



April 30, 2020

To: Sonia Y. Angell, MD, MPH
California State Public Health Officer

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California

From: Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer

RE: Request for Regional Modification of Stay-at-home Order

Dear Governor Newsom,

Thank you for taking a well-informed and decisive action on behalf of all Californians to address our COVID-19 emergency. We are grateful our state and Plumas County have avoided many of the more devastating outcomes that were anticipated.

Plumas County believes we are well prepared to safely bring some residents in lower-risk occupations back to work and respectfully request the opportunity to do so. We have made tremendous progress meeting the six defined indicators in California's Roadmap and request a modification to the stay-at-home order issued March 19, 2020 to allow increased local decision making. We also ask that any loosening of the stay-at-home order does not rely on an essential/non-essential framework, but rather one based on a continuum of risk with local flexibility. In a state as large and diverse as California there are regions which may require differing levels of non-pharmacologic control of the pandemic and we are ready to gradually and safely reopen our economy, starting with Phase 2 and our lower-risk settings. Attached are indicator and status matrices illustrating our local preparedness.

Plumas County is fortunate to have had just four cases of COVID-19, all of whom are recovered. Our infection rates are among the lowest in the state and there have been zero new cases in the past 3 weeks despite having performed the most PCR testing per capita of any county in California (24 tests/1000 persons). Our Health Agency, and coordinated partners, are prepared to monitor and protect our citizens through accelerated in-county testing, skilled and scalable contact tracing, isolation, and supporting those who test positive or are exposed. Our three critical access hospitals are prepared for surge, which we recognize could occur at any time in the future. We continue to attend to the

needs of our most vulnerable populations including the homeless, elderly, those in conjugate living situations, and those with chronic medical conditions. Since the pandemic began, we have tripled the number of prepared meals delivered to senior citizens and homebound residents, and we have a response system in place to assist others who are staying at home.

Our pharmacists and providers are tracking the latest scientifically sound therapeutics and our Health Department has a mass vaccination plan that can be modified to target those prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine once approved and made available.

We have also been working with our business community to be sure low risk facilities are ready to open as soon as it is safe and legal to do so. Since businesses in a rural community are natural social and gathering places, we will require each business in Plumas County to have a safe operating plan before they can reopen. This plan will 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. The County response team is finalizing a template that businesses can use to satisfy these requirements. We will be meeting with our local business community and chambers of commerce from throughout the county to finalize our safety template and distribute it to our businesses. Unlike many urban counties, we are confident that we have the commitment and support of our business community to help implement this plan and be sure it is successful. We have the full support of our enforcement partners to take action within the bounds of the state constitution if outreach and education fail to achieve the desired results.

We have defined criteria to determine if and when we may need to reinstitute nonpharmaceutical containment interventions such as a stricter local stay-at-home order. These include:

- Cases in a number that exceed our ability to investigate, test contact and contain spread
- Reliable evidence of community spread
- An outbreak in a sensitive setting or occupation

Because we have experienced minimal COVID-19 disease and are 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. 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 we serve. 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.

Please, respectfully consider a modification of the stay-at-home order for counties such as Plumas, including a transition away from the essential/non-essential framework to a low risk/high risk continuum allowing local flexibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Satterfield', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer

Attachments

Plumas County Public Health Agency – Indicator Matrix
Plumas County’s Readiness to meet California’s 6 Indicators for Modifying the Stay-at-Home Order

Plumas County Public Health Agency - Indicator Matrix - As of April 30, 2020

Phase	Indicator	Metric	Metric
Overarching and Continuous (All Phases)	Before moving to Phase 2...	Hospitalization rate stable (Indicator 1)	Hospital bed COVID-19 census stable or decreasing: None
		Sufficient hospital/ICU/vent capacity to meet demand during Phase 2 (Indicator 3)	Percentage of hospital med/surge and ICU bed availability: 95% beds
		Sufficient PPE supply for health care to meet demand during Phase 2 (Indicator 3)	Percentage of ventilators available: 100%
		Sufficient PCR testing available (Indicators 1, 6)	Supply of PPE on hand or coming: Sufficient
			Number of tests performed per day:
		Demonstrated protection of those in congregate settings (Indicator 2)	Percent reporting 1 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases: 0% (cases reported)
		Sub-indicator	Metric
		Demonstrated protection of high-risk populations and those in congregate settings.	Percent of jails/prisons reporting 1 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases: 0% (Confirmed cases in jails)
		Vulnerable population prospection	Testing rates in county: 2.4% (24 people per 1,000)
			Hospitalization rate among persons 65+: 0% (hospitalized 65+)
Contact tracing scale-up framework in place by county (Indicator 1)	Proportion of county with scale-up framework in place: Framework is in place		

CALIFORNIA'S 6 INDICATORS FOR MODIFYING THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Critical Indicators	Status - 4.30.2020	Local Capability	Plumas County Readiness
#1 - The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed.		Is there a county-wide system for testing?	All Hospitals in Plumas County have the ability to test for COVID-19 and Public Health is prepared to support efforts county wide. Public Health continues to work with the state to secure testing resources.
		Can we test the priority groups identified by the state?	Plumas County is expanding it's ability to test using priority groups outlined by the state health department, starting with healthcare workers. We will have the ability to test in-county soon - rather than sending samples out of county - and have developed a testing plan to ensure this can be met.
		Can we perform contact tracing?	Plumas County Public Health Agency has streamlined the process for contact tracing. 5 teams of 2 are ready to provide contact tracing on positive cases. The structure can be modified as needed if more cases are identified.
		Are there an adequate number of safe places for people to isolate if they are unable to isolate at home?	Alternative housing contracts are being developed for use with facilities within Plumas County to house positive COVID-19 patients if they are unable to safely self-isolate at home.
		Does Public Health have the capacity to monitor people in self-isolation or quarantine?	Plumas County Public Health Agency has a system to monitor and assist positive cases that are identified in our community, as they isolate.
#2 - The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19.		Are older Plumas County residents and the medically vulnerable living in their own homes supported so they can continue appropriate physical distancing?	To ensure this population is able to stay home, the county has developed a system to meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future. If needs arise, residents are asked to call (530) 283-6400 to request assistance.
		Have we developed a plan to quickly identify and contain outbreaks in facilities housing older Plumas County residents, those living with disabilities, those currently incarcerated, and those with co-morbidities?	Plumas County Public Health has plans in place for tracking symptomatic residents in high-risk settings, and are prepared to investigate and contain cases, if identified.
#3 - The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges.		Do we have adequate bed capacity, staff and supplies such as ventilators and masks?	Plumas County Public Health continues to track and determine that there are adequate beds, supplies and staffing - including use of regional resources - for the possibility of increased patients at hospitals in Plumas County. Plumas County Public Health will continue to work with the state to receive necessary supplies for healthcare facilities and first responders.
		Can our healthcare system adequately address COVID-19 and other critical healthcare needs?	Our healthcare system has the capacity to properly address COVID-19 and other critical healthcare needs, and is working on expanding routine services for patients again.
#4 - The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand.		*Will be further addressed in Phase 2 & 3.	Public Health and the provider community continue to monitor therapeutics and vaccine development. Public Health has a mass vaccination plan so that once a vaccine is proven safe and effective, we can get it to priority populations.
#5 - The ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing		Is the public continuing to practice good hygiene and social distancing?	The stay-at-home order remains in effect. Public Health and enforcement partners continue monitoring local progress.
		Are businesses developing and preparing to implement appropriate policies, in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices?	We are working with businesses planning to re-open on the creation of their safe operations plans. Plumas County has developed a reopening plan based on the 4 phases outlined by the governor.
#6 - The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary		Are we tracking the right data to provide us an early warning system?	We continue to see no additional positive cases of COVID-19 in Plumas County. We monitor local and regional hospitalizations, COVID deaths and track all local testing results. We are also monitoring healthcare facilities and the number of people being seen for COVID-19-like illnesses.
		Do we have the ability to quickly communicate the need to reinstate these measures?	Our website and social media pages are updated with new information daily. We have continuous communication with our hospital partners, our schools, enforcement partners, and county leadership. We have access to an internal and external alert system if needed.

- Legend:**
-  Completed
 -  In Progress
 -  Not Started



**Plumas County
Public Health Agency**
GROWING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES