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December 3, 2020

Re: Quarantine period

Dear Secretary Ghaly,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), we would like to encourage the state to not use the new seven-day-with-a-test strategy recently released from the CDC and offer our recommendation for a quarantine period of a minimum of 10 days. CCLHO believes that those that can quarantine for 14 days should do so and is optimal. We hope you will join us in a harm reduction message: fourteen days of quarantine is safest, and people should still quarantine for that amount of time. Ten days of quarantine is allowable in non-high-risk settings. Exceptions could be made for health care workers, who may be allowed to return to work after a seven-day quarantine with a negative test. This exception acknowledges our critical need for hospital staffing at this critical time.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

We thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration with you about 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

Cc: Erica Pan, MD, MPH, Acting State Public Health Officer, CDPH
Susan Fanelli, Deputy Director, Policy and Program, CDPH