

VARIANCE TO STAGE 2 OF CALIFORNIA'S ROADMAP TO MODIFY THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER



COVID-19 COUNTY VARIANCE ATTESTATION FORM

FOR

Background

On March 4, 2020 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, and on March 12, 2020, through Executive Order N-25-20, he directed all residents to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents to heed the State Public Health Officer's Stay-at-Home order which requires all residents to stay at home except for work in critical infrastructure sectors or otherwise to facilitate authorized necessary activities. On April 14th, the State presented the Pandemic Roadmap, a four-stage plan for modifying the Stay-at-Home order, and, on May 4th, announced that entry into Stage 2 of the plan would be imminent.

Given the size and diversity of California, it is not surprising that the impact of COVID-19 has differed across the state. While some counties are still in the initial stabilization phase (Stage 1) of the pandemic response, there are a number of less affected counties. Provided these counties are able to demonstrate an ability to protect the public and essential workers, they may be in a position to adopt aspects of Stage 2 of California's roadmap at a faster pace than the state as a whole. As directed by the Governor in Executive Order N-60-20, this guidance provides information on the criteria and procedures that counties will need to meet in order to move more quickly than other parts of the state through Stage 2 of modifying the Stay-at-Home order. It is recommended that counties consult with cities and other stakeholders as they consider moving through Stage 2.

Local Variance

A county that has met certain criteria in containing COVID-19 may consider increasing the pace at which they advance through Stage 2, but not into Stage 3, of California's roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home order. Counties are encouraged to first review this document in full to consider if a variance from the state's roadmap is appropriate for the county's specific circumstances. If a county decides to pursue a variance, the local public health officer must:

1. Notify the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and engage in a phone consultation regarding the county's intent to seek a variance.
2. Certify through submission of a written attestation to CDPH that the county has met the readiness criteria (outlined below) designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Attestations should be submitted by the local public health officer, and accompanied by a letter of support from the County Board of Supervisors, as well as a letter of support from the local hospitals or health care systems. In the event that the county does not have a hospital or health care system within its jurisdiction, a letter of support from the

relevant regional health system(s) is also acceptable. The full submission must be signed by the local public health officer.

All county attestations, and submitted plans for moving through Stage 2 as outlined below, will be posted publicly on CDPH's website.

While not required, CDPH recommends as a best practice the development of a county COVID-19 containment plan by the local public health officer in conjunction with the hospitals and health systems in the jurisdiction, as well as input from a broad range of county stakeholders, including the County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to pre-submission phone consultations, CDPH is available to provide technical assistance to counties as they develop their attestations and COVID-19 containment plans. Please email Jake Hanson at Jake.Hanson@cdph.ca.gov to set up a time with our technical assistance team.

County Name: _____

County Contact: _____

Public Phone Number: _____

Readiness for Variance

The county's documentation of its readiness to increase the pace through Stage 2 must clearly indicate its preparedness according to the criteria below. This will ensure that individuals who are at heightened risk, including for example the elderly and those residing in long-term care and locally controlled custody facilities, continue to be protected as a county progresses through California's roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home order, and that risk is minimized for the population at large.

As part of the attestation, counties must provide specifics regarding their movement through Stage 2 (e.g., which sectors, in what sequence, at what pace), as well as clearly indicate how their plans differ from the state's order.

It is critical that any county that submits an attestation continue to collect and monitor data to demonstrate that the variances are not having a negative impact on individuals or healthcare systems. Counties must also attest that they have identified triggers and have a clear plan and approach if conditions worsen for modifying the pace of advancing through stage 2, including reinstating restrictions, in advance of any state action. Counties must also submit their plan for how they anticipate moving through Stage 2 (e.g., which sectors will be opened, order of opening etc.).

Readiness Criteria

To establish readiness for an increased pace through Stage 2 of California's roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home order, a county must attest to the following readiness criteria and provide the requested information as outlined below:

- **Epidemiologic stability of COVID-19.** A determination must be made by the county that the prevalence of COVID-19 cases is low enough to be swiftly contained by an epidemiological response. Given the anticipated increase in cases as a result of modifications, this is a foundational parameter that must be met to safely increase the county's progression through Stage 2. The county must attest to:
 - No more than 1 COVID-19 case per 10,000 in the past 14 days prior to attestation submission date.

Plumas County currently has no active cases of COVID-19. We have had a total of 4 cases, all of which have recovered. Our last case was released from self-isolation on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

- No COVID-19 death in the past 14 days prior to attestation submission date.

Plumas County has experienced NO COVID-19 related deaths.

- **Protection of Stage 1 essential workers.** A determination must be made by the county that there is clear guidance and the necessary resources to ensure the safety of Stage 1 essential critical infrastructure workers. The county must attest to:
 - Guidance for employers and essential critical infrastructure workplaces on how to structure the physical environment to protect essential workers. Please provide copies of the guidance(s).

Plumas County has worked extensively with critical service providers to protect critical infrastructure workers and the public. Below is a summary of the guidance documents that we have provided to businesses and the public regarding face coverings:

- [Face Covering/ Face Masks Recommendation For Office Workers, dated April 16, 2020](#)
- [Face Covering Recommendations for PCPHA Outpatient Clinical and Non-Clinical Staff, dated April 16, 2020](#)
- [Health Officer Order Requiring Face Coverings, dated May 6, 2020](#)

Here is the guidance for food service workers and facilities:

- [Coronavirus Guidance for Food Facilities, dated March 16, 2020](#)
- [Food Service Shifts to Take-Out and Delivery Only, dated March 17, 2020](#)
- [Food Safety Tips for Home Deliveries, dated March 21, 2020](#)
- [Social Distancing Guidance for Grocery Stores, dated March 31, 2020](#)

Here is the guidance to ensure the physical environments are configured to protect workers:

- [COVID Operations Plan for Businesses, dated May 4, 2020](#)

Here is guidance for Healthcare workers and first responders:

- [Strategies To Optimize The Supply of PPE and Equipment, dated May 5, 2020.](#)

Public Health maintains at least weekly contact with the hospitals and sends them any new or updated guidance from CDPH and/or CDC. These are posted on our website and all hospitals receive the AFL's from State as well. Our Regional LEMSA works with EMS to update them with new guidelines as well.

Plumas County's COVID-19 website can be found here:

<https://www.plumascounty.us/2669/Novel-Coronavirus-2019-COVID-19>. Our COVID-19 informational resources include a phone hotline (530) 283-6400 staffed M-F from 8am-5pm and email – COVID19@countyofplumas.com.

- Availability of supplies (disinfectant, essential protective gear) to protect essential workers. Please describe how this availability is assessed.

We query our Health Care Facilities on a weekly basis to determine levels of PPE which includes the 2 SNF's in our hospitals as well as clinics and EMS. Our OES is monitoring the Fire Departments and if a need arises, sends a Resource Request up to the MHOAC which then goes up the request line. Our Hospitals have stated that some of their normal supply chains are opening up and they have received some backordered products.

As noted above, face coverings have been recommended in most public settings in Plumas County for many weeks, and a mandatory Health Officer Order was recently implemented. Throughout this time, many volunteers have been sewing and providing homemade face coverings for essential workers and the public. Here is a listing of available face coverings resources for essential workers:

Locations in Plumas County

Community United Methodist Church (Carolyn Dowdy): Quincy, CA, 530-283-1740

Quincy Crazy Quilter: Quincy, CA 530-283-1736

Cabin Fever Quilt Guild: Portola, CA

Blue Petunia Quilt Store (Kathy Riggins): Portola, CA

Angels Ink Tie Die: Indian Valley, 530-394-5135

On-line sales of homemade masks

Take Care: The Precision 2 Mask

Etsy: Organic Cotton Face Masks from Shiitake Creek

Aplat: Organic Cotton Mask

Hedly & Bennett: The Wake Up and Fight Mask

Plover: Organic Cotton Mask

Avocado Green Mattress: Organic Cotton Mask

T-Masks: T-Mask

Alice and Olivia: The Staceface mask

Mask Club: Printed Mask

Plumas County has been operating under a local health emergency declaration since 3/17/2020. We have not experienced a shortage of disinfectant, supplies or PPE during this time. Testing of over 500 individuals with only 4 positive cases (all recovered) strongly indicates that access and availability to supplies needed to protect essential workers has not hindered our COVID containment efforts.

- **Testing capacity.** A determination must be made by the county that there is testing capacity to detect active infection that meets the state's most current testing criteria (available on CDPH website). The county must attest to:
 - Minimum daily testing volume to test 1.5 per 1,000 residents, which can be met through a combination of testing of symptomatic individuals and targeted surveillance. Please provide the plan and the county's average daily testing volume for the past week. If the county does not believe a testing volume of 1.5 per 1,000 residents is merited, please provide justification for this.

To date, Plumas County has tested 2.7% of our population (27 tests/1000 persons). We have at least the capacity to test 1.5/1,000 or 27 persons a day (Population 18,400).

Date	Daily Testing Volume
4-May	8
5-May	3
6-May	56
7-May	2
8-May	6
	15
	Average Tests

See the [Plumas County Public Health Agency's Testing Plan](#) for increasing testing capacity. You can find updated testing numbers on our website, updated on weekdays.
<https://www.plumascounty.us/2669/Novel-Coronavirus-2019-COVID-19>

We have the capacity to run over 50 tests per day with the trained staff and procedures in place. There are days that we run under 27 tests per day due to lower need at times.

- Testing availability for at least 75% of residents, as measured by a specimen collection site (including established health care providers) within 30 minutes driving time in urban areas, and 60 minutes in rural areas. Please provide a listing of all specimen collection sites in the county, whether there are any geographic areas that do not meet the criteria, and plans for filling these gaps. If the county depends on sites in adjacent counties, please list these sites as well.

Plumas County's specimen collection sites include: Plumas District Hospital. (1065 Bucks Lake Road, Quincy, CA), Eastern Plumas Healthcare (500 1st Avenue, Portola, CA), and Seneca Healthcare District (130 Brentwood Drive, Chester, CA). These 3 hospitals cover all of Plumas County within a 60-minute drive time. Please see [Testing Plan](#) regarding increasing capacity. As our plan indicates, we are adding testing availability in-county. To date, specimens have been sent to LabCorp, and the Public Health lab in Shasta.

- **Containment capacity.** A determination must be made by the county that it has adequate infrastructure, processes, and workforce to reliably detect and safely isolate new cases, as well as follow up with individuals who have been in contact with positive cases. The county must attest to:
 - Sufficient contact tracing. For counties that have no cases, there should be at least 15 staff per 100,000 county population trained and available for contact tracing; for counties with small populations, there must be at least one staff person trained and available. Please describe the county's contact tracing plan, including workforce capacity, and why it is sufficient to meet anticipated surge.

The [contact tracing investigation checklist](#) is what Plumas County uses for contact tracing. This is also part of the Just-In-Time training for staff if we need to surge. We have 8 Public Health staff trained in investigations and have trained 5 Environmental Health staff that can be deployed. Our Nursing Director has over 20 years of experience in communicable disease investigation, contact tracing, and management of such operations. Our team plans to participate in the state sponsored contact tracing and investigation training modules once available. Plumas County meets the 15 trained staff/100,000 population threshold. If all trained contact tracers are deployed, the Plumas ratio is 70/100,000.

- Availability of temporary housing units to shelter at least 15% of county residents experiencing homelessness in case of an outbreak among this population requiring isolation and quarantine of affected individuals. Please describe the county's plans to support individuals, including those experiencing homelessness, who are not able to properly isolate in a home setting by providing them with temporary housing (including access to a private bathroom), for the duration of the necessary isolation or quarantine period.

Plumas County is working in collaboration with an outside agency to ensure people experiencing homelessness are able to isolate properly. When someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, the contract tracing staff conducts a needs assessment with the individual. If there is a need for housing, they are connected with the High Risk Branch under the Operations Section of the Department Operations Center. The High Risk Branch Chief coordinates with Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center to provide housing vouchers to lodge any COVID-positive client experiencing homelessness. Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center can receive funding for this from the County through SB89 and County Medical Services Program funding. We are able to shelter 15% of county residents experiencing homelessness in the case of an outbreak.

- **Hospital capacity.** A determination must be made by the county that hospital capacity, including ICU beds and ventilators, and adequate PPE is available to handle standard health care capacity, current COVID-19 cases, as well as a potential surge due to COVID-19. If the county does not have a hospital within its jurisdiction, the county will need to address how regional hospital and health care systems may be impacted by this request and demonstrate that adequate hospital capacity exists in those systems. The county must attest to:
 - County (or regional) hospital capacity to accommodate a minimum surge of 35% due to COVID-19 cases in addition to providing usual care for non-COVID-19 patients. Please describe how this surge would be accomplished, including surge census by hospital, addressing both physical and workforce capacity.

The 3 critical access hospitals in Plumas County (Plumas District Hospital, Eastern Plumas Healthcare, and Seneca Healthcare District) have surge plans that address bed and staffing capacities to provide care for COVID and non-COVID patients. According to hospital calculations, all three hospitals can surge by at least 35% of current capacity.

The current regional hospital data indicates that adequate capacity exists for Plumas County residents/visitors (both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients) in the event of an unexpected patient surge. Further, there is significant additional hospital capacity throughout the remaining Region 3 Medical/Health Mutual Aid Region counties at this time (including approximately 500 available ICU and medical/surgical hospital beds as of May 7, 2020).

It has been verified that all of the acute care hospitals in the Region 3 Medical/Health Mutual Aid Region (in addition to Nevada and Placer counties in the Region 4 Medical/Health Mutual Aid Region) have robust plans in place to protect the hospital workforce, both clinical and nonclinical, with appropriate PPE. These plans are continually assessed through situational status reporting to/from the applicable MHOAC programs as well as ongoing hospital polling (which includes PPE availability), conducted by the California Hospital Association and reported daily to the MHOAC and RDMHS/C programs.

- o County (or regional) hospital facilities have a robust plan to protect the hospital workforce, both clinical and nonclinical, with PPE. Please describe the process by which this is assessed.

Plumas District Hospital - Currently all employees are screened at the beginning of their shift. Everyone is given a surgical mask to use all day and dispose of at end of shift. Staff who are non-patient contact are allowed to wear a cloth mask. Nursing leadership rounds frequently on employees and demonstrates the proper use of PAPRs, and donning/doffing and other PPE use. Laminated sheets with the instructions from the CDC are posted in the clinics, nursing floors, and ER.

Seneca Healthcare District - Currently all employees and visitors are masked and screened at the beginning of their shift or visit. Ongoing assessment of all Infection Prevention Mitigations to stop the spread of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to the use, proper education of staff, and the availability of PPE. A copy of the PPE plan is on file. Signs are posted in all areas of the hospital.

Eastern Plumas Health Care - Currently all staff are screened for COVID-19 symptoms and have their temperature taken at the beginning of their shift (SNF employees take their temperature at the beginning and end of their shift). All staff working in the hospital, clinics, and SNF wear surgical masks at all times. All staff working outside of patient care areas wear a cloth mask while at work. PPE is available in patient care areas of the hospital via a locked PPE cart. PPE inventory is monitored daily. Signs are posted in the hospital about proper use of PPE (what to wear for COVID-19 suspect patients, how to properly don/doff PPE). Signs are posted in EVS areas about appropriate PPE to wear and how to properly clean COVID suspect rooms. All staff using respirators are up-to-date on their fit testing.

- **Vulnerable populations.** A determination must be made by the county that the proposed variance maintains protections for vulnerable populations, particularly those in long-term care settings. The county must attest to:
 - o Skilled nursing facilities (SNF) have >14-day supply of PPE on hand for staff, with established process for ongoing procurement from non-state supply chains. Please list the names and contacts of all SNFs in the county along with a description of the system the county has to track PPE availability across SNFs.

Eastern Plumas Healthcare - Lorraine Noble RN

Seneca Healthcare District - Ashli Pleau RN or Tiffany Paffenroth RN

There are no stand-alone SNF's in our county, they are both distinct parts of our critical access hospitals. Public Health queries them weekly on PPE supplies. At last query, all have >30 days' supply on hand and reported that orders from non-state supply chains were starting to arrive.

Both SNFs have implemented precautions to protect their residents and staff. They closed to all visitors and implemented reverse isolation. Patient care employees are fit-tested, utilize full PPE and have isolation policies in place.

The two SNFs in Plumas County use the same robust PPE procurement process as the hospitals.

- **Sectors and timelines.** Please provide details on the county's plan to move through Stage 2. This should include which sectors and spaces will be opened, in what sequence, on what timeline. Please specifically indicate where the plan differs from the state's order. Please note that this variance should not include sectors that are part of Stage 3.

[Plumas County's Plan for Moving Through Stage 2](#) outlines the county's plan to move through Stage 2.

Plumas County has established template Operation Plan to be used in conjunction with the State provided Industry Guidelines for reopening. Prior to reopening, each business will be required to consider ways to prevent COVID transmission, such as sign posting requirements to educate and inform the public, measures to protect employees, measures to prevent gatherings, measures to prevent unnecessary contact, and measures to increase sanitation. In addition to the template which is universal to all businesses, certain industry specific Operation Plan addendums may also be required. These will aid businesses to provide protections with more complex business models such as seating for restaurants reopening. The Operation Plans and addendums will fulfill the written plan requirement outlined in the State Industry Guidelines.

Plumas County proposes an accelerated plan to reopen all of Stage 2 facilities except schools and childcare facilities. These facilities will **not** be reopening at this time. Plumas County anticipates the planning phase to reopen schools and childcare facilities to take longer than other phase 2 businesses. We will be working with our local school districts, childcare providers and local partners while following State Office of Education and State Department of Social Services Childcare Licensing guidance and timeline for reopening. The timeline for reopening these facilities is unknown at this time.

- **Triggers for adjusting modifications.** Please share the county metrics that would serve as triggers for either slowing the pace through Stage 2 or tightening modifications, including the frequency of measurement and the specific actions triggered by metric changes. Please include your plan for how the county will inform the state of emerging concerns and how it will implement early containment measures.

Triggers:

- Two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in each of two successive weeks followed as a 14 day moving trend.
- An initial case in a sensitive setting (congregate living) or occupation (e.g. law enforcement, healthcare).
- Cases in a number that exceeds ability to investigate, test and contain spread.
- Medical surge that threatens to overload the county medical facilities and resources.
- Reliable evidence of community spread.

All of the above triggers will be assessed daily. If positive they will prompt consultation with CDPH, detailed case investigation and isolation as necessary, and rapid PCR testing of all identified contacts and individuals with the same occupational exposure or congregate living situation. Progress through Stage 2 or tightening of modifications will be contingent upon consultation with CDPH. The CDPH warm line or Duty Officer "after hours" will be called when we have a change in status: a case in a sensitive setting, first death, first positive in a pregnant patient or if we reach a trigger milestone.

- **Your plan for moving through Stage 2.** Please provide details on your plan for county to move through opening sectors and spaces that are part of the State's plan for Stage 2. A reminder, that this variance only covers those areas that are part of Stage 2, up to, but not including Stage 3. For additional details on sectors and spaces included in Stage 2, please go to the [California Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response County variance web page](#)

See [Plumas County's Plan for Moving Through Stage 2](#)

I Mark Satterfield MD hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of Plumas County Public Health Agency. I certify that Plumas County Public Health Agency has met the readiness criteria outlined by CDPH designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and that the information provided is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. If a local COVID-19 Containment Plan is submitted for Plumas County Public Health Agency, I certify that it was developed with input from the County Board of Supervisors/City Council, hospitals, health systems, and a broad range of stakeholders in the jurisdiction. I acknowledge that I remain responsible for implementing the local COVID-19 Containment Plan and that CDPH, by providing technical guidance, is in no way assuming liability for its contents.

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 Mark Satterfield, MD

Signature 

Position/Title Health Officer, Plumas County

Date 5/12/2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VACANT, DISTRICT 1
KEVIN GOSS, DISTRICT 2
SHARON THRALL, DISTRICT 3
LORI SIMPSON, DISTRICT 4
JEFF ENGEL, DISTRICT 5



May 12, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dr. Sonia Y. Angell
State Public Health Officer and
Director California Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Governor Newsom and Dr. Angell:

The Plumas County Board of Supervisors recognizes the great efforts of the state and our residents and businesses as well as County staff that have proven effective to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and to keep the trend well below predictions and forecasts. Because of the swift actions by all, the front line COVID-19 teams across the state and within the County have improved response time, surge capacity, supplies and resources.

The County of Plumas has deliberately focused on strong collaboration among the Board of Supervisors, the Public Health Officer, County Counsel and the County's Department of Public Health, as well as our enforcement partners, the District Attorney and the Sheriff. With this, and after reviewing the Plumas County Public Health Officer's completed "Variance to Stage 2 of California' Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order – COVID-19 County Variance Attestation Form for Plumas County" (the "Attestation Form"), the Board of Supervisors hereby expresses support for the prompt submittal of such Attestation Form to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and its posting to the CDPH website as a public record.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your team consider amending the statewide orders allowing local Health Officers to phase in reopening of a mix of safer Stage 3 businesses and activities, based on local data (regional at the least) and studies such as the Johns Hopkins Public Health Principles for Phased Reopening during COVID-19: Guidance to Governors. Examples of differences between the State's defined Stage 2 and the Johns Hopkins guidance, are businesses that fall into the personal care sector such as hair salons, barbers, spas, and gyms, as well as recreational facilities, lodging and campgrounds. County lodging and camping are safe, low-risk venues that are critical to the County's economy. The success of the entire lodging industry has always hinged and survived upon cleanliness, yet they are prepared to devise and execute improved cleaning and social distancing protocol. Camping is safe for the public so long as folk's camp in designated campsites, and not through dispersed camping. For the last few weeks, the County has seen an increase in dispersed camping. The conditions of our forests, an abundance of dry fuels, and the increased threat of wildfire cannot sustain the practice of dispersed camping. Therefore, the County is of the opinion that opening campsites and bringing folks in from the woods is the safest for public health and to mitigate our wildfire season that is

already here. In consultation with our business sector teams, these are businesses and activities that we believe can put successful mitigations in place and reopen during Stage 2 rather than waiting for Stage 3. Proper and continued education and enforcement will be taken with businesses posing a risk to the greater population. To date (5/8/20), in a County of roughly 18,500 residents, the County has had 4 positive test results, 494 people tested, 478 negative test results and 4 of the 4 individuals have fully recovered weeks ago.

The County's population is well aware of and familiar with the need to continue best health practices in order to keep what has been accomplished intact, but we must move forward and get the County's economy going again quickly. Historically, unemployment reached a record high of 24% in 2010 and a record low of 4.4% in September of 2000. In March 2020 prior to the COVID-19 induced recession, Plumas County was already experiencing 13.2% unemployment according to the EDD website. With unemployment numbers reaching and exceeding even Great Depression intensities, it is very likely the County will set new records. Further, the median household income in the County is 74% of the median for the state. US News data reports that 60.1 work hours are needed to pay for affordable housing compared to the national mean of 40.9; County residents are working one third harder to afford a comparable lifestyle as the rest of the nation. The County has a problem of overworking, and now underworking. With so much work, job searches and applications performed over the internet, only 25.4% of households have internet access compared to the national median of 93% according to the same source.

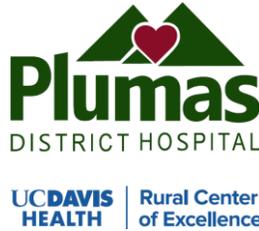
Governor Newsom, Plumas County's communities and economy cannot afford to be hindered in opening up on anything but Plumas County data, or regional data at the least. The citizens have responded, business owners have responded and County staff have responded. All have sacrificed; none desire to jeopardize the success experienced thus far as our economy is our livelihood in this rural part of the state. Your careful consideration and approval of the County's Attestation Form and request to introduce safer business types from the third phase into the second is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kevin Goss, Chair

Cc: Senator Brian Dahle
Assemblywoman Megan Dahle
Portola City Manager, Lauren Knox
Plumas Chambers of Commerce – Members
U.S. Representative, Doug LaMalfa



May 11, 2020

Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer
270 County Hospital Rd # 127
Quincy, CA 95971

Subj: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR VARIANCE TO STAGE 2 OF CALIFORNIA'S ROADMAP TO
MODIFY THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Dear Dr. Satterfield:

I am writing to offer my support to the Plumas County Public Health Agency and its request for the County to enter stage 2 with a variance. Over the past several years we have built a robust healthcare coalition that includes our hospital partners, public health officials, and other healthcare leaders. The strength of this coalition became evident when the County declared a local health emergency on March 16th of this year.

Our coordinated response resulted in a rapid deployment of COVID-19 testing and subsequent aggressive tracing of confirmed cases in our County. To date, we are approaching testing levels of 3% of our County's population. Additionally, we have held the County to only four confirmed COVID-19 cases in large part due to the tracing capacity of our partners at Public Health. All four cases have since recovered.

There are three additional items I can attest to that makes me feel comfortable to say we are ready to advance to stage 2 with a variance: safety of our healthcare workers; COVID-19 testing capacity; and hospital capacity including surge capacity. Our most precious resource is our healthcare workers. To that end, we are comfortable stating we have approximately 30 days of PPE on hand, including masks (N95 and surgical), gowns, gloves, and face shields. We have also instituted mandatory daily screening for all employees and visitors that include temperature checks and symptomatic assessments. Additionally, we have had in place a mandatory masking policy for all employees and visitors and have seen a high-level of compliance. We will continue these efforts in order to ensure the well-being of our employees and providers.

Two, we are bringing on-line a point of care COVID-19 testing device (*QuantStudio™ 7 Pro Real-Time PCR System with Lyra SARS-CoV-2 Assay*) that will allow us to run approximately 94 specimens per hour. This device should be operational within two weeks and will greatly enhance our testing capability which will be made available as a resource throughout Plumas County. In the meantime, we have completed COVID-19 tests on nearly every employee and physician with zero positive results.



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Three, our hospital is poised to care for any potential surge in COVID-19 patients. Our internal surge plan allows for us to expand our acute care capacity by 75% (from 16 acute beds to 28) should the need arise. Additionally, we are prepared to care for up to two ventilated COVID-19 patients and have the staff/equipment necessary to do so. We have also engaged with our regional partners who operate large, tertiary care facilities. They have agreed to accept any of our ICU patients and have even extended an offer to consult with our physicians via telemedicine in an effort to treat patients locally.

We, the leaders of Plumas District Hospital, stand ready to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with our partners at Public Health and the members of our healthcare coalition. We have done amazing work thus far to keep our communities safe and will continue to do so until this pandemic abates. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JoDee Read".

JoDee Read, MBA

Chief Executive Officer
Plumas District Hospital
Phone 530.283.7127
Cell 541.548.5657
Fax 530.283.7953



May 11, 2020

Plumas County Public Health Agency
Attn: Mark Satterfield MD
Plumas County Health Officer
270 County Hospital Road, Suite 206
Quincy, CA 95971

Re: Plumas County Reopening Plan Attestation

Dear Dr. Satterfield:

On behalf of our 150+ employees, providers, contract staff, and volunteers, Seneca Healthcare District (“SHD”) would like to send this letter to you to confirm our commitment and approval of Plumas County Public Health Agency’s (“PCPHA”) plan for reopening for Stage 2 businesses per the Governor’s modification of his Order.

As of today, the Lake Almanor basin remains COVID-19 free. Furthermore, SHD has not had a positive case or a COVID-19 related admission. We have had multiple suspected patient cases, but all of their tests were returned negative. Almost all of our employees have been tested and all of those were negative. Our lack of COVID-19 cases is most certainly a combination of the social distancing in our community, both natural and in response to state and county mandates, and the strict infection control practices exercised by SHD and our staff. We continue to embrace these practices and will not relax our standards until it is deemed prudent to do so.

SHD’s primary service area contains around 4,000 to 5,000 year-round residents and is sparsely populated. As noted above, this has allowed for natural social distancing and a significant impediment to the transmission and spread of the virus. As a summer to fall recreation destination, our area sees an influx of out of area visitors/part-time residents during this time. At peak summer times, the population can multiple by 4 to 5 times. Many of these individuals will be coming from more densely populated areas, that have seen much higher COVID-19 activity than Plumas County.

Although SHD currently meets the requirements of critical indicator number three from the State’s plan for modifying the stay-at-home order, we are a small rural hospital and our ability to handle a surge in COVID-19 cases remains fragile; where an unanticipated surge in cases could potentially overwhelm our local healthcare system.

Therefore, it is imperative that as we move towards allowing more social contact in Plumas County, we retain the infection control practices that have supported our virus mitigation efforts. This includes the wearing of face coverings and providing for reasonable social distancing in appropriate public places.

SHD has enjoyed a long and productive partnership with the PCPHA and feels that PCPHA, in collaboration with us and the other Plumas County acute care hospitals, has done a very effective job of slowing the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging citizens to stay at home, practice social distancing and good hygiene, and use face coverings while in public. However, as COVID-19 cases are still being identified in areas close to Plumas County, re-opening the county will be a continuous and cautious process. Since businesses in a rural community are natural social and gathering places, it is critical that each business in Plumas County have a safe operating plan before they can reopen. This plan should require employers to consider measures needed to protect employees, measures to prevent gatherings, measures to prevent unnecessary contact between individuals, and measures to increase sanitation among other things.

As Plumas County has experienced minimal COVID-19 disease, and is well prepared to maintain that status, the economic and emotional burden of the stay-at-home order may now exceed the likely benefit from it. We agree with the County that poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, addiction, hopelessness and the increasing disregard for the statewide stay-at-home order are increasingly threatening the health and safety of the residents of Plumas County. We further agree that if we cannot move quickly to put low risk workers in Plumas County back to work, we may lose public trust in the COVID-19 response at a time when health disparities and the need for a robust public health system have never been more critical.

In summary, Seneca Healthcare District believes that Plumas County is well prepared to safely bring some residents in lower-risk occupations back to work and supports the County's request to do so. Please accept this letter in support of Plumas County's self-attestation for a variance to fully re-open within Stage 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bolin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Bolin, Acting Administrator
Seneca Healthcare District

**EASTERN PLUMAS
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Date: May 11, 2020

Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer
270 County Hospital Road, Ste. 206
Quincy, CA 95971

Re: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR VARIANCE TO STAGE 2

Dear Dr. Satterfield:

I am writing to offer my support to the Plumas County Health Agency's request to enter into stage 2 as outlined by the State of California. As a county of just over 18,000 people, Plumas County has provided almost 500 tests to date and has only 4 positive cases. All patients have since recovered. The county has worked in collaboration with all hospitals in the area to develop systems that will set us up for success as we move towards a safe and legal re-opening within stage 2.

Eastern Plumas Health Care has enjoyed a long and productive partnership with the Plumas County Health Agency. Together we have worked to obtain adequate PPE supplies to keep our staff protected, created and followed a comprehensive system of COVID-19 surveillance and reporting, and established recommendations for testing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our collaborative efforts have included maintaining continuous open lines of communication to address all current and potential scenarios.

Eastern Plumas Health Care has successfully implemented the following plans in order to keep our healthcare workers, patients and visitors safe. Staff screening is in place before every shift (symptom screening, temperature checks, hand washing reminder). A mandatory masking requirement for all employees and patients entering our facilities is in place; environmental cleaning has increased; and traffic through the hospital and clinic lobbies has been restricted. Visits to patients and residents of our Long Term Care facilities have been restricted and replaced with video options.

Clinic patients are urged to seek services through telemedicine. Those that are required to come to the clinic are screened in their cars and brought into the treatment rooms when the provider is ready to see them. COVID-19 testing is performed in patient vehicles.

Eastern Plumas Health Care has adequate PPE supplies in place and is prepared for a surge in patients.

Please accept this letter in support of Plumas County's self-attestation for a variance to fully re-open within stage 2.

Sincerely,

Jayne O'Flanagan

Jayne O'Flanagan
Acting CEO



PCPHA
PLUMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY



Growing Healthy Communities

Plumas County's Plan for Moving Through Stage 2

Stage 2 – Safer at Home: Reopening Low Risk Businesses

Plumas County has established this plan for reopening businesses during COVID-19. This plan is based on California's Resilience Roadmap and is subject to change based on the Governor's orders. This plan relies on 4 stages that can be phased in or out, to loosen or tighten restrictions, based on data-driven measures to control the spread of COVID-19. This plan should be used in conjunction with the Plumas County Variance Attestation which identifies readiness criteria that need to be satisfied before the individual stages can be activated.

Community support and personal responsibility is critical for this Plan to work. We ask that each resident of Plumas County make informed decisions to keep you and your family safe throughout the duration of this pandemic.

The goal of this Stage is to gradually reopen low risk businesses with mitigations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Before re-opening, all facilities must perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a written operating plan.

For Individuals

- All individuals, when in public, should physically distance 6 ft. from others not a part of their household.
- Maintain good hygiene practices.
- Higher risk individuals (over 65 or with serious medical conditions) should continue to stay home until Stage 4. Households with vulnerable members should be aware that other members of the household may increase risk of transmission if resuming normal activities. Precautions should be taken to protect the vulnerable household members.
- All individuals should wear face coverings when in public.
- Individuals are encouraged to participate in outdoor exercise and recreation "close to home" to ensure personal health and well-being. Leisure or recreational travel is discouraged.

For Employers

- Low-risk businesses can open.
- Continue encouraging telework.
- Slowly transition to increase activities.
- Use strict physical distancing and enhanced sanitation protocols.
- Employees and customers should wear face coverings. For some places, wearing face coverings is required.
- Strongly consider special accommodations for higher-risk individuals you employ.

Sector Specific

Statewide, the following businesses were eligible to open with modifications starting on May 8, 2020:

Curbside retail pickup and delivery, including but not limited to:

- Bookstores,
- Jewelry stores
- Toy stores
- Clothing stores
- Shoe stores
- Home and furnishing stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Antique stores
- Music stores
- Florists

Plumas County will implement an accelerated reopening of additional Stage 2 Businesses. The following list of Stage 2 sectors, businesses, establishments or activities qualify to reopen upon certification that Plumas County meets California Department of Public Health criteria and once the business implements a written operations plan.

Plumas County Businesses eligible to open after self-attestation has been submitted to the State (anticipated opening upon acknowledgement from the State)

- Destination retail, including shopping malls and swap meets (if any).
- Personal services, limited to:
 - Car washes
 - Pet grooming
 - Tanning facilities
 - Landscape gardening.
 - Office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged)
 - Dine-in restaurants (other facility amenities, like bars will remain closed)

- Outdoor museums and open gallery spaces

Please note that none of the above mentioned businesses or spaces are Stage 3.

Schools and Licensed Childcare Facilities remain closed until local school districts, licensed childcare providers and other local partners establish mutually agreeable reopening guidelines in cooperation with the State Office of Education and State Department of Social Services Childcare Licensing.

The following businesses are considered higher risk according to the California Resilience Roadmap and **are not eligible to reopen under Stage 2:**

- Personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios
- Hospitality services, such as bars and lounges
- Entertainment venues, such as movie theaters, gaming facilities, and pro sports
- Indoor museums, kids museums and gallery spaces, zoos, and libraries
- Community centers, including public pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas
- Religious services and cultural ceremonies
- Nightclubs
- Concert venues
- Festivals
- Theme parks
- Hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism

Plumas County has established a template Operation Plans to be used in conjuncture with the State provided Industry Guidelines for reopening. Prior to reopening, each business will be required to consider ways to prevent COVID transmission, such as sign posting requirements to educate and inform the public, measures to protect employees, measures to prevent gatherings, measures to prevent unnecessary contact, and measures to increase sanitation. In addition to the template which is universal to all businesses, certain industry specific Operation Plan addendums may also be required. These will aid businesses provide protections with more complex business models such as seating for restaurants reopening. The Operation Plans and addendums will fulfill the written plan requirement outlined in the State Industry Guidelines.

The only difference between the State plan and Plumas County's accelerated plan to reopen Stage 2 is the timeline for schools and childcare facilities. These facilities will not be reopening at this time. Plumas County anticipates the planning phase to reopen schools and childcare facilities to take longer than other phase 2 businesses. We will be working with our local school districts, childcare providers and local partners while following State Office of

Education and State Department of Social Services Childcare Licensing guidance and timeline for reopening. The timeline for reopening these facilities is unknown at this time.