

Governor Proposes Reopening Schools This Summer

by kyle landjamie metcalf_leilani aguinaldo

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At his daily press briefing on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom expressed cautious optimism that the state is weeks (not months) away from making meaningful modifications to the statewide stay-at-home order and floated the idea of physically reopening schools in late July or early August for an extended 2020–21 school year to make up for the “learning loss” caused by school closures.

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- Stage 1: This is the stage that we are currently in where the state continues to build out testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment, and hospital surge capacity. The focus of this phase is to make essential workplaces as safe as possible and to prepare sector-by-sector safety guidelines for an expansion of the workforce in future stages.

Stage 2: The state gradually opens certain lower risk workplaces with adaptations—including schools, childcare facilities, retail (e.g. curbside pickup), manufacturing, offices (when telework is not possible), and other public spaces such as parks and trails.

- Stage 3: Allow higher-risk workplaces to open, such as gyms, nail and hair salons, movie theaters, issues (without live audiences), and churches.
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- Stage 4: The Governor officially ends the stay-at-home order and includes a broad reopening of the highest-risk workplaces including concerts, convention centers, and live-audience sports.

This announcement comes two weeks after the Governor unveiled the [six key indicators](#) that are guiding his Administration’s thinking for when and how to modify the stay-at-home order. At Tuesday’s briefing, Governor Newsom emphasized that childcare facilities and schools are foundational in getting people back to work and that is why they are included among businesses in the fifth indicator, which reads “the ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing.”

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It is encouraging that the Newsom Administration is becoming increasingly optimistic about schools physically reopening their doors within the next several months, but there are a number of implications to consider and additional resources that will be required in order to reopen schools under the vision that has been offered by the Governor (see “[How Schools Could Physically Reopen in 2020](#)”