



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COOLING ZONES AVAILABLE, COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE

MERCED – With the heat index expected to exceed 105 degrees over the next several days, various cooling zones will be open to help residents cope with the heat. The following locations will be available during specified times/hours to be used as cooling zones if needed:

- The City of **Atwater**'s Cooling Zone will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Wednesday at the Atwater City Hall lobby on 750 Bellevue Road.
- The City of **Dos Palos**' Cooling Zone will be open from 12 to 5 p.m. Friday through Wednesday at the City-County Building on 1546 Golden Gate Ave.
- The City of **Gustine**'s Cooling Zone will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Community Room adjacent to the Library at 205 Sixth St.
- The City of **Livingston**'s Cooling Zone will be open from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday through Wednesday at the Police Department on 1446 C St.
- The City of **Los Banos**' Cooling Zone will be open from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday through Wednesday at the Mercy Springs Church of the Nazarene on 1248 Santa Barbara Drive.
- The City of **Merced**'s Cooling Zone will be open from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday through Wednesday at the Merced Civic Center (Sam Pipes Room) on 678 W. 18th St.
- The **Planada** Community Center will be open as a Cooling Zone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9167 Stanford St.

PLEASE NOTE: COVID-19 precautions will be in place at all cooling zones, including social distancing and additional sanitization. County libraries will remain closed due to statewide COVID-19 restrictions. For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus or call 209-381-1180.

The Bus will provide free rides on all existing fixed-routes, and passengers can get off at any designated stop near a Cooling Zone. Due to COVID-19, passengers are asked to wear a mask while riding The Bus and abide by social distancing standards. The public can also take the fixed-route bus back along the route to get home, as service is available. Check the fixed-route schedules on mercedthebus.com for exact times of availability. Transfers may be required. If you have a disability that you think might require transportation on paratransit bus service, passengers may also ride to Cooling Zones for free upon approval. To apply for paratransit service, please call: 1-877-232-7433.

Residents are advised to drink plenty of fluids, dress in lightweight, loose-fitting clothes and keep physical activities to a minimum during the hottest parts of the day. Never leave children, pets or the elderly unattended in a parked vehicle. Keep in contact with friends and family that may be at higher risk of heat illness, including infants and young children as well as older, sick and frail people. Common symptoms of heat-related conditions include profuse sweating, weakness, dizziness, headache, dimmed or blurred vision, cold damp skin, extreme tiredness, nausea and hot dry skin.

This news release will be updated as necessary. To hear the latest updates from the Merced County Office of Emergency Services, please call 209-385-7379.

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