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MERCED COUNTY RESCINDS COVID-19 HEALTH ORDER

MERCED—This week, the Merced County Department of Public Health officially rescinded its “Stay Safe to Stay Open” health order, ending local guidance aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 at the height of the pandemic.

The rescinding of the health order lifts all local restrictions, such as prohibitions on large group gatherings and business limitations. The health officer’s letter rescinding the health order is available at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus. While local restrictions have been lifted, residents should continue to follow all State guidance.

California fully reopened the State’s economy this week, ending physical distancing, capacity limits, and the County tier system. It also issued relaxed mask guidance, particularly for those who have been vaccinated. For details on the State’s continued safety measures, please visit www.covid19.ca.gov/safely-reopening.

According to State guidance, people who are unvaccinated must continue to wear a mask indoors in public settings to protect themselves and others. Also, there are some settings where masking is still required for everyone, such as:

- Public transit
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Homeless shelters
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings

The reopening of the economy can be attributed to rising numbers of vaccinated individuals as well as vaccine availability. Nearly half of the State is currently vaccinated, while more than a quarter of the Merced County population is fully vaccinated. To sign up to receive the vaccine, please call 1-833-422-4255 or visit MyTurn.ca.gov.

“Our foremost priority as an organization is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our residents,” said Chairman Daron McDaniel of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. “During the pandemic, we tried to strike a balance between keeping our residents safe while protecting our businesses. Thanks to the current situation, now is the right time to bring the health order to a close and fully open the local economy.”

“It’s exciting to see our community start to move Beyond the Blueprint to fully reopening our economy,” said Dr. Salvador Sandoval, Merced County’s Health Officer. “However, with the anticipated increase in travel and activities, everyone should keep in mind that the virus is still present and may be deadly, especially for unvaccinated and immune-compromised individuals. All residents are encouraged to continue safety measures and sign-up for the vaccine, if you are still unvaccinated.”

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