



**MEMORANDUM**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: May 26, 2020  
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer  
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

1. Authorize the County Executive Officer to sign one or more agreements as necessary to conduct a COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study in Placer County, with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, with a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$250,000.
2. Direct County Executive Office staff to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and the County Public Health Officer to take all actions necessary to conduct the study, including but not limited to those enumerated herein.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 5, 2020, your Board directed the County Executive Officer to work with the Placer County Public Health Officer on a potential seroprevalence study. Since that time, County staff have been working to identify a process, partners and expenditures necessary to accomplish this study. On May 19, 2020, Supervisor Weygandt provided the Board with an update on efforts to date.

**DISCUSSION**

The proposed study would test a representative cross-section of Placer County residents for COVID-19 antibodies to assess current COVID-19 prevalence in the County. This study is intended to help the County and community better understand the spread of COVID-19 in the County to date and inform the Board's policy decisions moving forward. The study would likely include but not be limited to the following tasks:

- Contract with a qualified marketing consultant to identify a volunteer participant pool that represents a statistically valid cross-section of Placer County residents.
- Engage an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to assure, both in advance and by periodic review, that appropriate steps are taken to protect the rights and welfare of participants.
- Take all actions necessary to collect and process tests from participants. Two options are under consideration, with Option 2 being staff's current preference:
  - Option 1 - Accept donation of 1,000 lateral flow (finger prick) tests from Stanford affiliates. The County would set up and staff testing sites located throughout the County. Each site would likely be up for 1-2 days and staffed with 10-15 County staff and/or volunteers. The test kits would be processed and analyzed on site..
  - Option 2 - Engage a local private entity (e.g., Quest Diagnostics or other similar company) to conduct blood-draw tests for participants in their existing patient service centers located throughout the County and process the results in their certified laboratory. The County Public Health Officer would order the tests and receive the results for analysis by Stanford and others.

- Work with Stanford University and/or other qualified institutions and individuals to analyze and summarize the antibody test results.
- Provide opportunity for feedback on study design prior to implementation and peer review after it is complete from qualified individuals and/or institutions.
- Prepare final analysis and summary for Board's consideration.

#### *Budget Estimate*

- Marketing consultant to identify participant pool - \$100,000-200,000
- Stanford affiliate's assistance to help conduct the study and analyze results - \$10,000-\$50,000
- Medical consultant to perform IRB-related tasks and others as necessary to minimize CEO, HHS and Public Health Officer workload - \$10,000-\$20,000
- IRB costs - \$5,000-\$10,000
- Conducting and processing tests:
  - Option 1 – Lateral flow tests would be donated at no cost. The cost to set up and staff sites throughout the County to administer tests could vary widely depending on number of test sites needed, number of staff needed at each, ability to employ volunteers, etc. By way of example, if the County set up 5 sites for two 8-hour days and staffed with 10 County staff each, the personnel cost could range from \$20,000-\$80,000 in staff time depending on the level of staff needed (800 hours x \$25-100/hr). Other costs would also be incurred for tents, tables, chairs, personal protective equipment, etc.
  - Option 2 - Engage a local entity to test identified participants and process the results in a certified laboratory. Staff's current understanding is that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) requires employer-sponsored group health plans to provide cost-free coverage of COVID-19 testing and related items and services. As such, participants with insurance could likely be tested at no cost to them or the County. For participants without insurance, the County could pay for the test (estimated at \$65 each) to ensure participants would be tested free of charge. By way of example, if there are 1,000 participants, and 25% do not have qualifying insurance, the County cost would be \$16,250 (250 participants x \$65). If this option is selected, the costs to participants and the County would be further refined.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There should be no net County cost associated with this item. Staff anticipates using approximately \$150,000 of the County's projected \$40 million CARES Act funding allocation for this study, with additional funding coming from community partners.