

Blueprint for a Safer Economy



COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication Request FOR

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication:

Background

On August 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), a statewide, stringent and slow plan for a safe progression of opening more businesses and activities in light of the pandemic. The plan imposed risk-based criteria on tightening and loosening COVID-19 allowable activities and defined a minimum length of time between changes to assess how any movement affects the trajectory of the disease based on a county's disease transmission metrics. As part of this framework, a county tier adjudication process was established to offer local jurisdictions the opportunity to raise questions concerning data discrepancies or other similar errors in the tier assignment process.

A county may submit this form as an official request to enter into a tier adjudication process.

Timing and Processing of An Adjudication Request

Counties must submit their intent to request tier adjudication no later than Monday at 6pm regarding their tier metrics for that week. The full county tier adjudication form & any supporting documentation must be submitted by Wednesday at 5pm. Once a county enters into tier adjudication with CDPH, the county's tier assignment at the time of the request will be held in the current tier until adjudication is complete.

An adjudication process cannot delay a tier change by more than one tier reporting period (the process cannot cross beyond the next Tuesday's tier assignment), and the county will be assigned to the tier determined by CDPH no later than Monday of the following week. If a request for adjudication concerns movement from Tier 2 to Tier 1, schools in the county that have not yet reopened may not reopen during tier adjudication.

The State Health Officer or designee will review and approve the final decision. CDPH will also post the request form and a summary of the final decision on the [CDPH website](#) after the county tier adjudication request package (completed form and supporting documents) and discussion between State and local officials have been completed.

Reason for Adjudication Request- select all that apply and provide an explanation:

- ☐ **DATA DISCREPANCY:** Using similar methodology for calculating the blueprint metrics, the county identifies a discrepancy between state and local data.
- Does the discrepancy pertain to adjusted case rate, test positivity or both?
 - Please describe any additional detail pertaining to the discrepancy.
 - If the data discrepancy involves non-ELR data, please refer to Appendix A for instructions on the format and information that should be included as supporting documentation.
 - If the tier adjudication request requires the calculation of the prior week's metrics to determine if a county qualifies for tier movement, counties will be required to submit additional data and/or documentation for the prior week supporting the request.

Please enter relevant information for State's consideration:

☐ **Other additional justification to be considered:**

Please provide relevant qualitative/contextual elements for the State's consideration:

In addition to your county's completed COVID-19 COUNTY TIER ADJUDICATION FORM, please include:

- Supporting data documentation following the instructions in Appendix A
 - How many separate documents will be provided, excluding this form, in connection with this request: _____
 - Please list names of any files being provided to ensure we have everything you intend to have reviewed in connection with this request:

A completed data summary table (see [Appendix A](#))

Note: if a County is delayed in its submission of required information to inform the adjudication process, CDPH can elect to end or deny the adjudication request.

Instructions for submission:

1. Submit request for tier adjudication to CDPH at countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov no later than Monday, 6pm.
2. Submit county tier adjudication form, data summary table, and supporting documents, as separate documents, to CDPH no later than by 5pm Wednesday (within 2 days after the request for tier adjudication was sent) at countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov.
3. Data file should be sent encrypted. Does not need to be in zipped files.

I _____ hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of _____. I certify that the information provided in the county tier adjudication request is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and consent that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will post this information on the CDPH website and is public record.

Printed Name _____

Signature  _____

Position/Title _____

Date _____

CDPH Determination

Date of Determination: _____

Appendix A:

Format Requested: Excel Files (send encrypted email if contains PHI)

1. Metric: Adjusted Case rate discrepancy- related adjudication

Fields that we need information on:

Test Submitter	Episode Date*	Unique Case IDs	ELR or non-ELR	Test info (positive/negative)	Confirmation of Address (county suffices) of case
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* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

2. Metric: Testing Positivity and/or Volume discrepancy- related adjudication

Fields that we need information on:

Test Submitter ¹	Specimen collection date*	Unique Case IDs	ELR or non-ELR	Test info (positive/negative)	Type of test used (PCR/Antigen/POC)	Confirmation of Address (county suffices) of case
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* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

Download the [Tier Adjudication Summary Table](#) (Excel)

¹ Counties are requested to submit a list of labs that are not reporting to CalREDIE via ELR or CalREDIE compatible csv files. Please indicate if these labs are currently in the process of onboarding onto CalREDIE.

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication



For the county of: Merced

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: **04/05/2021**

Summary

Merced County is requesting tier adjudication due to a data discrepancy for the 3/29/21 Blueprint Tier Assignment. The County identified 80 cases from a laboratory that were not included in the 3/29/21 Blueprint Tier Assignment due to a delay in reporting to CalREDIE. Furthermore, 2 cases were not included in the 4/5/21 Blueprint Tier Assignment. The original Blueprint run, without including the subsequently identified 82 cases, yielded the results in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1

Data Period	Tier Assignment Date	Official Tier Assignment	Weekly Tier Assignment	Test Positivity	Adjusted Case Rate	Health Equity Test Positivity
3/14/21 - 3/20/21	3/29/21	1	2	4.4	9.2	4.3
3/21/21 - 3/27/21	4/5/21	1	1	4.3	11.8	4.9

Based upon this data, Merced County gained a week of better metrics for the week of March 29th. However, this was an error; the county's adjusted case rate was artificially low due to the exclusion of the 80 cases from the 3/29/21 Blueprint data run. When the late-identified cases were included in the system, the adjusted case rate prevented them from advancing to the Red tier on the week of April 5th. However, the inclusion of the 82 cases into the two Blueprint data runs (3/29/21 and 4/5/21) would earn Merced County a week of improving metrics under the health equity accelerated progression rule for the 4/5/21 Blueprint Tier Assignment because of the decline in their case rates that appears after the data was corrected (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2

Data Period	Tier Assignment Date	Official Tier Assignment	Weekly Tier Assignment	Test Positivity	Adjusted Case Rate	Health Equity Test Positivity*
3/14/21 - 3/20/21	3/29/21	1	1	5.6	13.0	4.3
3/21/21 - 3/27/21	4/5/21	1	1	4.4	11.8	4.9

*Changes in Merced's health equity test positivity were not evaluated because residential address of the additional positive tests were not provided.

Determination

Merced county's tier adjudication request for the 4/5/21 Blueprint Tier Assignment Week is approved and will be awarded a week of improving metrics. Merced county will retain a week of improving metrics originally assigned on 3/29/21. Based on this assessment and recent overall improving trends, Merced County will be assigned the Red tier for the Blueprint Tier Assignment announced for the week of 4/12/21.

Date of CDPH Determination: 4/12/2021