

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: comment on Covid-19 response
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:01:25 AM

Hello, my name is Patty Lawrence. I live in district 1 of unincorporated Nevada County.

There was a very powerful flu-like illness that came through our area this past winter.

A family member had it had it in late January, and I had it about a week behind her. I got sick in early February.

I have discussed the experience with a number of people, probably at least a dozen or two friends and acquaintances, who have been able to commiserate about both the particular symptoms, and also about the unique intensity of this illness, that we experienced this past winter. Myself and others have said they have never been sick like that in their life!

When I got sick, a friend joked about whether I had been to China recently as this was when we were hearing frequent news reports about the outbreak in China, but there was no concept of even the possibility that we had the virus here in Nevada County.

My symptoms included a fever and dry cough, shortness of breath, aches, exhaustion, and several others. The symptoms were most intense during the first five days, and then I began a gradual recovery which went on for about three weeks.

In recent weeks, I have seen, heard, and participated in speculation as to whether this illness was actually SARS-Cov-2/COVID-19, making a pass through Nevada County before we had any testing available or even awareness as to the possibility of it.

Certain experts in immunology have been speculating the same idea in regards to California as a whole. Now several studies are being conducted in California to investigate whether a larger portion of the population indeed has antibodies to COVID-19, which would seemingly validate this theory, and could explain the vastly slower rate of spread California is experiencing.

- Stanford University is conducting a study and has collected 3,200 blood samples from Bay Area residents to test for antibodies
- USC and the LA Department of Public Health are beginning a study of 1,000 LA residents to test for antibodies

[How can the County government facilitate getting SARS-Cov-2 antibody testing for certain residents who experienced a flu last winter so we can explore whether some degree of what is known as "herd immunity" may already be in effect here?](#)

Even a very small sample of residents who were sick could be very telling. Getting an idea as to whether COVID-19 has already been in Nevada County for several months could lead to possibly speeding up the restoration of normalcy, of the right to conduct businesses, generate income, and to gather, the ability for children to play together and for elderly to have company, for people to exercise and worship and celebrate together, to have weddings and funerals and parties and play dates. These events give life much of its structure, meaning, and joy, and it is upon our local government to do any small things such as suggested here to help speed along this crucial shift back towards freedom.

[Please consider having the county procure some antibody tests and conduct testing on select populations of people who were sick and who were not sick this past winter.](#)

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
Patty Lawrence