Interim Guidance for Reopening Fresno County Businesses While Maintaining Customer Safety and Public Health

The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects the state and county. While the state shelter-in-place declaration from Governor Newsom is STILL in effect, we do recognize that business owners and employees of currently closed businesses are enthusiastic about reopening and doing so safely.

The FCDPH and Board of Supervisors has been working with the essential and critical infrastructure businesses and a great deal has been learned about how employers and businesses can slow the spread or prevent employees, customers, and clients from COVID-19.

We are pleased to announce that we are currently developing best practice guidelines for currently closed businesses to plan and respond to COVID-19. Members of the community, industry leaders and consumer advocates are all invited to collaborate with FCDPH on the development of these guidelines that make sense for our community, with a particular focus on how to keep all of our community members safe from COVID-19 while at the same time initiating the Governor’s phased process for reopening our economy and get on the road to recovery.

We encourage businesses prohibited from operating to focus on planning to effectively implement social distancing and related public health measures in their facilities, so they are fully prepared and ready to safely reopen when it is allowed.

Help us by becoming part of the solution and let’s get ready to reopen!

All employers need to consider how best to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact in their workplace. This may include activities in one or more of the following areas:

Employee Safety

- How will your business screen employees for illness? What is your plan if an employee becomes ill during a shift? What actions will be taken if an employee reports illness?
- How will your business contribute to contact-tracing if notified that an employee or client has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Who will be the designated person in charge for COVID-19 contact tracing at your business?
- Does your business have flexible time-off/sick-leave policies in place?
- Can your business compartmentalize employees into groups/shifts that do not interact with each other?
- What measures will you implement for hand hygiene for employees, customers, and worksite visitors and how will this be maintained?

Customer / Visitor Safety

- How will your business ensure that customers are protected from potential COVID-19 exposure from your employees? From other members of the public?
- How will customers be screened for infection?
• Describe the precautions you will take if a customer is diagnosed with COVID-19 a day after they patronized the business? How will you notify employees at your business, or other customers who may have been close contacts of the individual?
• How will your business ensure that people who are at higher risk of severe illness (i.e. elderly, persons with serious underlying medical concerns, etc.) are protected from potential exposure to COVID-19?
• How will you ensure that all employees and customers wear masks while in your facility?

6-Foot Distancing Protocol

• What policies and practices will be implemented to ensure 6-foot distancing is maintained?
• How will your business limit the number of concurrent customers at your facility?
• If your business does not allow for 6-foot distancing (i.e. barber, etc.), how will you ensure employees and customers are protected from potential COVID-19 exposure?

Sanitation

• How will your business clean and disinfect the frequently touched surfaces and common areas? How often will the cleaning be done?
• What product(s) will your business use to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces? Are the products EPA-approved disinfectants? How will the disinfectant be used?
• Who will be the designated person in charge for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at your facility? How will you train your employees in the proper methods of cleaning and disinfecting (i.e. concentration, application method and contact time, etc.)?
• Who will evaluate and revise your cleaning and disinfection procedures if needed?

Useful References

Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes | CDC
Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 | CDC
Reopening America Cleaning Disinfection Decision Tool | PDF | CDC
List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 | Pesticide Registration | US EPA