

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sonia Y. Angell, M.D.
State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 997377 MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899

Dear Governor Newsom and Dr. Angell:

I am the President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and my colleagues on the Board have authorized and directed me to transmit to you this letter in support of the San Mateo County Health Officer's attestation form for a variance to the State of California's Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board of Supervisors understands that the purpose of the attestation form is to permit counties that demonstrate an ability to protect the public and essential workers to progress more quickly through Stages of the State's Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience. The San Mateo County Health Officer's attestation, which this Board fully agrees with, demonstrates that the County can provide such protection and the County is therefore seeking this variance, which will allow the County to fully synchronize its reopening with the State Roadmap.

San Mateo County was among the first counties in the State to implement local orders, which remain in place, that highlight key behaviors necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as hand-washing, social distancing, and wearing face coverings, as well as isolation and quarantine after exposure.

San Mateo County has also worked tirelessly to build testing capacity, develop a detailed contact tracing program and staffing plan, and secure sufficient personal protective equipment to deal

with any future COVID-19 surge. Hospital surge capacity in the County remains strong overall, and the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has remained stable.

County staff has worked with community partners to address the key COVID-19 related needs of our most vulnerable residents. Homeless shelters in the County have implemented social distancing protocols and high-risk residents have been relocated to hotels. Free testing has been offered throughout the County, with sites specifically located in communities of color. Multiple programs have helped to provide for the homebound and elderly during the term of the Shelter in Place Order.

The County has also collaborated closely with our cities and other community partners to both share information about COVID-19 response and to gather community input on a Community-wide COVID-19 Recovery Strategic Plan. Work is also starting on a community-wide Recovery Implementation Plan.

The data, programs and plans developed by the County, in partnership with the State, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last months have allowed the County to protect the public from potential COVID-19 spikes and is allowing the Health Officer to submit the attestation for the requested variance to harmonize its reopening of businesses with the activities allowed by the State. The Board of Supervisors wholeheartedly supports this attestation and respectfully requests your approval.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Warren Slocum

President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors