

State of California and Breweries During COVID Timeline
Includes San Diego County's COVID-19 Regulations, Orders, and Actions

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2020-01-25. First confirmed case of COVID-19 in California.ⁱ

2020-02-06. First death in state attributed to COVID-19.

2020-02-14. San Diego County declared virus emergency (not first CA county to do so.)

2020-03-04. Governor Newsom declared emergency throughout the state. Venues began to close such as Disneyland, sporting events, etc.

2020-03-11. Gatherings restricted to 250 people.

2020-03-13. California schools closed, President Trump declared national emergency.

2020-03-16. California restaurants must sell food for take-out only.

2020-03-19. Shelter-in-place order enacted statewide.

2020-03-23. Beaches ordered closed.

2020-05-xx. Magie Brennan with Ian Cheesman created a Google Doc spreadsheet for information on brewery operational status.ⁱⁱ Brewery personnel provided information on hours, delivery services, dine-in options, etc. For the consumer, finding this information was problematic as breweries have various social media sites and webpages and may not update continuously with the rapidly changing regulations.

2020-05-22. First Cease and Desist (C&D) orders issued in county for non-compliance. Most of served businesses were gyms and fitness studios, but also restaurants, churches, and bars.

2020-06-17. Some businesses allowed to reopen with distancing guidelines and occupancy limits.

2020-07-13. (30 of 53 counties were on watch list for increasing infection rates.) All wineries and tasting rooms required to close indoor operations, regardless of individual county infection rates. Bars, breweries and pubs (not wineries or restaurants) must close both indoor and outdoor operations unless they offered a sitdown, outdoor, 'bona fide' meal. Alcohol must be sold in the same transaction as the meal.ⁱⁱⁱ

2020-08-28. Tiered system implemented based on Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity for a region. Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Mono, Imperial and Inyo counties were all in the Southern California Regional group. If the capacity for the entire region dipped below 15% total available ICU beds, a stay-at-home order activated. Los Angeles was near the level to trigger the regional closure.

2020-08-28. San Diego Brewers Guild hosted clearinghouse webpage of resources for breweries and staff.^{iv}

2020-08-31. Breweries allowed 25% indoor dining capacity or 100 people (whichever is fewer.) Food must be purchased with alcohol.

2020-09-29. Bay Bridge Brewing received first brewery-focused Cease and Desist order.

2020-10-09. Bay Bridge Brewing ordered closed for defying the C&D order.

2020-October. CA saw drops in death rates.

2020-11-06. Newsom and lobbyists attended party without masks, ignoring state guidelines and his own announcements.

2020-11-16. Newsom ordered almost all non-essential businesses to close.

2020-11-17. Groundswell Brewing received C&D order.

2020-11-19. Newsom ordeeds statewide curfew of 10 PM-5 AM to start next day for purple tier areas.

2020-12-03. Regional stay at home order enacted based on tiers.

2020-12-07. CA Notify app released.

2020-12-08. KNB Bistro (part of KNB Cellars/Brewery) received C&D order.

2020-12-14. First vaccines delivered in CA.

2020-12-15. Pizza Port (Solana Beach) received C&D order.

Karl Strauss (La Jolla) received C&D order.

2020-12-17 or 18. California breweries sued State for equal treatment (wineries have had less-restrictive rules.)

2020-12-23. Karl Strauss (Columbia St., SD) received C&D order.

Bolt Brewery (India St., SD) received C&D order.

2020-12-30. Nova Easy Kombucha (part of Novo Brazil brewing group, Newport Ave. SD) received C&D order.

2021-01-xx. New Delta variant threatened new rounds of closures.

2021-01-10. Hess Brewing (San Diego) posted to Facebook regarding their defiance of closure orders.

2021-01-12. Julian Beer Co. received C&D order.

2020-01-21. Ebullition Brew Works received C&D order.
Carlsbad Brewing Company received C&D order.

2021-01-25. Newsom lifted stay-at-home order and the regional restrictions with claim curve is flattening but San Diego County is still ranked purple tier. Once again, outside dine-in allowed but below normal temperatures with high winds and rain made outside dining unfeasible for most businesses.

2021-01-27. Mike Hess Brewing (two locations) received C&D orders.

2021-02-04. Breakwater Brewing received C&D order. To date, over 400 C&D orders have been issued. Popular opinion is that categories were not enforced with equal rigor.

2021-03-11. State loosened consumption restrictions in all tiers for breweries, wineries and distilleries effective March 13.^v This allowed alcohol purchase without meal with a reservation/limited seating requirement with an 8 PM curfew. Continued outdoor seating only for the most restrictive (red and purple) tiers. This equalization of treatment (wineries had been less restricted) was credited to legal challenges by the California Craft Brewers Association in collaboration with brewery owners (including Second Chance Beer, San Diego.)

2021-03-17. San Diego region moved from purple (most restrictive) to orange tier, allowing indoor consumption with specific occupancy limits. The same day, Governor Newsom announced California will 'open' with lifting of all restrictions as of June 15 if current trends continue.

Supply chain issues impact acquisition of packaging, ingredients and distribution. Shortage of aluminum hindered the move from glass growler packaging to crowlers (and smaller) sizes.

2021-04-06. Governor Newsom announced a plan to lift all restrictions as of June 15 if the vaccination supplies are sufficient and hospitalization rates remain low.^{vi}

2021-05-16. The Centers for Disease Control released new guidelines for vaccinated people allowing resumption of activities without a mask except where mandated by state and other

authorities and business regulation.^{vii} This allowed variations between counties in enactment and enforcement.

2021-09-xx. Booster shots encouraged for at risk population while first shots are expanded to more of population. Special use exemptions for expanded outdoor tasting rooms [parklets] extended in addition to to-go cocktails.

Fall 2021—A limited number of in-person beer festivals begin to take place, but many choose to continue virtual tasting events or continue to postpone. Move to reduce brewery waste such as recycling plastics gained momentum.

2021-11-xx. First reports of new variant (Omicron) threatens current operations of all businesses and schools with a state-wide indoor mask mandate loosely enforced

Notes

Cease and Desist Orders: count by category through mid-January 2021 (note some categories were reorganized under revised regulations but grouped here):

Regarding Cease and Desist (C&D) letters: Early letters detailed the violation but by mid-November 2020, letters to all businesses (with the exception of name, address, and date of issuance) used the same template. Some differentiation made on the website list between C&D orders and a subset titled “in compliance” until early January 2021.^{viii} Businesses determined to be out of compliance were described in the *Safe Reopening Compliance Team Enforcement Criteria [San Diego County]* as “...could be through an operational use prohibited under the health order, or not following their Safe Reopening Plan (SRP).”^{ix} Some businesses received more than one notification. The majority of the violators were gyms and dance studios, with restaurants and churches making up the bulk of recorded violators.

- Restaurants/Wineries (includes coffee bars and adult entertainment venues) 175
- Gym/fitness 161
- Churches 21
- Personal Care (hair, tattoo, etc.) 20
- Breweries (including brewpubs included in Restaurant/Wineries guidance) 14, not including one closure order.
- Private Gatherings (mostly fraternity/sorority organizations, all on one day) 8
- Family Entertainment center 1

[San Diego Beer News](#) covered the impact on San Diego businesses throughout the pandemic. Some recap articles are: “Down...but out?” November 24, 2021 and “Suds Survival Stories” November 30, 2021.

ⁱ *Timeline: California Reacts to Coronavirus* <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/gavin-newsom-coronavirus-updates-timeline/>. Begins with January 25, 2020 with first case reported in California. Last update December 25, 2020 (as of 2020-01-26.) Identified case loads, state actions, etc.

ⁱⁱ *San Diego County Tasting Room Status* (Google Docs) <https://bit.ly/HelpSDBeer2>. Consolidated information about county breweries and tasting rooms' operations. The first iteration of the page was hacked, so a second version was created. Some businesses are more responsive to updating their information and Magie has requested volunteers to take responsibility for updating businesses for currency. With the changes in regulations and adherence, some columns have been added and removed over time. The list has expanded to beer-centric eateries and some service points. Printouts of the document at various points are held in the Brewchive® collection.

ⁱⁱⁱ *COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Restaurants, Bars and Wineries July 2, 2020* <http://web.archive.org/web/20200728163702/https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-restaurants-bars.pdf> "Venues that are currently authorized to sell beer, wine, and spirits to be consumed off premises should follow the guidance for retail [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-retail.pdf. July 29, 2020]. Producers of beer, wine, and spirits should follow the guidance for manufacturing [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-manufacturing.pdf. July 29, 2020]." (p.2), and *COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Bars, Breweries and Distilleries November 24, 2020* <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-bars--en.pdf>, and *Industry Guidance to Reduce Risk* <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/> (for California, updated frequently)

^{iv} <https://sdbeer.com/covid>

^v *Blueprint for a Safer Economy: Activity and Business Tiers, March 11, 2021* https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_2020.pdf and *Breweries, Distilleries and Wineries Adapt to New Guidelines* [NBCSanDiego.com news video]

^{vi} <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/04/06/governor-newsom-outlines-the-states-next-step-in-the-covid-19-pandemic-recovery-moving-beyond-the-blueprint/>

^{vii} When you've been fully vaccinated. Center for Disease Control. May 16, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

^{viii} *Cease and Desist Closure Orders* [San Diego County, begins 2020-05-22 with copies of letter ordering compliance with health order restrictions or close for not following health order.] https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/closure-orders.html

^{ix} *Safe Reopening Compliance Team Enforcement Criteria [San Diego County]* https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/enforcement-criteria.html