



May 13, 2020

## **FAQs related to Yuba-Sutter attestation/ roadmap**

### **What parameters do local Counties have to meet before phasing-in to the next stage?**

On Thursday, May 7, 2020, California Department of Public Health set forth criteria Counties must meet in order to move onto the next stage of the State's "stay at home" order. That criteria include epidemiologic stability, protection of Stage 1 essential workers, testing capacity, housing for homeless individuals in case of outbreak, and hospital capacity.

### **What does "epidemiologic stability" of COVID-19 mean?**

It means the prevalence of COVID-19 cases is low enough to be swiftly contained through a Public Health response.

### **Will I be able to go eat at a local restaurant?**

Dine-in restaurants are part of the late Stage 2, that means dine-in restaurants can open with proper modifications in place. This should be limited to residents of the same household at a single table. As of noon on May 13, 2020, Yuba-Sutter's revised attestation plan was approved and published on California Department of Public Health's website. You can view the State modifications at <https://bit.ly/2LrNiYV>, or the local protocols at <https://bit.ly/2LIXZMO>.

### **Can I get my hair done?**

Under the State's Stage 2, personal care services are not permitted to reopen, including hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms and fitness studios.

That said, Bi-County Health Officer Dr. Luu stands by the science of her local Order and will not be rescinding it. The local Order allows lower-risk businesses with modifications (including personal care services), but recognizes there's a difference between the local Order and the State Order-- These industries, should they choose to re-open, should read both Orders in full and consider seeking private legal counsel before considering re-opening.

## **What else is not permitted under the State's Stage 2?**

The state outlines that certain sectors are not permitted to operate at this time including bars, wineries, movie theaters, gambling, indoor museums, zoos, libraries, public pools, playgrounds, religious services, nightclubs, concert venues, festivals, etc. For the full list, visit <https://bit.ly/3fM66QI>.

## **The state lists in-person schooling as being allowed to re-open under late Stage 2. Why won't Yuba-Sutter re-open in-person schooling?**

In-person schooling is high risk in regards to how closely and for how long individuals are in contact with each other, as well as the number of individuals. Therefore, in-person schooling will not be included in the initial re-opening of Yuba-Sutter, or neighboring counties.

## **When can we move to Stage 3? What businesses will be re-opened under that stage?**

That is to be determined, based on how successful the community adheres to proper protocols to minimize exposure to the virus, as well as the bi-county Public Health team's capability to contact trace any outbreaks.

Under Stage 3, higher-risk, larger gathering spaces will be allowed to re-open, though with significant modifications, including movie theaters, religious services and more personal and hospitality services. The highest-risk sectors – concerts, conventions and sports arenas – are slated to re-open under Stage 4.

## **The State says County case counts cannot exceed 1 COVID-19 case per 10,000 in the past 14 days (from submission of variance document), and no COVID-19 death in the past 14 days.**

As of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we have a total of 0.30 new COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents in Sutter County, and 0.51 new COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents in Yuba County.

In the last 14 days, Yuba-Sutter has had zero deaths from COVID-19.

## **How is Yuba-Sutter faring when it comes to testing capability?**

Up to this point Yuba-Sutter, like elsewhere in the state, has had limited testing kits, making screening key. The region's testing capacity can now be considered high, with maximum capacity in non-hospitalized setting of 471 per day, or 2.6 tests per 1,000 residents—the state's recommended minimum is 1.5 per 1,000 residents.

This increase in testing capabilities is a result of the OptumServe site, which opened in Yuba City May 4, 2020, as well as low demand in recent weeks.

### **Does Yuba-Sutter have enough contact tracers? What do contact tracers do?**

Contact tracers are Public Health staff who communicate with positive confirmed COVID-19 cases and their close contacts: someone who interacted closely with that individual recently, which can include family members, and coworkers, depending on duration and proximity of exposure.

Given the low case count, the Bi-County Public Health team has 8 contact tracers and 3 contact investigators. An additional 16 tracers and 3 contact investigators have been trained, allowing us to quickly ramp up to 24 contact tracers and 6 contact investigators within hours—putting us at 17 contact staff per 100,000; the state requires at least 15 staff per 100,000 county population.

Mobilization of the remainder of both counties' public health nurses and Sutter County epidemiologist can increase that number by additional 10-15.

### **What precautions have Yuba and Sutter counties made to keep staff safe?**

We've put together a COVID-19 toolkit and FAQs in order to educate and inform various governmental agencies in regards to the process for safe return to work including: daily symptoms screening and temperature check for all employees and a universal facial covering policy for all who enter a County property.

The County also has acquired sufficient Personal Protective Equipment for personnel including face masks and, where appropriate, gloves, surgical masks and N-95 masks.

The Counties also provide daily updated websites with information for businesses and the public including a Business Toolkit with COVID-19 protocol, FAQs, screening and testing information, case count dashboard and more.

### **What are you doing to protect homeless individuals?**

The Yuba-Sutter region has the capacity to house 213 people, or 30 percent of our January 2019 point-in-time count of 721 homeless individuals. There have been no confirmed cases in a homeless individual.

For a homeless individual suspected of COVID-19, there are mechanisms for transportation to get timely medical care including COVID-19 testing. These individuals are quickly given a hotel room to safely quarantine pending test results. There are six trailers already set up at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds to house homeless individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

### **Can our local hospital handle a surge in positive cases?**

Bi-County staff has worked hand-in-hand with Adventist-Rideout to address surge capacity planning, which has been in the works since early April.

Adventist has the capacity to nearly double the number of beds from 221 to 443 in event of a surge. The Counties have also contracted with a local school district to utilize Yuba City and River Valley high schools to address surge capacity—which would provide an additional 100 beds. Necessary supplies have been ordered and are available for these sites if needed.

Adventist also closely monitors their workforce and has a robust staffing surge plan in place, including close partnership with Sutter, Ampla, Peach Tree and Harmony Health for staffing.

Bi-County Health Officer Dr. Phuong Luu also conducts a weekly check-in with all residential care facilities in the region.