



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 12, 2020

David Ghilarducci, MD, FACEP
Interim Public Health Officer
San Benito County Public Health Services
351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite A-202
Hollister, CA 95023

Re: County of San Benito's Attestation to Variance to Stage 2 of California's Roadmap Modification

Dear Dr. Ghilarducci:

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County appreciates your leadership in addition to Governor Newsom and his administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of San Benito County, we thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety, and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The support and resources provided for all counties have gone a long way in helping to keep our community healthy and safe.

On March 6, 2020, San Benito County Administrative Officer proclaimed a local state of emergency in the absence of the Board of Supervisors to quickly prepare for impacts associated with the Novel Coronavirus. On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation issued by the County Administrative Officer and declared a local state of emergency for the County of San Benito.

On March 19, 2020, the Governor subsequently issued an Executive "Stay at Home" Order, which has been adhered to by both the businesses and residents of our County. Also, San Benito County has incorporated a mandated face-covering order.

These measures, seemingly drastic at times, are essential to ensure the success of our County in preparing for and addressing the spread of the disease amongst our residents. We experienced our first two COVID-19 cases in San Benito County on February 2, 2020, and were among the first cases in the United States. The County secured the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our first responders, the local hospital, and has planned a thoughtful and comprehensive roadmap for businesses to reopen. The County has initiated a collaborative effort with jurisdictions within the county, cities, schools, hospitals and many other agencies to prepare for the reopening of the county.


As a Board, we are aware of the capacity of the epidemiological and surveillance data required for state reporting. San Benito County Public Health works diligently on containment and contact tracing. We have supported our local hospital to build capacity to support a medical surge and expand testing capacity.

Throughout this pandemic, we have continued to invite public and stakeholder input at our regularly scheduled and weekly special Board of Supervisors meetings, as well as through email, social media, Facebook Live events, and a variety of other community meetings. We have made tremendous strides in being accessible and available to the public through various avenues. We feel confident that the safety measures of our residents will be met, by moving forward with the Stage 2 expansion.

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County fully supports the County Health Officer's attestation that we are prepared as a County to implement the variance to Stage 2 expansion and we have met the readiness criteria outlined by the California Department of Public Health. The Board of Supervisors supports the reopening of business and spaces in the County in the most expeditious manner possible, consistent with the protection of the public and essential workers.

We thank you again for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team and are committed to a solution that helps our County mitigate, respond, and recover from these historic times.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jaime De La Cruz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jaime De La Cruz
Chair of the Board of Supervisors
San Benito County