

Memo for item 5a

Memo

Date: September 1, 2020

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor McCowen

Subject: Letter to Governor Newsom

On August 28 Governor Newsom announced a "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" with four tiers. Although Governor Newsom allowed hair salons and barbershops to re-open, many other business sectors remain closed or restricted. Mendocino County is currently in the most restrictive tier and given current case rates is likely to remain so for several weeks or longer. Once Mendocino County meets the criteria to move to a less restrictive tier, and assuming the criteria for that tier is met, it will take a minimum of three weeks to move between tiers. With every passing the day it is increasingly likely that additional business will close, many forever. While we all support closure of businesses that are documented as contributing to the increased case load, the data shows that informal family and community gatherings, not business activity, are primarily responsible for our increased case load. Therefore, the draft letter attached to this memo urges the Governor to empower our local Health Officer to make case specific decisions regarding restrictions on local businesses based on local data. Your support is respectfully requested.