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May 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Barton Health is an independent, not-for-profit health system and acute care hospital serving the needs of our diverse community, which falls within two states and five counties centered around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Our mission is to provide safe, high quality care and engage the community in the improvement of health and wellness.

Barton Health has been extremely proactive in managing the health of our community during the COVID-19 crisis and has established a robust system of identifying and screening patients, providing care virtually where appropriate, and planning for an increase in inpatients with COVID-19, should the need arise.

To date, we have had 27 positive patients: 24 of them managed at home and three patients discharged with improved health.

Our community respiratory surveillance program, as well as the downward trending of positive COVID-19 cases, has revealed low to no community spread of COVID-19 in the South Lake Tahoe region.

Our health system and community meet the gating requirements established at the federal level, as well as the state level, to enter into the next phase of reopening.

Barton Health's teams of expert physicians, administrators, and staff have adequately prepared for potential surges of COVID-19 patients and our surge plan includes a contingency for space, staffing, and supplies. The surge plan increases Barton's inpatient bed capacity from 63 to 150 beds. This is accomplished by using alternative areas of the hospital for patient care and admission of patient populations to alternate units. The plans include utilizing our pre-op and post-op surgical areas as ICU beds, our infusion and sleep study area for inpatient medical/surgical patients and admission to our family birth center of appropriate female patients. In addition, we have the ability to convert an outpatient physical therapy area to low risk inpatient care, an area of our common space to a discharge lounge, and two outpatient areas on the hospital campus for respiratory urgent care patients.



Our surge staffing plan calls for a team concept of care with a physician and a registered nurse leading the team of secondary registered nurses and ancillary help. This includes utilizing all registered nurses in the organization for patient care, such as quality, infection prevention and nursing leadership for patient care. Ancillary assistance will come from our outpatient clinics and surgical services areas. We have also established a Barton Medical Corps of 132 members with both clinical and nonclinical skills to assist our employed workforce in the event of a surge of COVID-19 patients.

Our surge supply plan utilizes our incident command and operational leadership structure to review available PPE on a minimum of a daily basis to ensure that we have and will continue to have necessary supplies to protect both our patients and staff. We currently have a minimum of 8 weeks of surge PPE for our staff if needed. We have developed relationships for supply procurement at the local, county, and state levels. Also, a PPE utilization and conservation plan has been implemented following all CDC and CDPH guidelines for appropriate PPE use.

Lastly, our community has been extremely cautious and compliant with the shelter in place orders to date. Our COVID-19 positive rates reflect the great work done locally to support one another during this pandemic. I stand humbled and proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

At this time, I am confident in our ability to manage the phased reopening in our community. I am grateful for your leadership and science-based approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic. If I may be of any service to you or your teams, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 543-5934 or [cpurvance@bartonhealth.org](mailto:cpurvance@bartonhealth.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Purvance". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Clint Purvance, MD, CPE  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Barton Health  
Board-Certified Emergency Medicine Physician