



tious optimism.

"As things open up, I encourage people to get out there and enjoy themselves and see people they haven't been able to see or congregate with for a while," County Public Health Director Danette York told the CN&R by phone. "But be careful about it and don't go to the extremes. If you're going to be in a crowd, wear your face coverings—even if you're vaccinated, take that extra precaution—and keep your social distancing going.... We want

to not revert back and have another surge. Protect yourself and your community by doing those mitigations."

Gov. Gavin Newsom made his order for reopening the economy contingent on vaccination access, COVID cases and hospitalization rates. As of May 29, before Memorial weekend, Butte County had 12,017 residents contract coronavirus since the start of the pandemic, 189 of whom died, including a young adult last week. Public Health reported 434 new cases in 30 days, on par with the previous 30 days' total (437).

The county had ranked among

Like other downtown Chico restaurants during the pandemic, Madison Bear Garden moved some seating to open-air parklets set up behind traffic barricades, supplementing patio tables. PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON BEAR GARDEN

the state's top 10 in vaccination rates early this year but, after that initial rush, slipped to bottom half. Approximately a third of Butte County residents are fully vaccinated and just under 40 percent have gotten one dose.

That number may be well short of the population projection for communal protection known as herd immunity (see "Shot at normalcy?" on chico.newsreview.com), which

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Dr. Marcia Nelson, family practice physician and Enloe Medical Center's vice president of medical affairs, says vaccination is key for this reopening.

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