

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Progress towards the reopening of the State of California

Dear Governor Newsom:

San Benito County recognizes and commends your action in taking positive steps to the reopening of our great State, by creating a process to move towards wider reopening of businesses. San Benito County looks forward to progressing through Stage 2, based on determinations made at the local level, based on local San Benito County health conditions and capacity. Not only does San Benito County look forward to moving through Stage 2 as quickly as possible, while preserving the health of County residents, the County foresees a time in the near future where it could move to Stage 3 when certain higher-risk businesses would be able to reopen with modifications. Stage 3 would allow the reopening of businesses such as nail/hair salons and gyms, and group activities such as sports in-person religious services. It is important to treat each business based on its risk factor, not merely by its classification type. A hair salon in our county, which may only have one chair and one beautician, is different than a hair salon in Los Angeles County which may have twenty or thirty cosmetologists.

San Benito County is among one of the lesser populated counties in the State of California, ranked 42nd in population with approximately 60,000 persons. There have been 52 COVID-19 cases in San Benito County; only two of which are active infections. Our local hospital is operating at a "Green Capacity", with available beds and ventilators. Our County was also selected as a testing site, which will increase the county's testing capacity.

Our County will work immediately in preparing a plan which would allow more businesses to open, while preserving and maintaining public health. At the earliest opportunity, San Benito County looks forward to showing how our County has met, and will continue to meet, the key measures for moving forward through Stage 2, and then forward to Stage 3.

The goal of Board of Supervisors of San Benito County, which we believe is shared by your administration, is to open as many businesses as is possible, while preserving the public's health and safety.

Sincerely,

Jaime De La Cruz
Chair