



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

---

Lisa A. Smittcamp  
District Attorney

### **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2020

## **Statement of District Attorney Lisa A. Smittcamp on Governor Newsom's Most Recent Limited Stay at Home Order**

The Governor of the State of California has issued a curfew, "Limited Stay at Home Order to Slow the Spread of COVID-19," wherein he indicated that non-essential businesses and personal gatherings are prohibited between 10pm and 5am beginning Saturday, November 21, 2020 for counties in the purple tier.

The Order itself lacks direction regarding methods, specific statutes, and enforcement criteria, as to whether the Governor intends to try to hold violators of this Order accountable in criminal courts.

He cites no authority to allow for elected District Attorneys to enforce this Order, should we be presented with a request for prosecution of a violation.

Most Police Chiefs and County Sheriffs in our area, and throughout the state, have stated that they do not intend to provide resources to enforce this Order, and we agree with those decisions.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will not be initiating criminal charges for any felony or misdemeanor violations of this Order, should any exist in the law. If the State of California creates any further "strike forces" with State resources, and requests criminal charges be filed in the County of Fresno, those cases will be referred to Xavier Becerra, the Attorney General of the State of California for review and prosecution.

The media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with any questions.

\*\*\*