

I had heard from a few people in the community that you may be reconsidering some restrictions for the Covid 19 virus in Mendocino county. At the expense of sounding disconnected to the risk the virus presents, I would like to bring to your attention the positives of re-opening the golf courses and some open spaces.

Prior to the restrictions, Little River Golf course was managing the crisis brilliantly. The pro shop was staffed by only one person who handled the minimum of money and/or product (water, packaged food snacks) through a central window while the clubhouse was closed. Members could put items on account, thus making it unnecessary to handle excessive money. By restricting it to members, it not only discouraged travel from other areas, but the guidelines for course restrictions were supervised and kept to a small (and healthy) group of people...all of whom with the where-with-all to travel separately, and the care for one another to stay home if they felt the slightest feeling of illness or fatigue. The staff member wiped/sprayed every item that would have possible contact, and the groups were at one point kept to twosomes. Other courses in CA and AR are operating safely and successfully under these guidelines as well.

I cant help making the comparison of risk factors in this scenario. Regardless of necessity, it is quite irrelevant to make note of the REASON for the allowance of going to stores, gas stations, and take out food places. The risk has no bearing on necessity...it should be evaluated by the underlying factors. I found it ironic that on the same day a wide open space like the Little River course was being closed...the farmers market was open...confining those to a block of space..and allowing patrons and suppliers from Laytonville to Gualala to travel to Fort Bragg. Respectfully, I find it difficult to say that the farmers market (even when patrons stand 6 feet apart) is in any way safer than a golf course. Further, I would not say that food items of this sort is in any short supply. Stores are open. In addition to helping the local business, golf provides exercise, sunlight and mental health benefits that far outweigh its risk. When hundreds of people a day go to the two supermarkets in Fort Bragg, it would seem logical that a fraction of that number could traverse a 5500 yard golf course safely.

Again, you are in a difficult position. But I ask you to consider, in a time of great emotion, the logic of actions described above. Sometimes we at the local level can be both compassionate AND sensible in a world that recently seems to lack the combination.

Thank you for your time.