



## GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

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June 5, 2020

To: All California Gambling Establishments  
All Gambling Businesses  
All Third-Party Providers of Proposition Player Services  
All Gambling Industry Designated Agents

Re: CARDROOM REOPENING GUIDELINES AND NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO  
RELEASE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Today Governor Gavin Newsom released guidelines for reopening [Cardrooms and Racetracks](#). The California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) worked with multiple agencies to finalize the guidelines released for the industry. As stated on the [Governor's COVID-19 County Variance page](#), the recommended effective date to open for these Cardrooms and Racetracks is no sooner than June 12, 2020 and reopening should only occur with county health officer approval. Cardrooms and Third-Party Providers of Proposition Player Services (TPPPS) are encouraged to follow all of the guidelines while planning for reopening and upon resumption of operations.

**Although these guidelines were released by the Governor, the release of the guidelines does NOT signify a statewide reopening of cardrooms.** A cardroom cannot reopen until 1) the county which the cardroom resides has provided certification that it has met criteria set forth by the California Department of Public Health, 2) the county's attestation has been approved by the State, and 3) the county has permitted the cardroom to open per County Public Health rules. You can find information specific to your county on the [COVID-19 County Variance webpage](#). In addition, you can sign-up for county alerts via the [COVID-19 Local Alerts webpage](#). You are strongly encouraged to contact your county public health agency directly for verification of reopening approval *PRIOR* to reopening.

As stated in the guidelines, the guidelines do not substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA.<sup>1</sup> All employers should stay current on changes to public health guidance and state/local orders, as the COVID-19 situation continues. Cal/OSHA has more comprehensive guidance on their [Cal/OSHA General Guidelines on Protecting Workers from COVID-19 webpage](#). CDC has additional requirements in their

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<sup>1</sup>Additional requirements must be considered for vulnerable populations. Employers must comply with all [Cal/OSHA](#) standards and be should prepared to adhere to guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#). Additionally, employers should be prepared to alter their operations as those guidelines change.

[guidance](#) for businesses and employers. Again, employers should be aware of their county requirements and restrictions.

Although the cardroom industry is strongly encouraged to implement the guidelines outlined, they are not requirements. The policy of the state requires that all cardrooms wherein controlled gambling is conducted be operated in a manner suitable to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the state. The Commission's jurisdiction over the operation and concentration, and supervision over cardrooms and over all persons or things having to do with those operations makes it incumbent upon the Commission to provide minimum recommended health and safety guidelines to cardroom, TPPPS, and gambling business owners. As such, the Commission has drafted proposed Emergency Regulations that, if approved, will make some of the guidelines outlined requirements. The proposed Emergency Regulations are intended to assist the industry with addressing any future closing and reopening procedures brought on by a declared State of Emergency and to establish minimum sanitation standards within the cardroom industry.

Additional information, including the release of the proposed text for the Emergency Regulations and an Economic and Fiscal Impact data collection request, will be sent via a separate Commission correspondence within the next couple weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission at 916-263-0700 or you can email [comments@cgcc.ca.gov](mailto:comments@cgcc.ca.gov).

Stay healthy.

Sincerely,



STACEY LUNA BAXTER  
Executive Director

cc: Stephanie Shimazu, Director, Bureau of Gambling Control  
Nathan DaValle, Assistant Director, Bureau of Gambling Control  
Yolanda Morrow, Assistant Director, Bureau of Gambling Control