



Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp, DrPH
Director

Salvador Sandoval, MD, MPH
Health Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2020

Merced County Public Health Officials Launch #StaySafeStayOpen Campaign

MERCED COUNTY, CA – As more business sectors in the economy gradually reopen, the Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) has launched a new campaign, **#StaySafeStayOpen**. Health officials want the community to understand that the COVID-19 disease remains an eminent threat to the health of our community. Today (June 8th) the Department is reporting the highest number of cases in single day, to date (23 cases). An increase in positive cases may potentially overwhelm our healthcare systems and subsequently cause the County to digress in reopening our community. Each community member can do his or her part to keep Merced County open by taking the preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This campaign will promote crucial preventative measures that can be implemented with ease to safeguard the health of all residents in our County. The primary measures that will be highlighted include:

- Wearing a cloth facemask when out in public
- Frequently washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Exercising social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons

The Department asks for your support in protecting and preserving healthy living for yourself and others by joining the **#StaySafeStayOpen** campaign. This campaign commences today through July 8, 2020.

So how can you get involved? It only takes three easy steps:

- **Post pictures to your social media account using the following hashtag: #StaySafeStayOpen.** Take pictures of yourself and others in the community practicing preventative measures and post them to your social media account. Tag the Department using the handle @mercedcountypublichealth on Facebook and Instagram.
- **Promote the use of cloth face coverings when in public.** Take pictures of yourself and others in the community wearing masks on Mondays and post the pictures to your social media accounts using the **#MaskMonday** hashtag. Tag the Department using the handle @mercedcountypublichealth on Facebook and Instagram.
- **Encourage others to participate.** Inspire your community to support and promote the ways they are continuing to practice these preventative measures.

For more information on COVID-19 and the **#StaySafeStayOpen** campaign, please visit the Department’s resource website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus or call the Department’s information line at 209-381-1180 (English, Spanish, Hmong).

To schedule an interview, please contact the Department of Public Health’s media line at 209-381-1187, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

###

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