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Edcgov.us Mail - Permission to Release Your Contact Information (Re: COVID-19) f/ TERRY KAYES



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Permission to Release Your Contact Information (Re: COVID-19) f/ TERRY KAYES

Terry Kayes <kayes.gov@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 7:31 PM

To: Ann Cornell-Bell <ann.cornellbell@gmail.com>

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Hello Dr. Ann Cornell-Bell, PhD (Westbrook, Connecticut),

Thank you much for your timely and "on target" reply to my 9/3/2020 email message. I am emailing "Cc"s of your reply, with your contact-information details, with this acknowledgement of receipt of your reply, to all those parties listed above, most of whom are in El Dorado County government.

I think that most people would agree that the county has a particularly difficult situation with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, because the county extends roughly 55-70 miles through the Sierra-Nevada foothills from east of the large-population Sacramento metropolitan area and delta region, to the heavily-used Sierra Nevada "High Country" and Lake Tahoe Basin and Nevada-California state line; and because of the very-frequent extremely-heavy motor-vehicle traffic on U.S. Highway 50, which connects much of the above to the San Francisco Bay Region, and Stockton-Modesto-etc. metropolitan areas south of Sacramento, whose combined populations exceed 9 million people, many of whom come to El Dorado County to camp, have small to very-frequent large entertainment or social gathering, go boating, water or snow skiing or snowboarding, etc. -- all this quite often by the hundreds, or several thousands, in the middle of a serious global, national, and statewide pandemic.

El Dorado County's estimated resident population is about 192,843 (as per 2019). Tourism, outdoor recreation, and other aspects of the hospitality and rural and small-town/suburban retail industries comprise important parts of the

county's economy. Many tens of thousand of people visit the county weekly and on weekends in most months of the year, primarily coming from the (generally) much-higher population urban and suburban counties to the west and southwest. Most of the county's residents live within 2-3 miles of U.S. Highway 50, which serves as the state and the county's primary transportation corridor between the City and County of Sacramento and Lake Tahoe -- on the the east (Nevada) side of which is a substantial gambling and casino industry most of whose customers come from California and to a lesser extent from Nevada. There are several major ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe watershed in close proximity to the lake and various recreation/tourist-based businesses (including motels and restaurants).

Based on my ongoing studies of the COVID-19 pandemic overall and especially the situations in Northern California, that while El Dorado County has been extremely lucky in that remarkably few actual residents of the county seem to have been infected or died from infection by the virus, I believe, based on the statistics and laws of probability, that it is quite simply a matter of time before the county is identified by the state and the news media as a major epicenter for the repeated ever-worsening spread of the pandemic across the northern and central regions of the state, as the huge numbers of visitors to the county who catch the virus here, but while here do not show obvious symptoms, then carry the pandemic home with them, to spread it in many of the higher-population counties, and other lower-population counties, in the northern and the central parts of the state. Far more robust and definitive steps need to be taken, **soon**, in my opinion, if the clear likelihood of this grim scenario is to be reduced.

It is my sincere hope that the people listed above in county government -- or some assigned staff members -- will help disseminate your contact information and relevant information on the COVID pandemic and how to deal with it, from you (and also from me), to the county's school boards and teachers, hospitals and their staffs, emergency responders, business community, and others (including key contacts in the California Department of Public Health) -- as part of an effort to facilitate the "open and ready flow of information" between those parties and institutions having substantive

professional knowledge and concerns about how the COVID pandemic should be dealt with -- for the benefit of all.

This is not a good time for any public entity to be "playing defense" or "holding back" important, or potentially useful information, regarding productive ways of dealing with the COVID pandemic, as too-often happens in difficult, highly contentious situations -- another impediment being many people's unwillingness to consider objectively what others have to offer in terms of knowledge and suggestions. This isn't an uncommon hindrance to problem solving, both in private-sector and government interactions.

Best regards.

Terrence B. Kayes, PhD
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