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NEWS RELEASE

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Kern County Remains in Red Tier (Tier 2) on State’s COVID-19 Framework

Today the State announced that Kern County remains in the Red Tier (Tier 2) of the COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Last week, our county moved into the Red Tier from the most restrictive Purple Tier and additional businesses and activities were allowed to resume.

Every county is assigned to one of four tiers based on the adjusted case rate, testing positivity rate, and health equity metric. Below is a summary of Kern County’s current metrics and a comparison of Kern’s metrics last week:

	As of 3/30/21	As of 3/23/21	Orange Tier Trigger
Countywide Adjusted Case Rate	5.0/100,000	5.5/100,000	3.9/100,000
Countywide Testing Positivity	2.6%	2.8%	4.9%
Health Equity Quartile Testing Positivity	3.8%	3.9%	5.2%

The State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy requires a county to remain in a tier for at least three weeks and meet the metrics of the less restrictive tier for at least two weeks before moving down a tier. Under the current Blueprint metrics, if our metrics continue to improve, Kern County could move to the Orange Tier (Tier 3) as early as April 14. However, when California hits the goal of 4 million doses of vaccine administered within the lowest quartile, the case rate threshold to move from the Red to the Orange Tier changes from 3.9/100,000 to 5.9/100,000. Therefore, if that statewide case rate threshold changes, Kern could advance to the Orange Tier as early as April 7.

Public Health encourages everyone to continue to practice healthy habits and to get vaccinated when it’s your turn to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and move our county forward in the Blueprint framework, opening more businesses and activities.

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

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