

NEWS RELEASE

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

(Bakersfield, CA) – Today the State announced that for the fifth 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 November 9, 2020	As of November 2, 2020
Countywide Adjusted Case Rate	8.9/100,000	6.4/100,000
Countywide Testing Positivity	5.2%	4.2%
Health Equity Quartile Testing Positivity	6.8%	5.4%

Kern County’s adjusted case rate currently exceeds the Red Tier metrics and actually falls within Purple Tier, or Tier 1, metrics; however, our countywide testing positivity and health equity quartile testing positivity rate still meet the Red Tier metrics. If Kern’s metrics exceed the Red Tier metrics for a second consecutive week, the County would be required to revert back to the more restrictive Purple Tier as early as next week.

Kern County’s testing rate has increased from 192.5/100,000 residents to 197.7/100,000 this week. Unfortunately, testing rates have increased throughout the State which has caused the State’s testing median to increase to 272.41/100,000 residents. Based on the current Kern testing rate and the State’s median testing rate, Kern needs approximately 686 additional tests each day to avoid the artificial adjustment to our case rate. Testing is also a valuable resource for controlling the spread of COVID-19 through identification and early isolation of those who are infected. Residents are encouraged to visit our interactive testing map on our website to learn where COVID-19 testing is happening near them: <https://phweb.kerncounty.com/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=COVID19TestingSites>.

As our local case rate has recently increased and with the holiday season approaching, Public Health urges our community to take personal responsibility and practice healthy habits that include wearing a mask in public, washing your hands regularly, keeping at least six feet of physical distance when in public, and limiting mixing with people you don’t live with. According to the California Department of Public Health, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 significantly increases as more people from different households interact, and when the interaction is closer in proximity and longer in duration.

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