



# CALIFORNIA INDOOR CLIMBING COALITION

Climbing is part of a healthy lifestyle and can be done in a very safe manner in our large facilities. We support state and local health guidelines to minimize COVID exposure but permanent widespread closures of indoor climbing centers is scientifically unjustified.

## HERE ARE THE FACTS

### Building specifics

- **70% lease facilities**
- **15,000 sq foot average footprint of building**
  - About 25% of footprint is the indoor climbing structure, the rest is largely open
  - Includes tall, engineered, indoor structures that can't be moved outside
- **Superior ventilation systems include:**
  - Commercial and overhead fans
  - Rooftop ventilation fans designed to draw air out
  - "Chalk Eater" air filtration systems

### How patrons use the space:

- **Safe entry procedures** - brief front desk check in, shoe change and gear placed in cubbies
- **Mandatory PPE and hygiene** - climbers required to wear mask, use hand sanitizer
- **Physical distancing:**
  - Climbers stay at least 6 feet away from non-climbing partners to avoid falls
  - Climbing partners are usually a fixed person - no exchange of social circles
  - Very few congregation spaces to maximize space and distancing

### Climbing centers not a unique risk, science and safety protocols are key:

- **No droplet spread** - indoor climbing is an anaerobic workout with minimal breathing
- **Surface protection protocols / PPE:**
  - **Facility sanitizing**
  - **PPE** - mandatory employee use and training
  - **Patron hygiene** - require use of hand sanitizer before each climbing session

### Business struggles amid uncertainty:

- California is the only state where climbing centers are closed
  - Of 903 centers in the United States, California is home to 97 which are small businesses located throughout northern, central and southern parts of the state
  - On average, 35 employees at each facility have been impacted by the closures
- 84% of centers reported insecurity of longevity (August 2020 survey)
- Open centers are reporting 33% of their membership remaining frozen
- Our coalition members report zero cases of COVID transmission in their gyms out of state.

## OUR ASK

**Request that indoor climbing centers be able to open immediately at 25% capacity while continuing to follow all recommended health and safety guidelines set by state and local authorities.**

### SOURCES

[www.reopen.climbingwallindustry.org](http://www.reopen.climbingwallindustry.org)

<https://www.climbing.com/news/researchers-prove-80-percent-alcohol-liquid-chalk-kills-coronavirus-on-surfaces/>