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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Merced County Amends Stay Safe Health Order

MERCED COUNTY, CA – Due to a significantly increased transmission rate of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Merced County was placed on the Governor’s “County Data Monitoring List.” In response to the alarming rate of transmission, State health officials have directed Merced County health officials to amend the Stay Safe Health Order (Order). The Order will be effective Friday, July 3, 2020 at 12 a.m., and will continue until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer. The Order will require specific sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities to cease operations in the County.

Due to the increased levels of transmission and hospitalizations, local health officials are working closely with CDPH and State officials to establish and implement steps to mitigate spread. At the direction of the Governor, Merced County health officials are mandating the closure of higher risk business sectors by Friday, July 3, 2020. All bars, brew pubs and breweries must cease operations (indoor and outdoor). In addition, the following business sectors must close all indoor operations:

- Restaurants (socially-distanced outdoor dining still permissible)
- Wineries and Tasting Rooms
- Family Entertainment Centers (e.g., bowling, movie theaters, etc.)
- Zoos and Museums
- Cardrooms

The above sectors will remain impacted for a minimum of 21 days, or until the County data monitored by CDPH improves. The ability of Merced County to reopen these sectors and prevent closure of other sectors is dependent on collective community action to reduce spread.

As a reminder, it is now a local and statewide mandate to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet of social distance outside. Merced County health officials strongly recommend all residents (including business sectors) to practice the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Wear a cloth face covering or face shield;
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as door handles and elevator buttons;
- ✓ Practice social distancing;
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds;
- ✓ When handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base; and
- ✓ If you experience any COVID-19 symptoms (available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) **stay home** and self-monitor.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit Merced County Department of Public Health’s resource website at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus)

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