



May 23, 2022

Dear Contra Costa municipal partners:

Contra Costa Health encourages cities and special districts in Contra Costa County to consider opening public spaces to stay cool during periods of excessively hot weather, and to let the Contra Costa County Office of Communications and Media know if you plan to do so by emailing susan.shiu@contracostatv.org, or phoning 925-313-1180, so we can help get out the word.

An ideal place for a cooling site is indoors with climate control, access to drinking water and staff supervision.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to visitors, staff and/or volunteers, the California Department of Public Health recommends:

- Providing symptom screening for all visitors, including any volunteers, vendors, contractors, or other workers entering the space. All staff should be screened for symptoms at the beginning of their shift.
- If possible, provide alternative cooling sites for those showing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath). This may be separate rooms within Cooling Centers or a space that can be used to accommodate visitors with symptoms and separate them from others. Cooling Centers are also encouraged to have an on-hand supply of home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests for community members to use if they have symptoms and would like to be tested.
- Consider creating spaces for individual family units (families who live together do not need to maintain physical distancing in a Cooling Center).
- Visitors and staff should follow [CDPH Face Coverings Guidance](#) while in the Center. The Center is encouraged to have a supply of face coverings to distribute to anyone who arrives without one. Face coverings must not be shared.
- Have supplies on hand for staff, volunteers, and visitors, such as soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and trash baskets.
- Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [cleaning and disinfection guidelines for community facilities](#), and [cleaning facilities if someone is sick](#).
- Read the full state guidance for opening places to stay cool here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/GuidanceforCoolingCenters.aspx> and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention [here](#).

Thank you,

Ori Tzvieli, MD
Health Officer for Contra Costa County

