



Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp, DrPH
Director

Salvador Sandoval, MD, MPH
Health Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 6, 2020

Merced County Moves to Less Restrictive Tier

MERCED COUNTY, CA – The Merced County Department of Public Health is pleased to announce that Merced County has met the criteria and has progressed to a less restricted tier Red (Substantial) from the more restricted tier Purple (Widespread).

Under the red tier, some non-essential indoor businesses will be allowed to resume operations. The businesses authorized to reopen under this less restrictive tier include:

- Dance studios - can open indoors with 10% max capacity
- Gyms and fitness centers - can open indoors with 10% max capacity
- Higher education institutions - may open some indoor lectures and student gatherings at 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is less
- Movie theaters - can open indoors with 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Museums - can open indoors with 25% max capacity
- Places of worship - can open indoors with 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Wedding (ceremonies only) - can move to indoors with 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Restaurants - can open indoors with 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Tattoo parlors and Piercing shops - can open indoors with modifications

At this time, schools K-12 will remain closed for in-person learning. If data remains stable or improves for an additional two weeks, schools will be able to reopen for in-person learning.

While rates in Merced County are improving, if the county’s metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, the state may require the county to revert to the more restrictive tier.

Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to get their flu shot and exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Get tested
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- ✓ Stay home and isolate, if you’re are feeling sick

A complete list of businesses authorized to reopen in Merced County can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>. All business sector safety guidance can be found at www.covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance.

For COVID-19 and testing information, visit the Merced County Department of Public Health’s resource website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

###

Vicki Jones, MPA, REHS
Environmental Health Division Director

Jessica Montoya-Juarez, MS
Assistant Public Health Director

Yadira Vazquez, MBA
Assistant Public Health Director

James Clark, MICP, MHOAC
EMS Administrator