



# California Casino News

June 29-July 5, 2020

## San Manuel Casino prohibits indoor smoking, limits alcohol service

San Manuel Casino announced that it was temporarily prohibiting smoking indoors and limiting alcohol service only to people playing at slots and table games. The changes, announced Monday, June 29, went into effect at the Highland-area complex at 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, in an effort to support face covering mandates and minimize opportunities for multiple person gatherings at bars during the novel coronavirus pandemic, according to a statement put out by the casino.

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## New Agua Caliente Casino On Track To Open In 2020

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The new Agua Caliente Casino in Cathedral City is a project that has not slowed down, even while enduring this pandemic. NBC Palm Springs got an exclusive inside tour on how the casino is coming along and the new attractions people can look forward too. The Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians broke ground in early November 2019 starting what they called a large scale investment.

## How casinos are enforcing mask, smoking rules during coronavirus

Casinos have reopened in Southern California, but there are rules in the new normal created by the novel coronavirus pandemic. All of the tribal-owned casinos require guests to wear masks inside and have social distancing guidelines. Some have specific smoking rules. Readers have emailed us wondering how casinos enforce their COVID-19 rules, so we asked each property. Many said they start off with a warning, or several, before they have to get serious.

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## California Sports Betting Could Make 2022 Ballot As Tribes Get Extension

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A bitter dispute over \$8 billion in COVID-19 relief for Indian Country continues to simmer on Capitol Hill, with some lawmakers blaming tribes for the Trump administration's mismanagement of the much-needed funds. The Department of Treasury repeatedly missed deadlines to get the coronavirus relief fund out to the communities that need it the most.

## County working with tribes on COVID cases linked to casinos

County health officials last week confirmed they were working with local casinos that could include casinos operated by the Rincon Tribe and San Pasqual Tribe to investigate whether there were cases of COVID-19 linked to casino activity. Resort, Casino Pauma and Harrah's Resort Southern California have all reopened.

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## Tachi Palace temporarily bans smoking

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Tachi Palace Casino Resort announced that it will be implementing a non-smoking policy starting Friday. Michael Olujic, general manager of the casino resort, said the temporary non-smoking policy is for the safety of guests and employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. Masks are required inside the casino, and by banning smoking in the casino interior, the amount of time guests' faces are covered will increase and also contribute to better air quality, according to casino officials.

## Cache Creek Casino makes COVID-19 testing mandatory for employees, some already infected

Cache Creek Casino Resort, one of Northern California's largest gambling halls, recently instituted mandatory COVID-19 testing for employees as infection rates continue to rise. In a news release, Cache Creek leadership said that as a result of the testing program, which is ongoing, "a small number of our employees" were determined to have contracted the coronavirus on Friday.

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