

Blueprint for a Safer Economy



COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication Request FOR El Dorado County

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: 11/10/2020

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
El Dorado County never crossed the threshold to have been assigned to the County Data Monitoring List and may have been the largest county in California not to have done so. In retrospect, our case rates (based on episode date) were substantially above that threshold, meaning that our case rates were truly much higher than were being counted by CDPH. That was undoubtedly true for most or all counties. The discrepancy was due to severe shortages of testing that caused 1- to 2 week delays in people being able to obtain appointments.

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:

Case rate chart by episode date

HPI testing positivity rate chart

Full narrative for 'Other additional justification to be considered' box.

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 Nancy Williams, MD, MPH hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of El Dorado County. 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 Nancy Williams

Signature 

Position/Title Public Health Officer

Date 11/11/2020

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 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.

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Form Updated 10/20/20

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.

Form Updated 10/20/2020

El Dorado County never crossed the threshold to have been assigned to the County Data Monitoring List and may have been the largest county in California not to have done so. In retrospect, our case rates (based on episode date) were substantially above that threshold, meaning that our case rates were truly much higher than were being counted by CDPH. That was undoubtedly true for most or all counties. The discrepancy was due to severe shortages of testing that caused 1- to 2-week delays in people being able to obtain appointments and an additional 1- to 2- week delays in receipt of test results. By the time cases were being reported, many of the episode dates were outside of the window to count against us. The resulting situation was that restrictions in the county were less than they would have been if testing had occurred more timely.

The reality is that El Dorado County weathered much higher rates of COVID over the summer than we are experiencing now. If we look back to the key metrics over that time period, we see that El Dorado County experienced very few hospitalizations and no strain on the medical system. The cumulative death count of county residents due to COVID remains extremely low (4). We know there was tremendous amount of activity, particularly in the Lake Tahoe area over the summer with many Californians having opted to vacation in state rather than travel farther. With COVID rates high and capacity at its highest ever, if we were going to have stressed our healthcare system, we would have seen that over the summer. Rates today have risen but are still significantly lower than what we experienced over the summer with minimal undue effects.

Additionally, with the focus on health equity, it is important to observe that our Healthy-Places-Index lowest quartile testing positivity numbers have been low (attachment 2) and are currently only about ½ the average county rate, which itself is still solidly in the orange tier.

Not having been on the monitoring list, El Dorado schools made plans for a measured and careful reopening of our schools and has made significant progress there. While a few reported cases have occurred among students or staff, we are not aware that any transmission has occurred in the schools.

In summary, we are not convinced that closing industry sectors at this time would have a significant impact on severity of disease or disruption in our schools. We are working closely with our restaurant, tourism, and other industries to continue to keep their businesses safe for their staff, local residents, and visitors. We would appreciate CDPH's consideration in approving El Dorado's adjudication request. Thank you.

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication



For the county of: **El Dorado**

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: 11/10/2020

Summary

El Dorado county's tier adjudication request for the 11/10/2020 tier assignment week is entirely contextual. There is no known issue of data discrepancy.

County believes that their case rates were actually higher than what the state recorded/reported during the summer period when they had fewer restrictions on sector operations. Therefore, county believes that they were able to weather the higher rates.

County reports that they experienced very few hospitalizations and there was no strain on the medical system.

County believes that the summer period, with the high Lake Tahoe area activity, would have been when their health system would have been stressed, but this did not occur.

County reports in their request that rates at the time of submission have risen but were still significantly lower than what the county experienced over the summer with minimal undue effects. County reports they are doing well in the Health Equity Quartile and that they are not aware of any transmissions in schools.

County also believes that closing industry sectors at this time would not have a significant impact on severity of disease or disruption in their schools. County reports they are working closely with their restaurant, tourism, and other industries to continue to keep their businesses safe for their staff, local residents, and visitors.

County was slated to move from Orange Tier to Red Tier assignment on 11/10/20.

This basis provided by County does not support maintaining the Orange Tier assignment.

Determination

El Dorado county's request to adjudicate their tier assignment is not approved and will be applied Red metrics for the week of 11/10/2020.

NOTE: On 11/16/2020, due to a concerning rate of rise in cases throughout California, County was assessed purple metrics and has been placed in the Purple Tier.

Date of CDPH Determination: 11/18/2020