



M E M O R A N D U M
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: January 12, 2021

FROM: Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA, Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Monthly Health and Human Services COVID-19 Response Update

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a monthly update on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

At the December 1st Monthly HHS COVID Update to the Board of Supervisors, HHS staff provided an update on COVID related-data and metrics; on COVID testing resources; on efforts to promote influenza vaccination, including County-run vaccination clinics; on preparations for COVID vaccine distribution; and on services through both the Adult and Children's Systems of Care related to COVID. At the December 15th Board meeting, HHS staff provided updates on COVID vaccine distribution; the continued surge of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths; and the shortages of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds that triggered the Governor's Regional Stay Home Order.

Since the December 15th Board meeting, California has experienced a substantial worsening in the surge of COVID-related hospitalizations and of its shortage of ICU beds. While, at the time of this writing, the shortage of ICU beds in Placer County and the Greater Sacramento region is not as severe as some other regions or the state, as a whole, Placer County hospitals are providing contingency care and report being stretched thin, especially in the area of staffing. In addition, all of Placer County's skilled nursing facilities have experienced multiple cases of COVID and have significant staffing challenges, with some experiencing large outbreaks and critical staffing shortages that have required pauses on new admissions and requests for state resources. Placer County's health care workers and their families have made tremendous sacrifices and have carried heavy burdens over many months. Our health care workers have performed heroically; saving many lives and bringing comfort, compassion, dignity, and hope to thousands of patients and their families. Doctors, nurses, and all front-line health care workers deserve our thanks and gratitude.

Amidst this historic surge in COVID cases, Placer County hospitals and HHS have received initial allocations of COVID vaccine for groups in Phase 1a, Tier 1 of the California Department of Public Health Allocation Guidelines for the COVID-19 Vaccine. The State has indicated that Phase 1a, Tier 1 is limited to long-term care facility residents, emergency medical personnel, and health care workers affiliated with hospitals, long-term care facilities, and dialysis centers. Several thousand doses of vaccine have already been administered to individuals in Phase 1a, Tier 1. However, most individuals in Phase 1a, Tier 1 will not complete their two-dose COVID vaccination series until late January or early February.

Beyond managing the local pandemic response and vaccine distribution, HHS also continues its more traditional role of serving the community through integrated service delivery. This monthly HHS COVID response update will highlight the work done by HHS's Human Services Division in addressing pandemic-related challenges.

FISCAL IMPACT

Potential fiscal impact projections related to COVID-19 were shared during the FY 2019-20 3rd Quarter Fiscal Update before the Board on April 21, 2020.

