Variance to Stage 2 of California’s Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order

COVID-19 County Variance Attestation Form for Yuba County and Sutter County

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 14, the State presented the Pandemic Roadmap, a four-stage plan for modifying the Stay-at-Home order, and, on May 4, 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: Yuba County and Sutter County
County Contact: Dr. Phuong Luu, Bi-County Health Officer for Yuba and Sutter Counties
Public Phone Number: 530-749-6379

PREAMBLE:

This is a joint attestation submission for Yuba County and Sutter County. Since January 2020, both counties share a health officer, Dr. Phuong Luu. In addition, since March 10, 2020, a joint Bi-County Department Operations Center has been established to address the COVID-19 response in the Bi-County region collectively.

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.
  
  As of May 8th, 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.
  - No COVID-19 death in the past 14 days prior to attestation submission date.
  
  In the last 14 days, the Yuba-Sutter Bi-county region has had zero deaths from COVID-19.

- **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).

  **Both Yuba County and Sutter County have put together a COVID-19 toolkit and set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in order to educate and inform various governmental agencies in regards to the process for safe return to work. Both counties have instituted daily symptoms screen and temperatures check for all county employees and a universal face covering policy for all who enter county property (See Appendices A and B).**

  Through the Bi-County Department Operations Center (DOC) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC), guidance to all businesses and employers has been distributed as they are available such as guidance for healthcare personnel, first responders, social services workers, agricultural workers, etc. Each business sector can contact the EOC’s Joint Information Center (JIC) if there was a need for PPE supplies procurement in the event that they cannot process the supplies purchase from their usual vendors.

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

  **In regards to essential personnel who are not county employees, such as healthcare personnel and first responders, their respective organizations have ready access to the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOACs) of both Yuba County and Sutter County to request necessary supplies through the Bi-County Joint Department Operations Center (DOC). Attached is the Letter of Support from Adventist Health Rideout affirming their possession of sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their personnel (see Appendix C)**

  **As to the County’s essential workforce, the County has acquired sufficient PPE for their personnel including face masks and where appropriate gloves, surgical masks and N-95 masks.**
The County has provided thermometers to each County Department to assist in screening employees each day as they report for work. The County has provided hand sanitation stations located throughout each department of the County offices at locations easily accessible to the workforce.

- **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:
  
  o 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.

*Our region’s COVID-19 testing capacity is high, with maximum capacity for tests per day in non-hospitalized settings of 471 tests per day or 2.6 tests per 1000 residents given an approximate population of 177,000 residents in the Yuba-Sutter region.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Address(es)</th>
<th>Maximum COVID-19 capacity per day</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OptumServe:</td>
<td>1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City, CA 95993</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 Sutter Street, Yuba City, CA 95991</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>931 Market Street, Yuba City, CA 95991</td>
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<td></td>
<td>334 Samuel Street, Yuba City, CA 95991</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4941 Olivehurst Ave, Olivehurst, CA 95961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ampla:</td>
<td>724 5th St, Marysville, CA 95901</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peachtree:</td>
<td>1908 North Beale Road, Suite E Marysville, CA 95901</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Health:</td>
<td>444 Plumas Street, Yuba City, CA 95991</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutter:</td>
<td>444 Plumas Street, Yuba City, CA 95991</td>
<td>471</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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The Yuba Sutter Bi-county region has used the recommended guidelines for determining whether an individual should be tested for COVID-19. As a result, given the low number of positive cases in the Yuba Sutter Bi-county region actual testing has been required in only 2,223 cases since the beginning of this event. In the past week, the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region has tested on average 59 residents per day for a calculated rate of 0.6 tests per 1000 residents. However, the low number belies our full testing capacity and has been driven mostly in the past several weeks due to low demand for COVID-19 testing across all Yuba-Sutter healthcare facilities.

- 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.

*The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region conducted a drivetime analysis (Appendix D: Drivetime map) that showed that 88% of Yuba County residents and 99% of Sutter County residents are within*
30 minutes drivetime of a COVID-19 testing site. Moreover, 99% of Yuba County residents and 100% of Sutter County residents are within 60 minutes drivetime of a testing site.

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- **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 1 case, 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.

  **Given our low case count, we currently have 8 contact tracers and 3 contact investigators working daily. We have already trained an additional 16 tracers and 3 contact investigators, allowing us to be able to quickly ramp up to 24 contact tracers and 6 contact investigators within a matter of hours for a total of 30 contact tracers and investigators. With 30 contact staff we would be at 17 staff per 100,000 given the Yuba-Sutter region's estimated population of 177,000. If necessary, the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region can increase to an additional 10-15 contact tracers by mobilization of the remainder of both counties' public health nurses and the Sutter County epidemiologist.**

- **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.**

  **The Yuba-Sutter region has the capacity to house 213 people, or 30% of our January 2019 Point-in-Time count of 721 persons who meet the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) definition of homeless.**

  **We had not had a positive case in a homeless individual. For homeless individuals who are suspected of COVID-19, there are mechanisms for them to be transported to get timely medical evaluation including testing. Moreover, these homeless individuals are quickly given a hotel room wherein they can safely quarantine until test results are available.**
There are six trailers already set up at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds to house homeless individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

- **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.

Adventist-Rideout (AHRO) is our sole hospital in the Yuba-Sutter region. Since the beginning of this response, the Bi-County staff and Adventist-Rideout staff have worked hand-in-hand to address surge capacity planning. AHRO has the capacity to nearly double the number of their licensed beds from 221 to 443 beds in the event of a surge. The attached letter of support from Adventist-Rideout reiterates their readiness for surge capacity (see Appendix C).

In addition, the Counties have contracted with a local school district to utilize specifically identified school facilities to address surge capacity which increases the surge capacity of the counties by an additional 100 beds (50 beds per low-acuity alternate care site). Necessary supplies have been ordered and are available for these alternate sites if needed.

Sutter North Surgical Center, located in Sutter County, has also submitted to us a letter attesting that they are prepared to accommodate a surge of 35% due to COVID-19 cases in addition to providing care to non-COVID-19 patients. Moreover, they have adequate PPEs for their employees and clinicians (see Appendix H).

- 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.

Adventist-Rideout (AHRO) monitors closely their workforce and has a robust staffing surge plan in place. In addition, in close collaboration with Sutter, Ampla, Peach Tree and Harmony Health, AHRO's chief medical officer will be directing the staff from those four other organizations to join in the medical staffing in the event of a surge.

Furthermore, on a daily basis, AHRO participates in California Department of Public Health’s hospital census which inquires about hospital census, staffing census, and PPE 15-day supplies.

- **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:
  - 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.
The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Health Officer conducts a weekly check-in call with all residential care facilities in the bi-county region. All five skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in the Yuba-Sutter region have reported no issues with PPEs in regards to maintaining the 14-day supply. On a daily basis, these SNFs are polled by Region III Regional Disaster Medical Health Services (RDMHS), which then circulates the results to the Region III public health officers and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOACs). On a daily basis, these listings are carefully reviewed by the Bi-County Health Officer and Yuba County and Sutter County’s MHOACs. None of the five in the Yuba-Sutter region has listed staffing or PPEs supply issues in the past two weeks. In addition, each of the five SNFs will be receiving a 14-day augmented supply of PPEs from FEMA stocks.

The list of the five SNFs and their contacts are included as Appendix E.

- **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.

*Given our low COVID-19 case counts, relatively sparse population, and ongoing dire economic, health and social consequences for multiple business and community sectors, we feel that it is appropriate that all sectors in stage 2 open immediately with appropriate modifications aside from in-person schooling (See Appendix F – COVID-19 Business Protocol). In-person schooling (K-12) are both high risk in regards to contact intensity and high-risk in the number of contacts, therefore, it is not prudent at this time to include in-person schooling in the initial re-opening of Yuba-Sutter (see Appendix G – Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Guidance).*

*The approach of all sectors listed in stage 2 to open immediately with the exception of in-person schooling is consistent across the Sierra-Sacramento Valley region including the approach for Amador, Butte, Nevada, Placer, and Sacramento counties.*

- **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.
ADAPTED MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED WHEN ONE OR MORE CRITERIA IN AT LEAST 2 OF 3 COLUMNS (CATEGORIES) ARE MET. (Modified from the San Luis Obispo County Steps to Adapt and Reopen Together: The SLO County START Guide).
These criteria will be assessed on a weekly basis by the Bi-County Health Officer and Bi-County Public Health team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epidemiology</th>
<th>Healthcare</th>
<th>Public Health</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Doubling time of cases less than 5 days</td>
<td>✓ Inability to scale up to 30% the number of ICU patients from current census</td>
<td>✓ Cannot elicit contacts for 20% or more of cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ More than 3 unlinked chains (clusters) of transmission in a 14-day period</td>
<td>✓ Cannong screen large numbers of symptomatic patients safely, including staffing</td>
<td>✓ 10% or more of non-household symptomatic contacts fail to get tested or get tested in more than 24 hours of symptom onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ High likelihood of exposure at mass gathering or congregation of people or delayed detection of a case (&gt;5 days from mass gathering or long-term care facility)</td>
<td>✓ Donot have baseline capacity in general health services, including through expansion of telemedicine for COVID-19 and usual care</td>
<td>✓ No designated facilities for non-hospitalized COVID-19 infected people who can’t be safely cared for at home (e.g., because of space constraints, medically vulnerable household members, or otherwise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Increasing number of new health care worker infections averaged over a 7-day period</td>
<td>✓ Less than 14-day supply of PPE for healthcare personnel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 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.

Given our low COVID-19 case counts, relatively sparse population, and ongoing dire economic, health and social consequences for multiple business and community sectors, we feel that it is appropriate that all sectors in stage 2 open immediately with appropriate modifications aside from in-person schooling (See Appendix F – COVID-19 Business Protocol). In-person schooling (K-12) are both high risk in regards to contact intensity and high-risk in the number of contacts, therefore, it is not prudent at this time to include in-person schooling in the initial re-opening of Yuba-Sutter (see Appendix G – Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Guidance).

The approach of all sectors listed in stage 2 to open immediately with the exception of in-person schooling is consistent across the Sierra-Sacramento Valley region including the approach for Amador, Butte, Nevada, Placer, and Sacramento counties.

COVID-19 Containment Plan

While not mandatory, CDPH strongly recommends that counties requesting a variance to increase the pace through Stage 2 create a county COVID-19 containment plan as noted above. While not exhaustive, the following areas and questions are important to address in any containment plan.

The COVID-19 situation continues to rapidly change. Therefore, the following responses may change and
evolve as necessary to manage the COVID-19 situation over time.

Testing

- Is there a plan to increase testing to the recommended daily capacity of 2 per 1000 residents?

  Our region's COVID-19 testing capacity is high, with maximum capacity for tests per day in non-hospitalized settings of 471 tests per day or 2.6 tests per 1000 residents with estimated population of 177,000 in the Yuba-Sutter region.

- Is the average percentage of positive tests over the past 7 days <7% and stable or declining?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region has had 3 positive results out of 377 reported tests in the last 7 days, for an average percentage of positive tests of 0.8%.

  The number of cases reported per day has been stable since 4/9/2020 at an average of one new case every two days; previously from March 24 to April 9, we were averaging 2 new cases per day.

- Have specimen collection locations been identified that ensure access for all residents?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region conducted a drivetime analysis (Appendix D: Drivetime map) that showed that 88% of Yuba County residents and 99% of Sutter County residents are within 30 minutes drivetime of a COVID-19 testing site. Moreover, 99% of Yuba County residents and 100% of Sutter County residents are within 60 minutes drivetime of a testing site. For the OptumServe site in particular, neither insurance status nor documentation status are barriers for testing.

- Have contracts/relationships been established with specimen processing labs?

  Each of our COVID-19 testing site has established relationship with either Quest or LabCorp to submit their specimens.

- Is there a plan for community surveillance?

  Yes. We are planning on instituting a self-report of COVID-19 related symptoms similar to the one that has been implemented in Eagle County, Colorado. Source: https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1d681ka5h5QzTk77HlI1kno8GHyk85e/page/pblIR

Contact Tracing

- How many staff are currently trained and available to do contact tracing?

  Given our low case count, we currently have 8 contact tracers and 3 contact investigators.

- Are these staff reflective of community racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County contact tracing staff are reflective of our community. In particular, we have staff who speaks Spanish, Punjabi, and Hmong – the three most common non-English languages in the Yuba-Sutter region.

- Is there a plan to expand contact tracing staff to the recommended levels to accommodate a three-fold
Increase in COVID-19 cases, presuming that each case has ten close contacts?

*We have already trained an additional 16 tracers and 3 contact investigators, allowing us to be able to quickly ramp up to 24 contact tracers and 6 contact investigators within a matter of hours for a total of 30 contact tracers and investigators, exceeding the recommended 15 staff per 100,000. If necessary, the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region can increase to an additional 10-15 contact tracers. This has been successfully done in response to a COVID-19 outbreak in an industrial facility with large numbers of contacts.*

- Is there a plan for supportive isolation for low income individuals who may not have a safe way to isolate or who may have significant economic challenges as a result of isolation?

*For each positive confirmed case, we inquire regarding the need for food, laundry and shelter. Fortunately, no individual has needed housing services to isolate but in the case that a patient does report that, they would be provided housing at one of the trailers placed in the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds.*

**Protecting the Vulnerable**

- How many congregate care facilities, of what types, are in the county?

  *Licensed Congregate Care Facilities for Sutter County:*
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities - 4
  - Assisted Living - 10
  - Adult Residential Facility - 11
  - Intermediate Care Facility, Developmentally Disabled Nursing - 5
  - Adult Day Program - 4
  - Independent Living - 6
  - Home Health + Hospice - 3

  *Licensed Congregate Care Facilities for Yuba County:*
  - Adult Residential Facility - 17
  - Adult Day Care - 5
  - Assisted Living - 4
  - Independent Living/Senior Living - 2
  - Home Health + Hospice - 1

- How many correctional facilities, of what size, are in the county?

  *Sutter County Jail total capacity is 394 with 123 current inmates*
  *Yuba County Jail total capacity is 422 with 250 inmates*
  *Juvenile Hall total capacity is 119 with 16 current detainees (includes Juvenile Hall, Camp Singer and the Special Housing Unit)*

- How many homelessness shelters are in the county and what is their capacity?

  *The homeless shelters in the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County community and their capacity are:*
  - Casa de Esperanza - 42 beds
  - The Salvation Army Depot - 65 beds
  - Twin Cities Rescue Mission - 40 beds
  - Better Way - 40 beds
14 Forward - 40 beds

- What is the COVID-19 case rate at each of these facilities?

  Currently we have no cases in these facilities.

- Do facilities have the ability to safely isolate COVID-19 positive individuals?

  Yes. For each shelter and correctional facilities, the Bi-County Department Operations Center and Bi-County Health Officer has provided guidance in order for each facility to safely isolate COVID-19 positive patients. The congregate care facilities work through the California Department of Social Services for guidance regarding isolation of positive COVID-19 patients.

- Do facilities have the ability to safety quarantine individuals who have been exposed?

  Yes. For each shelter and correctional facilities setting the Bi-County Department Operations Center and Bi-County Health Officer has provided guidance in order for each facility to safely quarantine individuals exposed to COVID-19. The congregate care facilities work through the California Department of Social Services for guidance regarding quarantine of suspected COVID-19 patients.

- Is there sufficient testing capacity to conduct a thorough outbreak investigation at each of these facilities?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region is expecting a total of 400 test swabs combined that will be able to quickly test all exposed individuals even in the largest congregate setting, which would be in the correctional facilities. In addition, capacity at OptumServe has not been met and we can avail of testing through the OptumServe testing site currently located in Yuba City.

- Do long-term care facilities have sufficient PPE for staff, and do these facilities have access to suppliers for ongoing PPE needs?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Health Officer conducts a weekly check-in call with all residential care facilities in the bi-county region. All five skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in the Yuba-Sutter region have reported no issues with PPEs in regards to maintaining the 14-day supply. On a daily basis, these SNFs are polled by Region III Regional Disaster Medical Health Services (RDMHS), which then circulates the results to the Region III health officers and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOACs). On a daily basis, these listings are carefully reviewed by the Bi-County Health Officer and Yuba County and Sutter County’s MHOACs. None of the five in the Yuba-Sutter region has listed staffing or PPEs supply issue in the past two weeks. In addition, each of the five SNFs will be receiving a 14-day augmented supply of PPEs from FEMA stocks.

  The list of the five SNFs and their contacts are included as Appendix E.

- Do these facilities (particularly skilled nursing facilities) have access to staffing agencies if and when staff shortages related to COVID-19 occur?

  The majority of the Yuba-Sutter skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are part of larger long-term care corporations and have access to their staffing. In addition, the Yuba County and Sutter County Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOACs) are in continual discussion with the SNFs to ensure adequate staffing, and if corporate staffing is not available, the MHOACs can assist with fulfilling staffing needs through the resource request process as outlined in the California Emergency Operations Manual.
Acute Care Surge

- Is there daily tracking of hospital capacity including COVID-19 cases, hospital census, ICU census, ventilator availability, staffing and surge capacity?
  
  *On a daily basis, Adventist-Rideout Hospital participates in California Department of Public Health’s hospital census which inquires about hospital census, staffing census, and PPE 15-day supplies.*

- Are hospitals relying on county MHOAC for PPE, or are supply chains sufficient?
  
  *In the past few weeks, Adventist-Rideout has moved away from relying on the Yuba County MHOAC for PPE needs.*

- Are hospitals testing all patients prior to admission to the hospital?
  
  *Adventist-Rideout tests hospitalized patients who qualify based on clinical criteria.*

- Do hospitals have a plan for tracking and addressing occupational exposure?
  
  *Adventist-Rideout (AHRO) has a robust infection control program that monitors aggressively for all possible and confirmed COVID-19 exposures in their healthcare setting. We work very closely with the Infection Control team to ensure smooth communication between the Bi-County Department Operations Center (DOC) and AHRO.*

Essential Workers

- What guidance have you provided to your essential workplaces to ensure employees and customers are safe in accordance with state/county guidance for modifications?
  
  *Multiple guidance are posted on BePreparedYuba.org and BePreparedSutter.org. In addition, we lean on the various governmental agencies to reach out to their colleagues in the various essential sectors to provide guidance from CDC, OSHA, etc.*

- Do essential workplaces have access to key supplies like hand sanitizer, disinfectant and cleaning supplies, as well as relevant protective equipment?
  
  *To date, essential service sectors such as healthcare facilities and first responders can request necessary supplies through the Bi-County Department Operations Center.*

- Is there a testing plan for essential workers who are sick or symptomatic?
  
  *All symptomatic workers, regardless of whether they are essential or not, can register to be tested through the OptumServe testing site in Yuba City.*

- Is there a plan for supportive quarantine/isolation for essential workers?
  
  *Fortunately, all exposed healthcare personnel and first responders thus far have been able to safely return to their homes. The Bi-County Department Operations Center (DOC) has provided information to all applicable healthcare facilities and EMS providers the hotel vouchers information and how to avail of available hotel housing.*
Special Considerations

- Are there industries in the county that deserve special consideration in terms of mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission, e.g. agriculture or manufacturing?

  The Bi-County Health Officer has engaged with the agriculture commissioners of both counties to ensure that necessary COVID-19 materials and guidance are being provided to farmers and migrant workers in the Bi-County region.

- Are there industries in the county that make it more feasible for the county to increase the pace through stage 2, e.g. technology companies or other companies that have a high percentage of workers who can telework?

  The Yuba-Sutter Bi-County region is predominantly agriculture and manufacturing. Where feasible, telework continues to be encouraged.

Community Engagement

- Has the county engage with its cities?

  County leaders hold briefings via conference call with all four Mayors, Vice Mayors and City Managers, School Superintendents, and first responder leaders three times a week since mid-March. Both Yuba and Sutter Counties formed a Compliance Working Group (CWG), which first met on March 24, 2020 and has been meeting at least weekly since then. The CWG is comprised of the city managers and police chiefs of all four cities in the two counties, as well as both county’s Sheriffs, Community Development Directors, Environmental Health Directors, Public Information Officers, and the Yuba Sutter Bi-County Health Officer. Members of the private sector have also been part of our working committees.

- Which key county stakeholders should be a part of formulating and implementing the proposed variance plan?

  With the well-established Compliance Working Group in place, it will be the group that will facilitate stakeholder involvement in formulating and implementing the variance plan.

- Have virtual community forums been held to solicit input into the variance plan?

  Prior to the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Health Officer issuing her Order dated May 4, 2020, which established a risk-based approach to determining business operations, the Bi-County Health Officer solicited recommendations from the Compliance Working Group (CWG). In order to provide well rounded recommendations, the CWG created three teams to focus in three distinct areas: work, gather, and recreate. The three teams were composed of both city and county representatives as well as the private sector operators for the respective areas. For example, in the work group, business owners were included from multiple sectors. In the recreate group, operators of recreation focused businesses were engaged such as campgrounds and casinos. The gather group included leaders of local faith-based organizations. The three teams brought forward recommendations that included the COVID-19 Operations Protocol, which was incorporated into the May 4, 2020 Order.

- Is community engagement reflective of the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of the community?
Yes. Materials created by the county’s public information officers are available in English, Spanish, Punjabi and Hmong.

Relationship to Surrounding Counties

- Are surrounding counties experiencing increasing, decreasing or stable case rates?

  All neighboring counties to the Yuba-Sutter region including Amador, Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Sierra, Yolo, Placer, and Sacramento are experiencing decreasing case rates.

- Are surrounding counties also planning to increase the pace through Stage 2 of California’s roadmap to modify the Stay-at-Home order, and if so, on what timeline? How are you coordinating with these counties?

  The neighboring counties of Amador, Butte, Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sacramento and Yolo are all planning on submitting attestations to accelerate through Stage 2. Three times a week, the Sierra-Sacramento Valley health officers meet remotely to report out case counts, hospitalizations, deaths related to COVID-19 and any notable developments. This process will continue to be integral to ensuring timely communication in the Sierra-Sacramento Valley region and uniformity in the local public health approach as much as possible.

- How will increased regional and state travel impact the county’s ability to test, isolate, and contact trace?

  Currently, the Yuba-Sutter region is testing at 0.6 tests per 1000 residents due to low demand. However, our maximum capacity is four times that at 2.6 tests per 1000 residents.

  Moreover, our ability to triple the number of contact tracers from the current 11 contact tracing staff to 40-45 staff members place us well in regards to necessary response of timely identification of positive COVID-19 patients and their close contacts to break the chain of transmission and mitigate spread.
In addition to your county's COVID-19 VARIANCE ATTESTATION FORM, please include:

- Letter of support from the County Board of Supervisors
- Letter of support from the local hospitals or health care systems.
- County Plan for moving through Stage 2

All documents should be emailed to Jake Hanson at Jake.Hanson@cdph.ca.gov

Phuong Liu

I ______ hereby attest that I am duly authorized to sign and act on behalf of _______. I certify that _______ 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 _______, 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 ______ Phuong Liu, MD, MHS, FAAP
Signature ________________
Position/Title ______ Bi-County Health Officer for Yuba & Sutter Counties
Date __5/12/2020__