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Carmel Angelo  
Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County

RE: Noemi Doohan, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health

I am writing to express my appreciation for Dr. Doohan in her role as Mendocino Director of Public Health.

I have known Dr Doohan for several years in her capacity as the founder and Medical Director of the Family Practice Residency Program. Since leaving that position, she has stepped up to fill the gap as our Medical Director of the Department of Public Health. Since she assumed her position, the Covid Pandemic has struck world-wide. This is a rapidly spreading deadly virus that is challenging all of us to adopt new personal and community lifestyle changes.

Though “simple”, these lifestyle adaptations are among the most difficult interventions we try to make as physicians. They are upsetting because some interrupt our work, personal relations, families and religious life. They are costly due to loss of jobs and unavailability of supplies. These interventions meet pushback to the authorities in public health as well as to you, our community leaders. For the good of the community a great deal of understanding is required as well as education to encourage people to follow recommendations. Demands to open up are understandable but will cost more lives. More confusing is that the national and even state official recommendations to liberalize these protective measures are driven by the most populous cities, which were hit the hardest and the earliest and are now showing some improvement as a result of those recommendations. This is what people are hearing on mainstream media. HOWEVER, in our rural community the surge of Covid cases is still rising so we must remain vigilant.

Dr. Doohan has carried the advice from national and state authorities, and has had to be the bearer of the “bad news”, with explanations to the department, the political and safety authorities, physicians and our fellow citizens. In my opinion she has done an excellent job and would deserve an official thank you and commendation.

Respectfully,

Andy Coren, M.D.