



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

More Los Banos businesses allowed to open under State and County Stage 2.5 plan!

Merced County is now in Stage 2.5, which allows additional Los Banos business sectors to reopen with modified operations. As part of that opening, local businesses are required to do two things:

1. Continue to follow City of Los Banos Executive Order, 2020-01 as indicated further below and;
2. Review State and County requirements and attest that they've implemented appropriate safety plans, which includes making them available to both employees and customers.

****State/County guidance****

This guidance is designed to help businesses within the approved sectors meet the five State/County requirements before reopening. Before reopening, all facilities must:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan.
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including how to screen themselves for symptoms and the need to stay home if they have them.
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings.
4. Implement disinfecting protocols.
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines.

Businesses opening under Stage 2.5 are required to certify that they have addressed and met all five criteria listed above and post the certification in a publicly viewable area where it is available to both the public and employees.

The guidelines can be found here:

www.reopenmercedcounty.com/guidelines/

To help Los Banos businesses complete the above steps, we have created the 'City of Los Banos Industry Specific Checklist Verification' form, a very brief form that will meet business-posting needs. Download the verification form here: <http://www.losbanos.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Industry-Specific-Checklist-Verification-Form1.pdf>

****City of Los Banos Executive Order guidance to our businesses and residents****

We are excited to assist local retail and other businesses through their reopening process but ask that you continue to observe the following guidance provided by Los Banos Executive Order 2020-01:

1. The City Social Distancing/Sanitation protocol form has been replaced by the above State/County industry-specific guidelines, checklist process, and City verification form. All businesses allowed to open under Stage 2.5 are required to verify they have completed the necessary FIVE steps listed above and posted a completed City Verification form. More information can be found here: www.reopenmercedcounty.com/guidelines/
2. All establishments allowed to reopen under County Stage 2.5 continue to adhere to the face covering guidance as directed in the City Order. In short, employees, customers, and visitors-please continue to wear a face covering when inside a local business.
3. To comply with and clarify State/County limitations regarding the number of customers inside your business, we ask that you continue to limit the number of customers and visitors in your business to FIVE customers or visitors per 1,000 square feet of interior/exterior space open to the public.

The Los Banos City Council will be discussing COVID-19 and City Executive Order 2020-01 at their regularly scheduled City Council meeting on June 3, 2020.

****What Stage 2.5 does not do****

Businesses identified in Stages 3 and 4 are not allowed to open at this time. Those businesses include but are not limited to: hair and nail salons, barbershops, gyms, movie theaters, etc. Those businesses who are licensed by the State of California, please keep in mind that the City has no ability to assist you with State licensing issues. As we have seen on more than one occasion recently, the State is taking an active role when it comes to Stage 3 and 4 businesses opening before allowed to do so by the State.

Just a couple examples of the State's position can be found here:

https://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/forms_pubs/20200501_notice.pdf

<https://www.abc.ca.gov/re-opening-of-licensed-premises-in-violation-of-stay-at-home-orders/>

Gatherings should continue to be limited to 10 or fewer individuals. Stage 2.5 does not allow mass gatherings of any kind, including religious services at this time

****Other useful links****

This post can be found in PDF form here:

<http://www.losbanos.org/coronavirus/>

The City Executive Order can be found here:

<http://www.losbanos.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order.pdf>

The City Verification form can be found here:

<http://www.losbanos.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Industry-Specific-Checklist-Verification-Form1.pdf>

To read about the County of Merced Attestation Form to the State, go here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Merced%20County%20Attestation.pdf>

If you would like to speak to someone at Merced County Public Health regarding a COVID-19 related question, we encourage you to call their hotline at (209) 381-1180.

Every Merced County business should take steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and create a safer environment for workers and customers. For more information about the State's resiliency plan visit here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/#top>

Final thought...It is important to remember that the COVID-19 virus is still in our communities and new cases are reported in Merced County often. Please continue to do your part to help stop the spread of the virus. We ask that you follow all existing State, County, and local guidance as we navigate through these challenging times.