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MERCED COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION

MERCED COUNTY, CA – On December 17, 2020, The Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) received the first allocation of COVID-19 vaccine from the California Department of Public Health. As part of receiving the vaccine, local health jurisdictions are required to comply with the Statewide phased approach of the vaccine distribution matrix (attached).

The State has developed a distribution plan divided into three (3) phases containing tiers representing priority groups. The majority of individuals included in Phase 1A represent healthcare providers and individuals in congregate settings. The County remains in this phase based on the amount of vaccine received. The allocation of vaccine the County has received thus far has been made based on factors such as the number of health care professionals.

To date, the Department has received approximately 6,000 vaccines for a county population of 277,680. All 6,000 vaccines are designated for Phase 1A. The County is designated as a 100 percent Health Provider Shortage area, which means that our average number of health care providers across the board is lower than state average. Due to this, the number of vaccines received has been extremely low. There are more people who need the vaccine based on their tier than the Department has been allocated. The Department is currently advocating for more vaccine and an ongoing higher overall allocation from the State.

Nationally, the demand for vaccine remains very high, the supply is low in addition to other factors required for to conduct vaccine distribution and administration safely, ethically, and efficiently. Federal, State, and Local agencies are coordinating each day, several times each day, with changing information. In addition, the vaccine itself must be controlled and maintained within very strict and complex standards.

For more information and the Merced County COVID-19 Dashboard, visit www.countyofmerced.com/3502/Vaccine-Info

As a reminder, it is still 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 for social distancing. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ 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 are feeling sick

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For more details regarding the State’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, visit <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx>

For information on COVID-19 and additional testing locations, visit the Department’s website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus. Follow us on social media for more updates:

- Facebook: Merced County Department of Public Health
- Instagram: @mercedcountypublichealth

COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution: Phases 1

As of January 13, 2021

The supply of COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means that the vaccine will be offered to different groups of people in different phases, starting with our healthcare workers. As more vaccines become available, it will be offered to everyone. Below is a list of groups that will be offered the vaccine in phases, according to their risk of exposure.

Key:

- Green circle indicates that the group has been offered the vaccine.
- Yellow circle indicates that the group is waiting to be offered the vaccine.
- Red circle indicates that the vaccine is not yet available at this time.

Phase 1A

Tier 1:	Tier 2:	Tier 3:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals ● Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals ● Residents in long-term care settings ● Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services ● Dialysis centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care ● Home health care and in-home supportive services ● Public Health field staff ● Primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics ● Community health workers, including promotoras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specialty clinics (i.e. optometry, cardiology, neurology, outpatient, surgery, physical therapy, etc.) ● Laboratory workers ● Dental and other oral health clinics ● Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers ● Veterinarians

Phase 1B

Tier 1:	Tier 2:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons 65 years and older ● Frontline Essential Workers Sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frontline Essential Workers Sectors: transportation and logistics; industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services; critical manufacturing ● Congregate settings with outbreak risk Incarcerated Homeless

Phase 1C

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons 50-64 years old ● Persons 16-49 years old with high risk health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other essential workers Water and Wastewater Chemical and Hazardous Materials Finance Services IT and Communication Government Operations / Community-Based Essential Functions Defense Energy
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● Other groups not included may be added to a comparable phase.

These proposed allocations are based on recommendations by the CDC and ACIP

For more information, visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus



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