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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UPDATE: COVID-19 Testing Available to All Merced County Residents**

MERCED COUNTY, CA—On Monday, an additional COVID-19 testing site will open to all Merced County residents who would like to be tested. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to expected high demand, testing availability was changed to by appointment only in order to prevent unnecessarily-long wait times for clients. Walk-ins will not be accepted at this time.**

- Registration is available online or by phone:
  - [www.lhi.care/covidtesting](http://www.lhi.care/covidtesting)
  - **1-888-634-1123**

This new test site, which was made possible thanks to a partnership with the State of California and OptumServe (a private health services company contracted by the State), will be one of 80 locations across the State and will allow for more than 100 additional tests a day for the community. The site does not include antibody testing at this time.

Appointments at the testing site will be scheduled Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Merced County Fairgrounds located at 900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced.

A soft opening of the site was held Thursday and Friday and provided testing for first responders, health care personnel, and a limited number of individuals from the public.

For additional information pertaining to COVID-19, please visit the Department’s resource website at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus) or call the Merced County Public Health Department Information Line at **209-381-1180** (English, Spanish, Hmong).

For additional information, read [Governor Newsom’s announcement](#) about the efforts to expand community testing in underserved areas.

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