

# 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.

Please enter relevant information for States consideration

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

Please provide relevant qualitative/contextual elements for the States 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Salvador Sandoval MD, MPH

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
----------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	-------------------------------	---

\* 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 <sup>1</sup>	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
-----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

\* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 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
----------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	-------------------------------	---

\* 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 <sup>1</sup>	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
-----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

\* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

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

Form Updated 10/20/20

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Form Updated 10/20/2020

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy

## COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication



For the county of: **Merced**

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: 11/16/2020

### Summary

Merced county's tier adjudication request for the 11/16/2020 tier assignment week is based on contextual factors. There are no known issues of data discrepancy.

County states that while case rates in Merced County are currently in the Purple Tier, their test positivity rate and Health Equity data, as reported by the state, remain in the Red Tier.

County believes reverting to the more restrictive Purple Tier would be very harmful to the businesses in its jurisdiction, especially as the weather gets colder. County reports that it is difficult for businesses, e.g., restaurants, to move back and forth between tiers and adjust to the different levels of patrons. County believes business closures will prolong economic recovery efforts and affect them more adversely compared to other regions in the state.

County states that household transmissions, gatherings and events are the main drivers of increased cases in the county. County is concerned that movement into a more restrictive tier could jeopardize community engagement without the benefit of further disease containment.

The Blueprint proscribes that increased non-pharmaceutical interventions must be adopted when certain epidemiological criteria exist in order to prevent further rapid community transmission that can result from elevated case rates. These interventions must be adopted regardless of the source of the current cases as identified by contact tracing because, whatever the source, those cases can multiply exponentially in community settings. Based on County's current case rates, the Blueprint requires County to move to the Purple Tier. The contextual factors identified do not support a deviation from the Blueprint.

## **Determination**

Merced county's request to adjudicate their tier assignment is not approved and will remain assigned to the Purple Tier for the week of 11/16/2020.

NOTE: On 11/16/2020, County was assessed Purple metrics and has been placed in the Purple Tier as of 11/16/2020.

**Date of CDPH Determination: 11/25/2020**