

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy

## COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication Request FOR



### 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.

### Criteria for consideration

Criteria and parameters for criteria that will be considered for adjudication are listed below. Criteria can be mutually exclusive.

- Data discrepancy in metrics are significant enough to affect tier status.
- Qualitative and contextual elements specifically provided by the county

A county may submit this form as an official request to enter into a tier adjudication process, and the tier adjudication request form & determination will be posted on the CDPH website.

### Timing of 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 & 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 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.

The State Health Officer will review and approve the final decision. CDPH will also post 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.

CDPH will assess the volume of requests for county tier adjudication and will prioritize requests in which tier movement would result in a more restrictive tier assignment.

**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.
- Is the discrepancy significant enough to affect tier status?
  - Does the discrepancy pertain to adjusted case rate, test positivity or both?
  - Please describe any additional detail the discrepancy: data, methods.
    - 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.
  - Is supporting documentation included per format requested in Appendix A.

☐ **QUALITATIVE/CONTEXTUAL ELEMENTS** (element):

- Describe the element that the county would like the state to consider.
- Is the element significant enough to affect tier status?
- If pertaining to an outbreak; please describe the outbreak(s) in detail including effective mitigation strategy/efforts.

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: 3
  - Please list names of any files being provided to ensure we have everything you intend to have reviewed in connection with this request:

Adjudication Request Narrative 10-16-2020.doc

BSSM Messaging.xlsx

BSSM COVID-19 Management Plan.pdf

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 intent to submit to CDPH at [countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov) at least 48 hours prior to full county tier adjudication package submission.
2. Submit county tier adjudication form to CDPH at [countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov) no earlier than the second week of your assigned tier status
3. Submit the completed form, data summary table, and supporting documentation as separate documents to the email address
4. Data file should be sent encrypted. Does not need to be in zipped files.

I Robin Schurig hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of Shasta County Public Health. 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 Robin Schurig

Signature 

Position/Title HHSA Public Health Branch Director

Date 10-16-2020

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

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

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<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.

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy



## COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication

For the county of: Shasta

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: 10/05/2020

### Summary

Shasta County requested to be held in the Red tier for the 10/20/2020 tier assignment citing declining case rates and inclusion of negative tests in their test volume. Shasta County had an Orange tier assignment 9/28/2020 and then moved to the Red tier on 10/05/2020 based on two weeks of more restrictive tier metrics at that time. While in the Red tier, Shasta County has had Purple metrics for two weeks (10/5 and 10/12). Shasta County was held in the Red tier during the week of 10/12/2020 while undergoing tier adjudication with CDPH. Shasta county does not believe that restrictions on businesses and other institutions of higher education are appropriate because it did not identify disease spread in those sectors.

Shasta County's case rate and testing positivity have increased largely due to an outbreak at the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM) which identified over 300 positive cases amongst students and staff and which also led to additional community cases linked to the outbreak. Shasta County has had excellent cooperation with the BSSM including instituting stay-at-home protocols and distance learning. Mass testing has also been conducted to support expeditious isolation and quarantine. Although cases, case rate, and testing positivity rate are declining, Shasta County's case rate is 20.5 (as of 10/17/2020 data pull). The BSSM community is not an isolated campus and is integrated into the community. Therefore, Community transmission has occurred and the outbreak has impacted the community as a whole.

Shasta County requested to submit negative lab tests from a lab not reporting through Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) through CalREDIE to count towards the county's testing volume and case rate adjustment. As of 10/18/2020, CDPH has not received the additional lab data in the correct format to modify calculated case rates or test positivity from prior or current weeks. Based on the reported numbers from Shasta County and CDPH calculations, incorporation of these lab

tests will not decrease the case rates or test positivity no matter what the volume increase is to reach a Red tier or lower metric (based on maximum adjustment to case rates based on testing volume) and thus would not impact the tier adjudication determination.

## **Determination**

Shasta County's request to remain in the Red tier is **not approved**. Shasta County will move to the Purple tier for the 10/20/20 assignment.

Date of CDPH determination: 10/19/2020