



# TRINITY COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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## **Trinity County Monitoring and Containment Plan for SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic**

On Friday, August 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the new Blueprint for a Safer Economy, the framework which guides sector openings in California Counties. The Blueprint replaces the previous County Data Monitoring List and became effective on August 31, 2020. Trinity County's coordinated plan is guided by the Blueprint framework and ensures the ability to mitigate and contain virus spread through partnerships, monitoring, and robust case investigation/contact tracing (CI/CT).

### **Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Trinity County Healthy and Safe**

This Trinity County Public Health Branch (TCPHB) Containment Plan outlines an updated framework for a safe progression of opening more businesses and activities in light of the pandemic. The framework for this guidance is informed by increased knowledge of disease transmission vulnerabilities and risk factors and is driven by the following goals:

- 1) To progress in phases the opening of sectors based on risk levels with appropriate time between each phase in Trinity County so impacts of any given change can be fully evaluated.
- 2) To aggressively reduce COVID-19 case transmission to as low a rate as possible across Trinity County so the potential burden of flu and COVID-19 in the fall and winter does not challenge our Public Health and Medical system's ability to respond as well as our and healthcare delivery system's ability to surge as needed, including the need adequate staff, hospital beds, and supplies. This will be more challenging in the winter when more activities are taking place indoors, posing a greater risk for COVID-19 transmission.
- 3) Ensure disruption of disease transmission in disproportionately impacted populations, including those living in poverty through testing, disease investigation, CI/CT, isolation/quarantine support and education/outreach.

### **Tier Framework**

This framework lays out the measures that Trinity County must meet, based on indicators that capture disease burden, testing, and health equity. This framework replaces the previous California Department of Public Health (CDPH) County Data Monitoring metrics. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an evolving situation and new evidence and understanding emerges, CDPH, in collaboration with other State officials, will continue to reassess metrics and thresholds.



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See chart below for the framework metrics as set according to tiers based on risk of community disease transmission. For Calculation of metrics refer to Appendix A.

	Higher Risk $\longrightarrow$ Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission***			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Measure				
Adjusted Case Rate for Tier Assignment** (Rate per 100,000 population* excluding prison cases <sup>^</sup> , 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
Testing Positivity <sup>^</sup> (Excluding prison cases <sup>^</sup> , 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>8%	5-8%	2-4.9%	<2%

<sup>^</sup>Excludes state and federal inmates

\*Population denominators from the Department of Finance: State Population Projections - [Total Population by County- Table P-1](#)

\*\*Case rate will be determined using cases confirmed by PCR

\*\*\* Due to variability in data, the testing case rate adjustment does not apply to small counties (defined as those with a population less than ~100,000 residents).

- Trinity County, as a small county, will be exempted from case rate adjustments and with test positivity below 3.5% will be exempted from adjustment for testing rates lower than the state median.
- If the two metrics are not the same tier, Trinity County's tier assignment will be determined by the more restrictive of the two. For example, if a Trinity County's test positivity



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corresponds to tier 3 (orange, moderate), but the case rate corresponds to tier 1 (purple, widespread), the County will be assigned as tier 1.

## Moving Through Tiers

### Rules of the Framework

- CDPH will assess indicators weekly on Mondays and release updated tier assignments on Tuesdays.
- Trinity County must remain in a tier for a minimum of three weeks before being able to advance to a less restrictive tier.
- Trinity County can only move forward one tier at a time, even if metrics qualify for a more advanced tier.
- If Trinity County's adjusted case rate for tier assignment and test positivity measure fall into two different tiers, the County will be assigned to the more restrictive tier.
- Alternate Case Assessment Measure for Small Counties:
  - When Trinity County has test positivity that meets the threshold for the currently assigned tier, but is flagged for potentially moving to a more restrictive tier based on its weekly case rate assessment, the following absolute case rate numbers shall be applied in lieu of the Blueprint case rate thresholds:

<b>From Tier</b>	<b>To Tier</b>	<b>Pop ≤ 35K</b>
Yellow	Orange	7
Orange	Red	14
Red	Purple	35

- This means that Trinity County will not move to the more restrictive tier as long as we are under the absolute case rate numbers identified above.



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- Trinity County may continue to implement or maintain more restrictive public health measures if the local health officer determines that health conditions warrant such measures.

## To Advance

- To advance to a less restrictive tier Trinity County must meet the criteria for that tier for three weeks.
- Trinity County must meet criteria for the next less restrictive tier for both measures for the prior **two** consecutive weeks in order to progress to the next tier.
- In addition, Trinity County must demonstrate the ability to address disease transmission for those persons living in poverty and other identified disproportionately impacted communities within the County.

## Movement [Back] to a More Restrictive Tier

- Movement to a more restrictive tier will occur when weekly case rate exceed the absolute case rate numbers, as defined under Alternate Case Assessment Measure for Small Counties.
- When movement back to a more restrictive tier is warranted Trinity County will have three days to implement any sector changes or closures unless extreme circumstances merit immediate action.
- At any time, state and Trinity County public health officials may work together to determine targeted interventions or county wide modifications necessary to address impacted hospital capacity and drivers of disease transmission, as needed.

## Sector Opening

Activities and sectors open and remain open depending on the tier assignment for Trinity County, refer to <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> to review the tier assignment and open sectors with modifications. Sectors must continue to follow the guidance laid out by CDPH and the Governor's Office.

## Business and Sectors:

There are approximately 1000 businesses total in Trinity County with an estimated 700 of those listed as essential including 550 agricultural businesses.



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Business and workforce sectors are expected to follow the guidance set out by the Governor's Office, CDPH, and Cal-OSHA including emphasis on social distancing, encouraging face coverings, monitoring illness in the workplace, ensuring employees stay home if sick, and disinfecting/sanitizing. Refer to [www.covid19.ca.gov](http://www.covid19.ca.gov) for county tier assignment and sector guidance.

## Routine Monitoring of Business Sectors

Trinity County Environmental Health will conduct routine monitoring and surveillance of business sectors in order to track and support their ability to maintain compliance as laid out in the sector guidance.

Environmental Health monitoring and support activities include, but are not limited to:

- Periodic site visits
- Actively responding to complaints from the community
- Actively assisting the PHB when an outbreak is traced to a business
- Ensuring sufficient supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and customers
- Ensuring sufficient supplies and guidance for disinfection and sanitation

## Schools

Schools in Trinity County are open to in-person instruction. The Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) plan for safely reopening schools is consistent with the Guidance document for schools laid out by CDPH and the mandates from the Governor's Office. The TCOE Schools Health and Safety Plan for Reopening is the guiding document for all school districts. School districts in Trinity County may create plans that are unique to their situation and can be more restrictive than the TCOE Plan but not less restrictive.

## **TCPHB Monitoring, Partner/Public Support, Mitigation, and Containment**

TCBPB will continue to monitor disease activity and testing rates, provide partner support to facilitate mitigation, and ensure containment of spread through robust and timely CI/CT. TCPHB will ensure equity of support, mitigation, and containment for those disproportionately affected communities in Trinity County, namely those communities with high poverty levels and limited access to services.

Monitoring activities include but are not limited to:

- Daily case and test positive rates.
- Regional Medical/Health activity and Emergency Medical System (EMS) data.
- Review local healthcare facilities weekly situation reports.
- Regular inventory of PPE and testing supplies.



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- Local and regional disease activity (positive cases).

## Partner support activities include but are not limited to:

- Ensure adequate supplies of PPE and testing materials for County need.
- Ensure testing capacity.
- Supports to ensure compliance with sector guidance.
- Public facing information (metrics).
- Providing public information on access along with messaging Information from other state officials or agencies.

## Mitigation activities include but are not limited to:

- Ensure timely messaging to the public around what they can do to protect themselves such as limiting exposure especially if you are over 65 and/or have underlying medical conditions, face coverings, hand washing, disinfectant, and physical distancing.
- Ensure timely notification of disease activity to the public and partners.
- Compliance with sector guidance.
- Coordinate Vaccination Planning.

## Containment:

TCPHB currently has three (3) trained case investigators (CIs) that also provide oversight to the 5 contact tracers (CTs) currently trained. This is sufficient to respond immediately to an increase in cases. TCPHB also has the ability to expand CIs/CTs to meet increase case needs beyond our current capacity through a variety of mechanisms, including partnering with our Office of Emergency Services for Disaster Health Workers or Disaster Service Workers as well as the state to procure CIs/CTs.

To promote efficiency and increased ability to reach Trinity County residents as part of CI/CT efforts, TCPHB has fully implemented the state contact tracing platform known as CalCONNECT. TCPHB is employing all features of CalCONNECT to expand the ability to reach individuals and is committed to ensuring initial contact is made within 24 – 48 hours of notification of a positive test result reported to our TCPHB. This will facilitate expeditious isolation of positive persons as well as identification, notification and quarantine of contacts to prevent spread.