

May 25, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

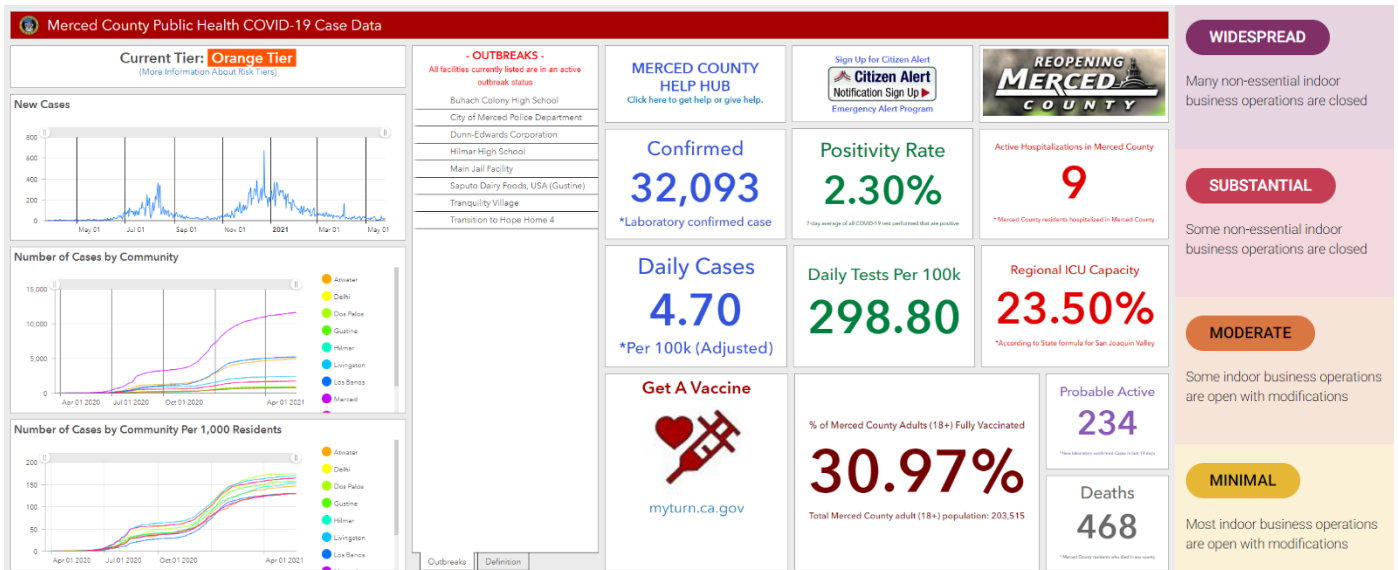
MEDIA CONTACT: [covid19media@countyofmerced.com](mailto:covid19media@countyofmerced.com)

## COVID-19 DAILY STATUS REPORT

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is an evolving situation. More information will be distributed as it becomes available. For the most up to date information, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Additional information is available at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus). These status reports are released daily on normal business days. Statistics will continue to be updated on weekdays at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats).

### CURRENT STATUS:

- As of 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, 2021, there are 32,093 confirmed cases (+11 from Monday) of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. Approximately 234 of those cases are active, and 468 have died.
- Current Risk Tier: Orange (Moderate).** Some indoor business operations are open with modifications.
  - Tiers are determined by the California Department of Public Health based on test positivity and adjusted case rate. Counties can move into more or less restrictive tiers based on these factors. Weekly tiers are updated on Tuesdays. More information: [www.covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/](http://www.covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/)



View this interactive dashboard online at:

Desktop: English: <http://dashboard-desktop.reopenmercedcounty.com> Spanish: <http://dashboard-desktop-spanish.reopenmercedcounty.com>

Mobile: English: <http://dashboard-mobile.reopenmercedcounty.com> Spanish: <http://dashboard-mobile-spanish.reopenmercedcounty.com>

- Based on information provided by individuals who test positive, Public Health staff will continue to assess risks of exposure and contact any affected individuals.
- Due to privacy laws, the Public Health Department cannot release identifying information related to positive cases.
- In California, there are 3,674,662 confirmed cases and 61,770 deaths.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES & UPDATES:

- Merced County Public Health continues to coordinate with federal, state and local partners to further prepare us for future impacts. This includes working with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19.
- Vaccination Information: [www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com](http://www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com)
- Merced County Moves into Orange Tier: Today, it was announced that Merced County's COVID-19 numbers qualify for the orange tier of the State's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy." The tier change, which is effective immediately, allows for the reopening of more business operations and greater indoor capacity for some others, such as restaurants. Learn more [here](#). As of today, case data show 4.7 daily cases per 100,000 residents and a 2.3 percent positivity rate. According to [State criteria](#), the case rate, test positivity, and health equity metric thresholds must all be met to move into a less restrictive tier. Counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving to a less restrictive tier. Counties must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks to move to a less restrictive tier. Furthermore, on June 15, capacity and distancing restrictions will be lifted for most businesses and activities. Large-scale indoor events will have vaccination or negative test requirements for attendees through at least October 1, according the California Department of Public Health.
- The Merced County Office of Emergency Services and Merced County Department of Public Health proclaimed a local and public health emergency March 13 in order to help address the outbreak. The Board of Supervisors ratified those actions during a March 16 special meeting.
- The Merced County Public Health Department Operations Center was activated Jan. 27, 2020 (485 days) in order to prepare for COVID-19 in and around our community. The Merced County Emergency Operations Center and Human Services Agency Department Operations Center are also currently active.

## VACCINE INFORMATION:

- To book a vaccination appointment or find a walk-in clinic, visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](http://MyTurn.ca.gov). Those who do not have internet access can call 1-833-422-4255.
- There is no cost to receive the vaccine.
- For up-to-date COVID-19 information, visit: [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats).
- Everyone age 12 and up is currently eligible to receive vaccination.

## COVID-19 TESTING:

Testing Site	Location	Registration
Golden Valley Health Centers	645 Seventh St, Los Banos	1-866-682-4842 <a href="http://www.gvhc.org">www.gvhc.org</a>
Golden Valley Health Centers	857 W. Childs Ave., Merced	1-866-682-4842 <a href="http://www.gvhc.org">www.gvhc.org</a>
OptumServe Site: Merced	900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, Merced	1-888-634-1123 or online at <a href="http://www.lhi.care/covidtesting">www.lhi.care/covidtesting</a>
CVS – Merced	1970 Yosemite Pkwy, Merced	<a href="https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4">https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4</a>
CVS – Atwater	1651 Bellevue Rd, Atwater	<a href="https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4">https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4</a>

CVS – Livingston	474 Winton Parkway, Livingston, CA 95334	209-394-6785 <a href="https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4">https://bit.ly/3e9kaS4</a>
Fountain View Urgent Care	374 W. Olive Ave. # A, Merced	209-384-5766
Castle Family Health Urgent Care	3605 Hospital Rd, Atwater	209-381-2000
San Joaquin Drug	9215 E, CA-140, Planada	209-382-1291
OptumServe Site: Los Banos	Los Banos Fairgrounds: 403 F St., Los Banos	1-888-634-1123 or online at <a href="http://www.lhi.care/covidtesting">www.lhi.care/covidtesting</a>
Dos Palos Apex Health Center	1549 Golden Gate Ave, Dos Palos	209-392-0022
Apex Medical Group	311 West I St., Los Banos	209-826-2222

- Within the public health system, every person who has met CDC criteria for severe disease within Merced County has been tested.
- Public Health is actively identifying other methods to enhance testing capability for providers throughout the community and increase testing county-wide. We will continue to be notified should positive tests come through either system (public health or commercial).

**COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND PRECAUTIONS:**

- Coronavirus symptoms include: mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. If symptoms develop, individuals should stay at home to limit exposure to others.
- Anyone who has had contact with a person with possible COVID-19 infection and has the above symptoms should call his/her local health department/health care provider immediately.
- Do not go to your provider’s office without calling ahead. Do not call 911 for suspected COVID-19 unless you are having a medical emergency.
- During the flu season, there are steps you can take to protect your health and the health of those around you:
  - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Stay away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms such as fever and cough.
  - Cover sneezes or coughs with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Wear a face covering when in public.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- **Sign up for COVID-19 alerts:** [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus)
- Merced County Public Health COVID-19 **Information Webpage:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus)
- Merced County Public Health **Information Line:**
  - 209-381-1180 (English, Spanish, and Hmong. Live reps. available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- **Email** COVID-19-specific questions to Merced County Public Health:
  - COVID19@countyofmerced.com.
- Updated **CDC Information:**
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>
- **CDC Resources for Households:**
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>
- How to **talk to your kids** about the coronavirus:
  - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>
- Guidance for **Businesses and Employers:**
  - <https://bit.ly/2IH2G2u>
  - [www.covid19.ca.gov](http://www.covid19.ca.gov)
- Report **Price Gouging:**
  - <http://www.countyofmerced.com/3381/Price-Gouging>
- Report **Consumer Fraud:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/2322/Consumer-Fraud](http://www.countyofmerced.com/2322/Consumer-Fraud)
- Report **business activities and large group gatherings** that violate the Stay Safe to Stay Open Health Order:
  - Information Line: 209-381-1180 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday)
  - Email: [COVID19@countyofmerced.com](mailto:COVID19@countyofmerced.com)
- **Free Virtual Care** options through Dignity Health for those with COVID-19 symptoms:
  - Patients can receive a free Virtual Care Anywhere visit if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms can include fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
  - To access a free virtual urgent care visit, visit [www.dignityhealth.org/virtualcareanywhere](http://www.dignityhealth.org/virtualcareanywhere), download the Virtual Care Anywhere app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or call 855-356-8053 and use the coupon code COVID19.
- **Get Help/Give Help:**
  - [www.gethelpgivehelpmerced.com](http://www.gethelpgivehelpmerced.com)
- **Donations**—help community members impacted by COVID-19:
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/donations](http://www.countyofmerced.com/donations)
- Apply for **benefits**— Individuals experiencing financial hardship may qualify for cash assistance through CalWORKs, food nutrition assistance through CalFresh, and medical assistance through MediCal:
  - [www.getcalfresh.org](http://www.getcalfresh.org) (CalFresh only)
  - [www.C4yourself.com](http://www.C4yourself.com) (CalWORKs and MediCal)
  - 1-855-421-6770
- **Unemployment Insurance** questions to local Merced County EDD Office:
  - [WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov](mailto:WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov)
- Information regarding **tenant protections:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/3412/Real-Estate](http://www.countyofmerced.com/3412/Real-Estate)
- **24/7 Warm Line for Youth** (emotional support):
  - 209-381-6800 or 1-888-334-0163 (toll free)
  - Additional resources: [www.countyofmerced.com/3395/Behavioral-Health-Resources](http://www.countyofmerced.com/3395/Behavioral-Health-Resources)

- **Reopen Merced County:**
  - [www.reopenmercedcounty.com](http://www.reopenmercedcounty.com)

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