

May 11, 2020

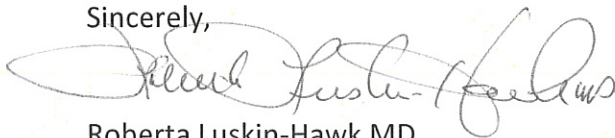
To Whom It May Concern:

As the leader of St Joseph Health – Humboldt County, I am responsible for St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka and Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna, CA. I understand that the County Health Officer, Dr. Terry Frankovich, is affirming that the County has met the California Department of Public Health's readiness criteria designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. All four Humboldt County Hospitals have been working closely with Public Health and are regularly involved in the Redwood Coast Healthcare Coalition (RCHC). The coalition has served as an invaluable platform for educational updates, resource sharing, coordination of response, and identification of healthcare gaps in the COVID-19 response.

Dr. Frankovich and designees meet regularly with the hospitals and healthcare systems to build consensus and coordinate surge planning. We strongly agree with her assessment that Humboldt County is actively monitoring infection through epidemiology, implementing containment measures when needed, offering an adequate amount of testing, monitoring hospital capacity and plans for surge and protecting vulnerable populations. St. Joseph Health – Humboldt County supports this attestation by Dr. Frankovich that the County has met the readiness criteria outlined by the California Department of Public Health to increase the pace at which the County advances through Stage 2 of the Governor's Pandemic Roadmap. The hospitals have a surgeon plan and can accommodate a 35 percent surge due to COVID-19. We have the availability of anesthesia machines and have ordered additional ventilators. In addition, both SJE and RMH have, at minimum, a 14-day supply of PPE with commercial access to more supplies.

As Chief Executive of St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka and of Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna, I support the need to protect vulnerable populations, continue social distancing, and mandatory facial coverings, all-the-while maintaining a heightened sense that we may ultimately need to reinstate protective measures. A healthy business community and a healthy community are one and the same. Humboldt County's plan for reopening is good for health, good for business and good for our community.

Sincerely,



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Chief Executive

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