each group is seated with at least 6 feet of distance in all directions between any other group. [Appendix X](#)

Private Gatherings

Can occur indoors with up to 3 separate households, with masking and distancing required at all times. People who are fully vaccinated can gather in small numbers indoors with other people who are fully vaccinated without required masking and distancing.

COVID-19 Relief Funds Benefit Individuals and Businesses: The [American Rescue Plan Act](#) the president signed into law is a \$1.9 trillion measure that provides [payments to individuals](#) whose income qualifies them for those payments and the following other benefits:

- Extend unemployment benefits and related services;
- Make up to \$10,200 of 2020 unemployment compensation tax-free;
- Make student loan forgiveness tax-free through 2025;
- Provide a maximum recovery rebate of \$1,400 per eligible individual;
- Expand and otherwise modify certain tax credits, including the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit;
- Provide premium assistance for certain health insurance coverage; and
- Require coverage, without cost-sharing, of COVID-19 vaccines and treatment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Vaccination Update: Currently, the following groups are eligible for the vaccines:

- Healthcare workers
- People age 65 and older
- Education and childcare workers
- Food and agriculture workers
- People in emergency services
- Custodians and janitors
- Public transit workers
- Airport ground crew workers
- Emergency responders, like social workers who handle cases of violence, abuse or neglect
- Foster parents providing emergency housing for young people
- Adults age 16 to age 64 who have underlying health conditions with high risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19. The medical conditions are: Cancer, Chronic kidney disease, Down syndrome, Pregnancy, Sickle cell disease, Heart conditions, Chronic pulmonary disease, Solid organ transplant, Severe obesity, and Type 2 diabetes.

To secure an appointment, please visit vaccinatelacounty.com. There you can learn more about the vaccine, determine if you fall within the eligibility groups, ensure you have the proper documentation and book your appointment. For more info, visit the [Los Angeles County website](#).

Residents who don't have computer access may call (833) 540-0473 between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. for assistance with reservations.

Vaccinations are free, and available to all, regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage. For those who have insurance, coverage information may be requested as part of the appointment scheduling process.

Local Access to Vaccinations: COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available at local pharmacies, health clinics and federally qualified health centers, some senior housing developments and centers, mobile vaccination units, and special vaccination sites run by Public Health and county, city, community and healthcare partners. If you qualify for the vaccine under the appropriate distribution tier, you are encouraged to visit the [Los Angeles County website](#) and/or reach out to your direct medical provider (e.g. Kaiser Permanente, Altamed, Blue Shield) for further instructions and availability. While not guaranteed, some local pharmacies are also offering vaccination appointments for first and second doses.

CVS #5945

Address: 915 E. Arrow Hwy., Azusa, CA 91702

Vaccine: Moderna

Appointments: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>

Rite Aid Pharmacy #5576

Address: 153 East Gladstone Street, Azusa, CA 91702

Vaccine: Moderna

Appointments: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>

Please visit our [COVID-19 Information Page](#) for the latest updates.

Sign up for [Emergency Alerts Here!](#)