

## New state criteria for moving forward in reopening

The Regional Variance Criteria announced on 5/7/20 by Governor Newsom have been revised as of 5/18/20. Some of the changes seem clearly necessary (zero deaths from COVID-19 over 14 days would have been unachievable for a long time in LA County) and some seem like deciding to move the goal posts when you are unhappy with your current position. The revised **County Criteria** <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/> cover many of the same issues in the Regional Variance Criteria but is longer and introduces some new measurements in assessing a county's readiness to reopen sectors and spaces that are part of the State's plan for Stage 2. Reopening colleges and universities is part of Stage 3 which these criteria are not intended to address. Here's what we can tell you about the similarities and differences between the Regional Variance Criteria and the revised County Criteria and what the LA and Pasadena numbers look like at this time:

	<u>5/7/20 Regional Variance</u>	<u>5/18/20 County Criteria</u>
<u>Cases</u>	<b>≤1 case/10,000 persons/14 days</b> For LA County that is 1010 cases/14 days For Pasadena that is 14 cases /14 days	<b>≤25 cases/100,000 persons/14 days</b> <b>(which is ≤2.5/10,000 persons/14 days)</b> For LA County that is 2,525 cases/14 days For Pasadena that is 35 cases/14 days  <b>Or less than 8% testing positive in last 7 days</b>  <i>LA County had 12, 629 cases for the 14 day period of 5/5-5/18</i> <i>LA County had 9.4% of tests positive for 5/11-5/17</i> <i>Pasadena had 250 cases for the 14 day period of 5/5-5/18</i> <i>No testing data for Pasadena so can't calculate % of tests positive</i>
<u>Testing</u>	<b>≥1.5 test/1,000 persons/day</b>	<b>≥1.5 test/1,000 persons/day and</b> <b>disclose avg daily testing volume for past 7 d</b> <b>or make case that less testing is indicated</b> <b>AND testing available for 75% of residents within</b> <b>30 min drive time (private and public testing)</b>  <i>LA County an average of 0.98 tests/1,000/day for week of 5/11-5/17</i> <i>PPHD does not post testing numbers, only cases, deaths and demographics of cases and deaths.</i> <i>I don't have the data to say that testing in LA county is available to 75% with ≤30 minute drive and LA County Public Health has suggested that the regional free testing sites will be shut down by fall.</i>
<u>Deaths</u>	<b>No COVID deaths in last 14 days</b>	<b>Stable hospitalizations of COVID on 7 day average</b> <b>with &lt;5% change</b> <b>-OR-</b> <b>No more than 20 COVID hospitalizations on any</b> <b>single day in the past 14 days</b>  <i>LA county had 611 deaths for 5/6-5/19, Pasadena had 13. It looks like the revised criteria will use hospitalizations instead of deaths. We haven't been tracking the hospitalization numbers but maybe we will start.</i>

July 4<sup>th</sup> as a goal for being more open in LA County

The LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on 5/19/20 announced a goal of being more fully open by July 4<sup>th</sup> (LA Times 5/20/20) where “more fully open” most likely means being farther into Stage 2 of reopening. Dr. Barbara Ferrer was quoted as saying “...we are going to really aim to get there as quickly as possible but we are going to pay attention to the data and science”. The rate of transmission of COVID-19 was 3.5 new cases for every one identified case in March before the stay-at-home order (an “R” of 3.5) and is now at 1 new case for every identified case with the stay-at-home order. Time will tell us whether our “R” number stays low as we move about more.

### **How to get a test**

We have said it before but it bears repeating, if you don’t have health insurance you can still get free diagnostic testing in LA County by going to [corona-virus.la](https://corona-virus.la). Higher priority if you are symptomatic but they will test asymptomatic persons.

### **What can you do to get more of life open sooner?**

Do your part to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and keep our “R” at or below 1. That means:

- Wash your hands; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover your coughs; stay away from other people when you are sick; disinfect high touch surfaces frequently; maintain social distancing.
- Wear a cloth face mask when out in public until the CDC and local Public Health tell us otherwise.
- If you have symptoms suggestive of and/or exposures that increase your risk of COVID-19, follow the advice of your local Public Health regarding testing, isolation and quarantine.

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