



James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7636
(209) 385-7673 Fax
www.countyofmerced.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mike North 209-726-2744

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MERCED COUNTY, CITIES PREPARE FOR REOPENING OF ECONOMY

MERCED— Merced County and its six Cities are committed to reopening our local economy in the safest way possible and as quickly as possible.

That’s why today, we launched www.reopenmercedcounty.com—a new website dedicated to assisting businesses and preparing them for when the State decides to open additional factions of the economy.

The site includes resources, guidelines, event information, and a survey local businesses can take that will allow the County and Cities to gather details that will help us apply for grants and identify needs in the business community.

“The idea of this site is to get our business owners better prepared to reopen when that time comes,” said Chairman Rodrigo Espinoza of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. “When the Governor pulls the trigger to reopen another group of businesses, we don’t want them all at the starting line, we want them as close to the finish line as possible.”

This website will be continuously updated moving forward as the State releases additional information and as more resources become available through local, State and Federal programming.

It was earlier this week that Governor Newsom announced that the State can begin moving into “Stage 2” of modifying the “Stay at Home” Executive Order beginning this Friday if certain conditions are met. This move, which is based on improving COVID-19 numbers and health indicators, will allow some retailers to reopen with modifications, such as curbside pickup. This includes bookstores, music stores, toy stores, florists, sporting goods stores, and others. More specifics as well as guidelines will be released by the Governor’s Office later this week.

It’s important to note that local entities (such as Merced County and its Cities) must operate within the confines of the Governor’s Executive Order and cannot supersede its directives. Any business operating within a City that has taken stricter measures than the County or State directives must adhere to the stricter measures. As the Governor opens various parts of the economy, Merced County Public Health will continue to issue guidance documents to ensure our business community can reopen in a timely manner.

For additional information about COVID-19 in Merced County, please visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.