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Alameda County Regresses to Purple Tier Prompting Changes in Allowed Activities

City Reminds Businesses that Flex Street Initiative has Streamlined Permitting for use of Public Rights-of-Way

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Oakland, CA – Today, the California Department of Public Health announced that Alameda County is now in the most restrictive tier in the State’s [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) reopening framework. Alameda County is among 41 California counties now in the Purple Tier. In the Purple Tier, indoor dining is not allowed, retail store capacity is capped at 25%, and gyms and fitness centers may only operate outdoors. Hair Salons, Barbershops and Personal Care Services may continue to operate indoors with modifications. Per the State’s requirement, any activity that was only permitted in the Red or Orange Tiers will need to close. For the full roster of activities, visit https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_2020.pdf. **Businesses must comply with the changes by 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18.**

Oakland businesses that need to expand operations outdoors to comply with the State’s guidance should look to the City’s [Flex Street Initiative](#). All fees have been waived and permitting has been streamlined for business’ use of the public rights-of-way, including sidewalk, parking lane and roadway encroachments. Businesses expanding operations to private parking lots and other private outdoor areas will also benefit from streamlined permitting processes at www.oaklandca.gov/flexstreets. Since launching in June more than 130 businesses have applied through Flex Streets.

“We need Alameda County residents and businesses to, once again, rise to the challenge and help flatten the curve,” said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer. “[Stay home for the holidays](#), wear face masks, maintain at least 6 feet of distance, wash your hands frequently, and get your flu shot. Now more than ever, we must protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors with these simple strategies. We all must recommit ourselves to the safety measures that helped us lower case rates in September and October.” Read Alameda County’s release at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/press-release-2020.11.16.pdf>.

The State’s more nimble reopening approach allows for a timelier response that will protect our communities, save lives, and keep our health care systems from becoming overwhelmed.

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