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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Kern County Remains in Orange Tier (Tier 3) on State’s COVID-19 Framework**

Today the State announced that Kern County remains in the Orange Tier (Tier 3) of the COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Last week, our county moved into the Orange Tier from the Red Tier and additional businesses were allowed to reopen or expand capacity in accordance with State guidelines.

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 4/20/21	As of 4/13/21	Yellow Tier Trigger
Countywide Adjusted Case Rate	3.7/100,000	3.2/100,000	<2/100,000
Countywide Testing Positivity	1.5%	2.2%	<2%
Health Equity Quartile Testing Positivity	2.0%	2.6%	<2.2%

Kern County must remain in the Orange Tier for at least three weeks before moving into the least restrictive Yellow Tier (Tier 4). Additionally, Kern must meet the Yellow Tier metrics for at least two consecutive weeks to be able to progress forward.

Our community has made great progress within the Blueprint for a Safer Economy and we appreciate the efforts of our residents. We urge everyone to continue to practice healthy habits and to get vaccinated if 16 or older. Vaccination remains a vital tool to emerge from this pandemic and to reopen our local economy. We encourage all those who reside or work in Kern County to get vaccinated as quickly as possible.

To learn more about the State framework, visit [www.covid19.ca.gov](http://www.covid19.ca.gov) or [www.kernpublichealth.com/2019-novel-coronavirus/](http://www.kernpublichealth.com/2019-novel-coronavirus/).