

General Public Contract

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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SNMH

September 16, 2020

Board of Supervisors office

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

950 Maidu Ave, Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Declaration of Public Health Emergency

Dear Supervisor Hall,

We are writing to you as medical providers of Nevada County. We are dismayed with Placer County's decision to revoke its public health emergency declaration and urge you to keep Nevada County's emergency declaration in place. An emergency is a situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, property, or environment. Based on the best available scientific research and data, our state, federal and county public health officials and we believe that COVID-19 continues to be an immediate risk to the health of our community.

We are happy to see that our case rate has gone down, but as we have learned, it takes 3 weeks to see the effects of any loosening or tightening of regulations. There were surges in cases, hospitalizations and deaths after the Memorial Day and July 4th holiday weekends, and I am concerned that we will see something similar after Labor Day weekend. In addition, a new study from the CDC shows that people who tested positive for COVID-19 were about twice as likely to have dined at a restaurant within the two-week period before getting sick than those who tested negative. This shows we need to be safe and strategic about reopening to ensure it does not result in a surge of illness and unnecessary deaths.

In addition, we have seen that symptoms of COVID-19 can last months, sometimes resulting in chronic cardiac, pulmonary and/or neurologic disabilities. We are concerned that lifting the public health emergency at this time will result in long-term disabilities that will have significant medical, psychological, and economic impacts in Nevada County.

We very much appreciate that you are in a difficult position. You must balance the multiple public health problems that COVID-19 has brought with the fact that many of your constituents are physically tired, economically challenged, and emotionally exhausted. But COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future and there is more work to come as we head into flu season. We look to you as leaders to help protect us during this crisis.

COVID-19. What we are doing is working, as we see Nevada County poised to move from the red "Substantial" tier to the less restrictive orange "Moderate" tier, which will help our businesses and schools. We appreciate your diligence in using evidence to guide us through this public health crisis and protect the long-term health and wellbeing of our community. We ask that any change in policy be done in collaboration with the medical community.

We hope you and your families are safe and well. We look forward to working with you to promote the health and well-being of our community

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