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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERCED COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW VACCINATION SITE, TRANSITIONS TO 'MY TURN' FOR COVID-19 VACCINE SCHEDULING

MERCED COUNTY, CA—Merced County is excited to announce the opening of a new large-scale vaccination resource.

The State has located one of its "OptumServe" vaccination sites at the Atwater Community Center at 760 E. Bellevue Road and will vaccinate 400 people per day, beginning immediately.

Registration for an appointment at the OptumServe site is available through MyTurn.ca.gov. No walk-ins will be accepted.

"Having a reliable vaccination resource in a centralized location such as Atwater is a major win for the community," said Chairman Daron McDaniel of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. "The Board has pushed hard for a more equitable share of vaccine doses from the State, and we're encouraged to see those efforts paying dividends."

As part of a statewide initiative, Merced County is now transitioning to the State's "My Turn" system for vaccine scheduling.

With this change, the County will no longer be using www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com to schedule appointments. However, the website will continue to house general vaccine information and will direct people to the new "My Turn" website: MyTurn.ca.gov. Anyone previously signed up through www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com will receive an email to register in the State's system for vaccine scheduling.

Similar to the County's site, My Turn will allow users to register for an email or text notification informing them when they're eligible to receive vaccination. If eligible, users can also register for vaccination appointments. My Turn only displays clinics up to seven days out, so please check the site often to secure an appointment.

Please note: For administrative purposes, health insurance may be collected from those who have it, but health insurance is not required to receive the vaccine.

Merced County first launched its COVID-19 vaccine registration/notification website (www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com) in mid-January before any State platform was available. The State's My Turn website will not allow for the County's data to be migrated over, so those currently registered on www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com will be notified to register on My Turn and new users on the County's site will be directed to My Turn moving forward. The transition to My Turn will not negatively impact anyone's ability to receive the vaccine.

The My Turn website is currently available in English, Spanish and six other languages. Those who do not have internet access can call 1-833-422-4255 for assistance in English, Spanish or 254 additional languages via a third-party operator. All residents, regardless of tier, are encouraged to register with My Turn at MyTurn.ca.gov.

As a reminder, it is still a **<u>local and statewide mandate</u>** 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

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Merced County: www.countyofmerced.com/vaccines

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For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at www.countyofmerced.com