

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED  
PROVIDING DIRECTION TO STAY SAFE TO STAY OPEN  
Order No. 2021-002

**DATE OF ORDER: April 20, 2021**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. This Order repeals and replaces all previous Stay at Home and Stay Safe orders issued by the Health Officer of Merced County. This Order does not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by local governments, the State of California, or the Federal Government.
2. This Order incorporates and implements the California State Public Health Officer Order issued on August 28, 2020, viewable at the following link: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/8-28-20\\_Order-Plan-Reducing-COVID19-Adjusting-Permitted-Sectors-Signed.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/8-28-20_Order-Plan-Reducing-COVID19-Adjusting-Permitted-Sectors-Signed.pdf), as well as Executive Order N-33-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 19, 2020, the Order of the State Public Health Officer issued on March 19, 2020, and all subsequent amendments and modifications thereto (“Collectively, “State Orders”). Persons under a Public Health isolation or quarantine order must comply with such Orders.
3. The current data reflects that community spread of infection of COVID-19 in Merced County is of continued significant concern. All members of Merced County play a vital role in ensuring our County moves forward to social and economic recovery. Together the actions of the Merced County Community can save lives and keep businesses open. To promote, protect, and preserve a healthy living and safe environment for Merced County, the following direction is given to the Community.
4. Community Guidance to Stay Safe to Stay Open
  - a. All private gatherings shall occur in accordance with State Orders and guidance, which may be found at this link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
  - b. To help stop the spread of COVID-19, individuals should maintain at least six-foot distance from other individuals not from the same household in accordance with State Orders, wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer, cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and refrain from shaking hands.
  - c. All members of the public are required to wear face coverings when in public or common spaces in accordance with State Orders. Individuals should refer to the California Department of Public Health’s requirement for the use of face coverings, viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/masks-and-ppe/> for details including all requirements and exceptions. Face coverings, when combined with social distancing and handwashing, may prevent transmission

of COVID-19 by reducing respiratory droplet exposure.

- d. Individuals should self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they are sick or experiencing any symptoms. Guidance regarding symptoms of COVID-19 are provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

CDC guidance regarding what to do if you are sick or caring for someone who is sick can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

#### 5. Guidance for Businesses and Organizations

All businesses and organizations in the County shall adhere to the California Department of Public Health and Governor's Orders for direction as to what businesses may operate in the County and any applicable restrictions; this information can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>. Businesses and organizations should also reference the industry specific guidance for employee screening and operations required by the State found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.

Employees who are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 shall be directed to stay home. Guidance regarding symptoms of COVID-19 are provided by the CDC at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

6. In accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 131080, the Health Officer will follow the guidance of the California Department of Public Health and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders.
7. This Order shall become effective immediately and continue until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 2222 M Street, Merced, California 95340; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department's website (countyofmerced.com); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
9. If any provision of this Order to the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



Salvador Sandoval, MD, MPH  
Merced County Health Officer

Dated: April 20, 2021