

October 27, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Michelle Corson, 661-868-0288

State Announces Kern Continues in Red Tier (Tier 2) on State's COVID-19 Framework

(Bakersfield, CA) – Today the State announced that for the third consecutive week, Kern County continues in the Red Tier (Tier 2) on the State's COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Below is a summary of Kern County's current metrics, as announced by the State today, and a comparison of what Kern's metrics were last week:

| | As of October 27, 2020 | As of October 20, 2020 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Countywide Adjusted Case Rate | 6.3/100,000 | 6.2/100,000 |
| Countywide Testing Positivity | 4.2% | 4.4% |
| Health Equity Quartile Testing Positivity | 6.3% | 5.5% |

Kern County's testing positivity rate actually meets the Orange Tier, or Tier 3 metrics; however, our countywide adjusted case rate and health equity quartile testing positivity rate still fall within the Red Tier metrics. If these two metrics were to improve and actually meet the Orange Tier metrics, the County would be eligible to move forward in the framework to the less restrictive Orange Tier after two consecutive weeks of meeting these metrics. If these metrics worsen, the County could revert into the more restrictive Purple Tier as soon as two weeks from now.

Kern County's testing rate has decreased from 194/100,000 residents to 181/100,000 this week. As a community, we need to increase our testing to not only avoid that artificial case rate adjustment, but also because testing is a very important resource to slow the transmission of this disease in our community by identifying infected individuals who can be isolated. To access information on testing sites in your area, please visit kernpublichealth.com

The best ways for residents to protect themselves and loves ones is to continue to wear face coverings, avoid social gatherings, keep six feet of distance from others and frequent handwashing.

To learn more about the State framework, visit www.covid19.ca.gov or www.kernpublichealth.com/2019-novel-coronavirus/