



# **RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

## **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REOPENING NEVADA COUNTY SAFELY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN COORDINATION WITH NEVADA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES**

WHEREAS, the paramount concern of policymakers at all levels is the health and well-being of our constituents, never more so than during what has been called a once-in-a-century pandemic; and

WHEREAS, decisions affecting the health and well-being of our constituents must be based on empirical evidence without regard to politics or the influence of special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, California has struggled as much as any state during the COVID-19 pandemic, with unemployment estimated at 9% by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as of January 2021 making California the third highest in unemployment in the nation with Nevada County unemployment at approximately 6.8% as of December 2020; and

WHEREAS, California is a large and diverse state within which the demographics and density of population, medical and hospital resources, mix of commercial, retail, agricultural, and residential land uses, and the economic drivers among California's 58 counties vary greatly; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is a mid-sized rural County with distinctly unique communities located across wide geographical dispersed areas; and

WHEREAS, California's *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* provides a statewide approach to reopening communities through uniform metrics across all 58 counties, with the intent to allow different levels of openness in each county according to conditions on the ground, it does not account for all factors of differences across counties, especially among and within rural communities; and

WHEREAS, to keep our community healthy and vibrant in the face of the pandemic, it is imperative that the state's framework includes increased flexibility to allow local elected and public health officials to tailor our response to the unique needs of our community; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is extremely concerned about the impacts to our children of any further delays to in-person education while recognizing that the return to full time in-person education must be done safely in a thoughtful and prudent fashion in coordination with public health officials; and

WHEREAS, youth between the ages of thirteen to eighteen are at risk to doing harm to themselves, experience depression, or suffer from mental health problems due to anxiety from isolation; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is also extremely concerned about the impacts to our local businesses and economy of continued delay to businesses reopening while recognizing the importance of working in close coordination with local public health authorities through data-driven empirical evidence based decisions; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is well positioned through the leadership of our Public Health Department to vaccinate our population in an efficient and expedient manner; and

WHEREAS, any changes to the State's vaccination plan, coupled with the lack of consistency, transparency, and predictability of vaccine supplies will impede this important effort locally; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada needs a stable vaccination eligibility framework, with clear messaging and expectations to the public in order to assist county public health authorities in efficient rollout of vaccinations locally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada that these facts demonstrate a need for collective and unified action from our County and surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Nevada approves this Resolution with a commitment to the following principles:

1. That our County is best served by an ability to respond locally to the COVID-19 virus in accordance with our local data and circumstances, as specified, for instance, in the attestation filed with the California Department of Public Health.
2. That our County requests clear guidance and sufficient resources from the State to safely open schools to provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible.
3. That our County requests a predictable and transparent vaccination allocation from the State, along with stable vaccine eligibility rules and clear and accurate public messaging on vaccine availability to assist with an orderly and efficient local vaccination process.
4. That our County supports, promotes and requests that any further federal relief funds be distributed directly to the County of Nevada.