

# California Blueprint for a Safer Economy Information for Schools

Source: <https://edsource.org/2020/quick-guide-what-californias-color-coded-county-tracking-system-means-for-schools/639357>

Governor Newsom released the "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" on August 28 that changed the way the state monitors counties to determine when schools can open for in-person instruction, although its principal impact is on when businesses can reopen.

The blueprint includes a four-tiered, color-coded system that tracks counties by the number of Covid-19 cases recorded each day and the percentage of positive cases out of the total number of tests administered, both averaged over seven days. It went into effect Monday, Aug. 31, and replaced the previous "county monitoring list."

If one of the two metrics is higher than the other, the state will assign the county to the color associated with the highest rating. For example, if a county reports six cases per 100,000, but a 9% positivity rate, it will be rated purple.

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
<b>WIDESPREAD</b> Most schools are closed to in-person instruction, unless they meet certain conditions	<b>More than 7</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>More than 8%</b> positive tests
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction after they have remained in the red tier for 14 days	<b>4 - 7</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5 - 8%</b> positive tests
<b>MODERATE</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	<b>1 - 3.9</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2 - 4.9%</b> positive tests
<b>MINIMAL</b> Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	<b>Less than 1</b> daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>Less than 2%</b> positive tests

Source: California Department of Public Health (Covid19.CA.GOV)