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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES REGIONAL STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

MERCED—Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a “Stay-At-Home” Order for certain regions of the State that have low intensive care unit capacity.

If one of the five regions (Bay Area, Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, Northern California and Southern California) falls below 15 percent ICU capacity, it will trigger a three-week Stay-At-Home Order, which goes into effect in 48 hours. As of the issuance of this news release, none of the regions have triggered the Stay-At-Home Order due to low ICU capacity. However, due to rising COVID-19 numbers, it is likely that regions will trigger the Order in the coming days.

When triggered, the Order would require the full closure of bars, wineries, personal services (i.e. nail salons, tattoo parlors, body waxing, etc.), and hair salons/barbershops. Sectors that would be able to remain open include schools that have received a waiver, critical infrastructure, retail (at 20 percent capacity), and restaurants (take-out and delivery only).

Health officials want to remind everyone to limit gatherings and the mixing of different households, especially during the holiday season. Along with following safety measures, individuals are strongly encouraged to conduct ongoing surveillance testing by getting tested every 14 days to ensure that you do not have the virus. An individual can be asymptomatic and spread the disease without knowing it. Conducting regular surveillance testing can help prevent asymptomatic spread and keep our community safe.

As a reminder, it is still a **local and statewide mandate** to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet of social distance outside. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- ✓ Stay home and isolate, if you're are feeling sick

Read more about the State's regional Stay-At-Home Order here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>. All business sectors are required to follow industry safety guidance, which can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>. Further COVID-19 information is located on Merced County Department of Public Health's resource website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

If you are a local Merced County business and have questions, please visit the County's Reopen Merced County website at <https://reopenmercedcounty.com/>