



**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 05, 2020

FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Request by Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Kirk Uhler to Receive Input and Provide Direction by (a) Resolution to Address Orders and Guidelines on COVID-19 and (b) Potential COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

1. Adopt a Resolution requesting the Governor acknowledge and allow counties to craft local guidelines to address COVID-19.
2. Direct County Executive Officer to work with the Placer County Public Health Officer on a Potential COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study.

**BACKGROUND**

On March 2, 2020 Placer County Public Health reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Placer County and on March 3, 2020 the Placer County Public Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080, as a result of the international COVID-19 outbreak. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency (“State of Emergency”) to formalize emergency actions and help prepare for the broader spread of the COVID-19 disease. On March 19, 2020 the Placer County Health Officer issued a directive instructing individuals to shelter at their place of residence and restricting non-essential activities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all individuals in California to stay in their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors, thereby reducing and stopping non-essential businesses from continuing operations (“Stay at Home Order”). On April 16, 2020, the Placer County Public Health Officer issued an extended Order which provided clarification to and extended the terms of the previous Directive to reduce person-to-person contact and increase physical distancing in order to further slow transmission of COVID-19.

As of April 30, 2020, Placer County has had 145 confirmed cases with 8 deaths, hospitalizations decreasing in the County and 85% of the cases are located in the South Placer portion of the County.

The Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California asserts that the current State of Emergency is no longer in order, and requests that the Governor immediately adhere to state law and proclaim the termination of the State of Emergency, including rescinding any and all orders and guidelines, including the Stay at Home Order, that require Placer County residents to stay at home and that result in categorizing any Placer County businesses as “non-essential.”

On April 27, 2020 Supervisor Weygandt had a conversation with Dr. Julie Parsonnet, a Stanford University professor who specializes in adult infectious diseases, and who is currently conducting COVID-19 seroprevalence studies.

Dr. Parsonnet referred to a recent [Miami-Dade County study](#) on infection rates, and the outcomes of that study concluded that researchers were “95% certain that the true proportion of people who have been infected lies between 4.4% and 7.9% of the population” which is 16.5 times the number of those captured through testing sites and local hospitals alone in Miami-Dade. Dr. Parsonnet stated a similar seroprevalence study could be conducted here in Placer. Hiring a marketing firm to identify a random sampling, Placer County could disseminate invitations for this sampling of the population (1,000-2,000) to be tested for free.

This would be volunteer-based, require very little personal information (age/sex/symptoms/address would be needed), and the cost would be minimal for the potential benefit (estimated at a few dollars per person). It would also help identify the degree of population spread, as well as provide valuable information needed to provide a reopen policy.

Dr. Parsonnet shared that in her opinion, Placer is well positioned to begin this process to begin with parameters in place such as protecting vulnerable populations (in particular nursing home residents), plus other potential mitigation, we might start a reopen plan.

Placer is in a unique position to be a leader in community seroprevalence testing to more rapidly achieve the goal of reopening. With a potential partnership with a local university such as UC Davis or Stanford, the County could obtain numbers back within 2-3 weeks. Dr. Parsonnet indicated that Stanford may potentially be able to assist with testing, but also noted that their workload is currently heavy.

It is proposed that the Board direct the County Executive Officer to proceed with conducting these tests in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Placer County Public Health Officer to proceed with determining the feasibility of conducting these tests and report back to the Board as soon as possible. This may involve hiring a marketing firm to identify a random sampling of our population, working with a lab to provide and run these tests, sending out testing kits (or providing a location to issue the tests), and utilizing staff to provide and analyze the data.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Potential fiscal impact should the County hire a marketing firm.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution

# Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

**In the matter of:**

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Regarding the  
State of California State of Emergency and  
Associated Orders and Guidelines on COVID-19.

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer  
at a regular meeting held \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of said Board

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WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of  
Emergency ("State of Emergency") to formalize emergency actions and help prepare for the  
broader spread of the COVID-19 disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20  
ordering all individuals in California to stay in their place of residence except as needed to  
maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors, thereby reducing and  
stopping non-essential businesses from continuing operations ("Stay at Home Order"); and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the State of Emergency and subsequent Stay at Home  
Order ("State Actions") was to prevent the catastrophic failure of the hospital system due to an  
anticipated surge of Covid-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the key implementation step of the State Actions was designed to "flatten  
the curve", so as to avoid the overcrowding of our hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Stay at Home Order, the State adopted guidelines that define which businesses are “essential” and thus can remain open, under specific conditions, during the term of the State at Home Order. By exclusion from that definition of “essential”, all other businesses are considered “non-essential”. By issuing the Stay at Home Order and the guidelines, the state determined which businesses would remain open and survive versus which businesses would be required to close, and likely fail; and

WHEREAS, the hospital system is at risk of failure, not due to overcrowding from the anticipated surge which never occurred, but due to too few patients; and

WHEREAS, the “curve” statewide (and particularly in Placer County) has been flattened; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 situation might meet the “state of emergency” threshold in a few California counties, but is nowhere near a justifiable “state of emergency” standard in Placer, nor numerous other counties in California; and

WHEREAS, state law allows for a “State of Emergency” decree on a County-by-County basis, in order to meet the needs of local emergencies that are not being experienced statewide; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code, Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7, Article 13, Section 8629 reads, “The Governor *shall* proclaim the termination of a state of emergency *at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant*. All of the powers granted the Governor by this chapter with respect to a state of emergency shall terminate when the state of emergency has been terminated by proclamation of the Governor or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature declaring it at an end.” (Emphasis added.)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California asserts that the current State of Emergency is no longer in order, and requests that the Governor immediately adhere to state law and proclaim the termination of the State of Emergency, including rescinding any and all orders and guidelines, including the Stay at Home Order, that require Placer County residents to stay at home and that result in categorizing any Placer County businesses as “non-essential”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California that the Governor acknowledge and allow counties to craft local guidelines to address COVID-19.