

California Department of Public Health  
May 7, 2020

*Re: Letter of Support of Variance to Stage 2*

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of advancing through Stage 2 of the Pandemic Roadmap for Sutter and Yuba County. As the only hospital in the two-county region that provides emergency and critical care services, re-opening our counties is a matter we do not take lightly, recognizing the risk it may pose to our community members and the burden it may impose on our hospital and healthcare workers.

In support of advancing to Stage 2, we note that the total number of positive cases in the Yuba and Sutter Counties combined to date is 50 and that it has been several weeks since we have had a positive case admitted to the hospital. As the pandemic spread in the country and in California, we mobilized a preparedness plan that would accommodate a surge and protect patients and staff from exposure through appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), universal masking, social distancing, restricting visitors, and limiting access to the hospital for non-urgent care.

We believe that these factors along with the early social distancing in our community worked together to keep the case rate and hospitalization rates low. As an organization that strives to follow evidence-based practices and guidelines, we support the evidence-based approach our public health officer, Dr. Luu, is taking that permits re-opening those businesses with a risk of transmission that is low or medium as determined by the intensity of contact and the number of contacts. With this kind of rationale, combined with the social distancing and other safety measures imposed on the businesses to open, we are supportive of advancing through Stage 2. We have reviewed our current capacity, surge plan, safety precautions, and availability of PPE inventory and believe that we have the readiness and capacity to support our communities accordingly. We know this will be done carefully through a continuing collaboration between county public health, our health system, and our business community.

We remain in close contact with Dr. Luu and will keep her apprised of any hospitalizations related to COVID-19. We recognize that COVID-19 hospitalizations will be used as one of the indicators of whether the phased re-opening is working.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like any further clarification.

Respectfully,

  
Richard L. Rawson, President  
Adventist Health and Rideout