



City of  
**Los Banos**  
*At the Crossroads of California*

**May 27, 2021**

On Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Merced County Department of Public Health announced that Merced County met the eligibility requirements to move forward in the State of California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). The following language was included in a brief report the County provided regarding the move forward to the Orange: Moderate Tier.

**Merced County Moves into Orange Tier:** Today, it was announced that Merced County's COVID-19 numbers qualify for the orange tier of the State's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy." The tier change, which is effective immediately, allows for the reopening of more business operations and greater indoor capacity for some others, such as restaurants. Learn more [here](#). As of today, case data show 4.7 daily cases per 100,000 residents and a 2.3 percent positivity rate. According to [State criteria](#), the case rate, test positivity, and health equity metric thresholds must all be met to move into a less restrictive tier. Counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving to a less restrictive tier. Counties must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks to move to a less restrictive tier. Furthermore, on June 15, capacity and distancing restrictions will be lifted for most businesses and activities. Large-scale indoor events will have vaccination or negative test requirements for attendees through at least October 1, according to the California Department of Public Health.