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May 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As one of the two local hospitals in Napa County, Adventist Health St. Helena understands that the County Public Health Officer, Dr. Karen Relucio, is attesting that the County has met the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) readiness criteria to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Our hospital also understands that the purpose of this certification is to permit counties, like Napa County, that are able to demonstrate an ability to protect the public and essential workers, to progress further into Stage 2 by reopening additional businesses and workplaces.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Relucio has met regularly with the hospitals and our healthcare systems to coordinate surge planning, monitor healthcare capacity, and obtain our feedback. Dr. Relucio has also implemented community mitigation strategies that have helped Napa County flatten the curve. We strongly agree with Dr. Relucio's assessment that Napa County is actively monitoring infection through epidemiology, implementing containment measures, offering a sufficient amount of testing and contact tracing, monitoring hospitals capacity and plans for surge, and protecting vulnerable populations. Our hospital also has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect our hospital workforce, both clinical and nonclinical, both now and as we move further in Stage 2.

As the President of Adventist Health St. Helena, I support the need to protect vulnerable populations, continue social distancing, and monitor metrics that may trigger the need to reinstate more restrictive measures. At the same time, it is important to find a balance that allows for some businesses to reopen while ensuring the community's health. Napa County's plan to proceed with a variance in order to allow more businesses and workplaces to open is good for our community.

Adventist Health St. Helena supports the attestation by Dr. Relucio that the County can meet the readiness criteria outlined by the CDPH to allow for further progression into Stage 2 of the Governor's Pandemic Roadmap.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Herber, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven Herber, MD
President