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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sierra County receives approval from State to reopen Stage 2 Businesses

On May 13, 2020, the State of California approved Sierra County's Local Variance Attestation, which allows the county to consider increasing the pace at which they advance through Stage 2 of *California's roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home Order*. To see the variance go to the state website at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Local-Variance-Attestations.aspx> or our local website at <https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/variance>.

The state determines which businesses will open in each stage. The following Stage 2 businesses are now allowed to open **with modifications**:

- All retail business to on site sales (in store) including swap meets and malls
- Personal services, limited to: car washes, pet grooming, tanning facilities and landscape gardening
- Office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged)
- Dine in restaurants (bars and gaming areas, not permitted)
- Outdoor museums and open gallery spaces
- Home Childcare providers (schools and preschools remain closed at this time)

All businesses must have a written plan to mitigate COVID-19 transmission risks. Sierra County has developed a template for businesses, COVID-19 Reopening Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to guide them. The COVID-19 Reopening MOU needs to be submitted to the County for approval and be accessible to all employees and county officials if requested. The COVID-19 Reopening MOU template is located on the county website: <https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/BusinessReopeningPlan>.

It is unknown at this time how long Stage 2 may last or when we will be able to safely and legally re-open Stage 3 businesses. The State has made it very clear that any county that moves into Stage 3 without the state's approval may jeopardize receipt of state funding. Sierra County is already working on a plan to move to Stage 3 as soon as the state allows. Being able to safely and legally re-open Stage 3 businesses will be a community effort. Please continue to stay strong and maintain social distancing, practice good hygiene, wear face coverings in public when maintaining 6 feet of separation from others is not possible, and minimize going into public.

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