



For immediate release

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Dr. Luu praises the collaborative effort that led to the order; local health care community weighs in with support

Yuba-Sutter Health Officer Dr. Phuong Luu's new local public health orders were developed in collaboration with representatives from local government, the local health care community, the faith based community, local law enforcement, and businesses.

"I appreciate the working groups who assisted in developing the operational protocols, and who provided important feedback throughout the process," Dr. Luu said. "I believe it is imperative to have a local order in place that respects the science, respects and protects the community, and can be flexible moving forward as conditions change."

Sutter County Board of Supervisors Chair Ron Sullenger and Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chair Doug Lofton issued the following joint statement: "Our early action as a community has placed us ahead of the game, and for that we must thank the residents of Yuba and Sutter counties for their sacrifice. Dr. Luu is correct in addressing all public health concerns—including the impact of unemployment on the community's health—and not just the threat of COVID-19. We must remain mindful this pandemic may be with us until a vaccine is developed. We must remain mindful of our vulnerable populations—the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions. We must remain mindful of our hospital capacity. But we must also remain mindful that the unintended consequences of a 'stay at home' order includes loss of financial resources that will impact the mental and physical health of our residents."

The new local order was praised by the local health care community for its reliance on science.

"We strongly support Dr. Luu's phased-in approach in how best to reopen our two counties," said Barbara Rose, Chief Operating Officer at Peach Tree Health. "Her use of science and other expertise to guide her decisions and planning is sound and greatly appreciated."

"Because early social distancing in our community worked to keep the case rate and hospitalization rates low, Adventist Health and Rideout has had the opportunity to develop additional capacity in our hospital to handle a surge in COVID-19 patients," said Monica Arrowsmith, Public Information Officer for Adventist Health and Rideout. "As an organization that strives to follow evidence-based practices and guidelines every day, we are especially pleased with Dr. Luu's evidence-based approach related to a phased re-opening plan that considers the risk of transmission based on the contact intensity and the number of contacts. With this kind of rationale, combined with her focus on hospitalizations as the best indicator of whether the phased re-opening is working, we are very supportive of the new order."

“Dr. Luu has been a strong leader and has made appropriate and often difficult decisions over the last several weeks,” said Dr. Steven D. Blair of Sutter Health. “She brought together leaders from each of the health care organizations in preparation of a surge and led the evaluation of what that would mean from a resource standpoint. She has continued to focus on the data and follows evidence-based protocols. The gradual re-opening of the Yuba and Sutter Counties at this time is the right approach, is based on academic protocol, and does not clutter the process with emotional or financial sway. It allows for a safer return to the new normal of the bi-county area.”

The Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce was among the organizations that participated in the process.

“The protocols developed collaboratively will provide a safe environment for both customers and employees,” said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Marni Sanders. “Businesses are eager to open to serve our community and will remain vigilant in their efforts to follow these protocols. As customers we need to also do our part to protect ourselves and others and remember to follow the guidelines that have been provided to us for all of our protection.”