



Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp, DrPH  
Director

Salvador Sandoval, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 18, 2020

### Merced County to Expand COVID-19 Testing

MERCED COUNTY, CA – The Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) is pleased to announce an additional COVID-19 testing site for County residents through a partnership with Verily, which offers State-funded mobile testing resources.

This site will be located in Los Banos, CA beginning Monday, July 20, 2020 with appointments available Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Individuals can schedule appointments at [www.projectbaseline.com/COVID19](http://www.projectbaseline.com/COVID19). The test site will be located at the Los Banos Fairgrounds, 403 F St., Los Banos.

Testing at this new location is self-administered and non-invasive. The OptumServe site in Merced is also moving to a self-administered, non-invasive process.

“I’m grateful an additional testing site will be opening in Los Banos and encourage residents to take this opportunity to be tested,” said Los Banos Mayor Mike Villalta.

If you are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or suspect you’ve been exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, please get tested.

“The Department is excited to announce the expansion of COVID-19 testing capabilities in Merced County. Our goal is to ensure all residents have reasonable access to testing in their community,” said Dr. Salvador Sandoval, Public Health Officer.

As a reminder, it is now a statewide requirement to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet of social distance outside. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ When handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base
- ✓ If you experience any COVID-19 symptoms (available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) **stay home** and self-monitor.

All business sector safety guidance can be found at [www.reopenmercedcounty.com](http://www.reopenmercedcounty.com). Further COVID-19 information is located on the Department’s resource website at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus).

###