

I am a veteran residing in Mendocino County. And I am worried about the current COVID-19 regulations imposed on indoor gyms by the State of California and The County of Mendocino.

I need access to the gym which I am a member of for my necessary physical therapy (for my spinal stenosis and other musculoskeletal issues) exercises. I have been a member of the Ukiah Valley Health Club for six years since I arranged through the Veterans Administration for my physical therapy to be accomplished there. Now all of the progress I have made in the condition of my lower back is in jeopardy unless I can once more have access to the equipment in the indoor gym there soon. It has come to my attention that the AHUV physical therapy patients are allowed to use these facilities. I have obtained a letter from Teresa M, Cheng MD, my primary care physician at the Veterans Administration stating that it would be beneficial for me to have access to this indoor equipment. But under the current restrictions physical therapy patients are still allowed to use these facilities but not me. Please provide a detailed explanation of why these lives are more important than someone who has proudly served his country in the U.S Navy.

I appreciate the concern on the part of the Mendocino County Health Department and the State of California for the health of its citizens. But I see other businesses in the county that are considered essential and are allowed to remain open even after COVID-19 cases have been detected in employees of these essential business. I am not aware of any cases associated with the operation of gyms in our county and I think it is time that physical fitness be given the status it deserves and Mendocino County considers gyms to be an essential business. So please show us that all lives matter even those of the Navy Veterans and the physically needy.

Thank you very much For your service to our community during this pandemic,  
Clement J. Kazmierzak Jr.