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May 31, 2020

Re: Clarifying Stage 3 Messaging

Dear Secretary Ghaly and Dr. Angell,

Thank you both for the opportunity for local health officers to voice our concerns during the 3 pm conference call on Friday, May 29, 2020 regarding Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the California Pandemic Resilience Roadmap, which followed the Governor's press briefing held earlier that day. We respectfully ask that you work with the Governor immediately on clarifying his messaging and that you do so by Monday, June 1, 2020.

The Governor's press briefing created confusion about variance counties moving through Stage 3, which led to the assumption that health officers are entirely responsible for when sectors open, when in fact, the state is the initial gatekeeper by determining when sector guidance is posted. Our concern is that the "how" and "when" message was misunderstood by many members of the public, business owners, and county leaders, which put many health officers in very difficult positions.

Specifically, we ask that the clarification explain that:

- **How** = the state's issuance of sector guidelines
- **When** = the state's timing of issuing guidelines, followed by approval from the local health officer for our counties' sectors to open

Immediate resolution of the miscommunication is critical because many of us have to answer to our board members, business sectors and public early this week on how we plan to respond to last Friday's announcement.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and we look forward to collaborating with you about other matters of importance to the state and local health officers. Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at karen.relucio@countyofnapa.org or by phone at (707) 253-4566.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers