

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy



## COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication Request FOR

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication:

### **Background**

On August 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), a statewide, stringent and slow plan for a safe progression of opening more businesses and activities in light of the pandemic. The plan imposed risk-based criteria on tightening and loosening COVID-19 allowable activities and defined a minimum length of time between changes to assess how any movement affects the trajectory of the disease based on a county's disease transmission metrics. As part of this framework, a county tier adjudication process was established to offer local jurisdictions the opportunity to raise questions concerning data discrepancies or other similar errors in the tier assignment process.

A county may submit this form as an official request to enter into a tier adjudication process.

### **Timing and Processing of An Adjudication Request**

Counties must submit their intent to request tier adjudication no later than Monday at 6pm regarding their tier metrics for that week. The full county tier adjudication form & any supporting documentation must be submitted by Wednesday at 5pm. Once a county enters into tier adjudication with CDPH, the county's tier assignment at the time of the request will be held in the current tier until adjudication is complete.

An adjudication process cannot delay a tier change by more than one tier reporting period (the process cannot cross beyond the next Tuesday's tier assignment), and the county will be assigned to the tier determined by CDPH no later than Monday of the following week. If a request for adjudication concerns movement from Tier 2 to Tier 1, schools in the county that have not yet reopened may not reopen during tier adjudication.

The State Health Officer or designee will review and approve the final decision. CDPH will also post the request form and a summary of the final decision on the [CDPH website](#) after the county tier adjudication request package (completed form and supporting documents) and discussion between State and local officials have been completed.

**Reason for Adjudication Request- select all that apply and provide an explanation:**

- DATA DISCREPANCY:** Using similar methodology for calculating the blueprint metrics, the county identifies a discrepancy between state and local data.
  - Does the discrepancy pertain to adjusted case rate, test positivity or both?
  - Please describe any additional detail pertaining to the discrepancy.
    - If the data discrepancy involves non-ELR data, please refer to Appendix A for instructions on the format and information that should be included as supporting documentation.

Please enter relevant information for States consideration

**Other additional justification to be considered:**

Please provide relevant qualitative/contextual elements for the States consideration

In addition to your county's completed COVID-19 COUNTY TIER ADJUDICATION FORM, please include:

- Supporting data documentation following the instructions in Appendix A
  - How many separate documents will be provided, excluding this form, in connection with this request: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Please list names of any files being provided to ensure we have everything you intend to have reviewed in connection with this request:

A completed data summary table (see [Appendix A](#))

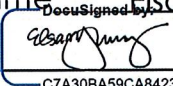
Note: if a County is delayed in its submission of required information to inform the adjudication process, CDPH can elect to end or deny the adjudication request.

**Instructions for submission:**

1. Submit request for tier adjudication to CDPH at [countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov) no later than Monday, 6pm.
2. Submit county tier adjudication form, data summary table, and supporting documents, as separate documents, to CDPH no later than by 5pm Wednesday (within 2 days after the request for tier adjudication was sent) at [countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:countytieradjudication@cdph.ca.gov).
3. Data file should be sent encrypted. Does not need to be in zipped files.

I Elsa Jimenez hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of County of Monterey. I certify that the information provided in the county tier adjudication request is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and consent that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will post this information on the CDPH website and is public record.

Printed Name Elsa Jimenez  
Signature   
Position/Title Director of Health  
Date 11/03/2020

**CDPH Determination**

Date of Determination: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A:

**Format Requested: Excel Files (send encrypted email if contains PHI)**

### 1. Metric: Adjusted Case rate discrepancy- related adjudication

*Fields that we need information on:*

Test Submitter	Episode Date*	Unique Case IDs	ELR or non-ELR	Test info (positive/negative)	Confirmation of Address (county suffices) of case
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\* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

### 2. Metric: Testing Positivity and/or Volume discrepancy- related adjudication

*Fields that we need information on:*

Test Submitter <sup>1</sup>	Specimen collection date*	Unique Case IDs	ELR or non-ELR	Test info (positive/negative)	Type of test used (PCR/Antigen/POC)	Confirmation of Address (county suffices) of case
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\* Data should align with dates used for CDPH tier assignment.

**Download the [Tier Adjudication Summary Table](#) (Excel)**

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<sup>1</sup> Counties are requested to submit a list of labs that are not reporting to CalREDIE via ELR or CalREDIE compatible csv files. Please indicate if these labs are currently in the process of onboarding onto CalREDIE.

## Appendix A:

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Form Updated 10/20/20

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Form Updated 10/20/2020

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy



## COVID-19 County Tier Adjudication

For the county of: Monterey

Requested week for Tier Assignment Adjudication: 11/04/2020

### Summary

Monterey County requests adjudication for the November 4, 2020, tier assignment week for three reasons: (1) County points to a data discrepancy related to the Health Equity Test Positivity metric; (2) County proposed including a percentage (25%) of tests from staff of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) within Health Equity quartile census tracts based on an assumption the SNF staff live in those tracts; and (3) County has labs not reporting negative test results electronically and would like those counted toward test positivity metric.

As to reason for adjudication (1), Monterey County believes that the Health Equity Test Positivity metric denominator of 2,116 for the assessment period impacting the 11/4/2020 tier assignment week is not accurate due to missing non-ELR negative test results. Blueprint Test Positivity metric and the Health Equity Test Positivity metric are calculated using only ELR test data. Labs submitting to CalREDIE using compatible .csv files are counted as ELR. Similarly, results submitted by labs using the manual data entry module are considered ELR.

County provided a spreadsheet titled 'Fax Labs Results list.' This sheet includes data from seven different labs. CDPH records show that all seven labs report to CalREDIE using ELR. Of 33 total records in this sheet, 25 are not entered in CalREDIE, whereas eight have CalREDIE IDs. Seven of 33 entries have lab accession numbers while some have missing names. Even if all 33 records had been in CalREDIE, the inclusion of the 33 negatives in the denominator of the Health Equity metric calculation would not have changed the County's assigned tier metrics for the week of 11/4/2020.

As to the reason for adjudication (2), County proposed including 25% of tests from staff of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) within Health Equity quartile census tracts based on an assumption that the SNF staff live in those tracts. In support,

County reported that five of the 16 SNFs utilize a commercial lab that does not report to the Health Department by fax, CSV file, or ELR. County staff do receive line lists from these facilities to verify that staff testing complies with CDPH mandates. However, these line lists do not include the address of staff working at these facilities. County reports that skilled nursing facility workers are essential workers earning relatively low wage and that County's most affordable housing is located in the Health Equity quartile census tracts. Specifically, County proposed CDPH consider and include 25% of SNF staff from these five facilities as residing in the Health Equity quartile census tracts. County requested their Health Equity metric test positivity denominator be adjusted to 2,213 (+64) to include the proposed 25% of SNF staff that may live in the Health Equity Quartile census tracts.

Additionally, County reported that there are also negative lab results not received by ELR for individuals living in the Health Equity Quartile census tracts, and believes that if data from three of the five SNF facilities were included for the 11/4/2020 tier assignment week, the Equity metric for this assessment period would adjust from 5.104% (108/2,116) to 4.880% (108/2,213). County believes that this adjustment would have allowed them to meet the Accelerated Health Equity criteria for the 11/4/2020 tier assignment week.

Although Monterey County seeks to include negative tests from 25% of SNF staff, the County did not provide information to support that these SNF staff actually reside in the Health Equity Quartile census tracts.

As to the reason for adjudication (3), County has non-ELR labs not reporting negative test results electronically and would like those counted toward test positivity metric. County provided data sheets for 97 missing negative tests and data sheets from three non-ELR labs not submitted to CalREDIE for the 11/4/2020 tier assignment week. However, the data sheets did not contain sufficient information to confirm that the individuals reside in the Health Equity Quartile census tracts.

## **Determination**

Monterey County's tier adjudication request for the 11/4/2020 tier assignment is not approved. Monterey County's metrics for 11/4/2020 will remain in the Purple Tier.

**Date of CDPH Determination 11/08/2020.**