

To the Board of Supervisors,

I recognize we are all in a very difficult situation, we don't want tourists coming to visit, but we need there money. If we don't have there money we can't survive. We also need to keep ourselves and families safe. So what do we do? One of the things that made me close the restaurant (Trillium Cafe in Mendocino) several days early was the older local people still coming in for lunch everyday, while tourists from the city were sitting next to them also enjoying lunch. I couldn't live with myself any longer letting this continue to happen, so I closed March 15. Then of course we were all closed anyway. But this time has given me ways to change my business to make it work better for both locals and visitors. I hope these ideas can blossom into other ideas for local businesses.

With the new guidelines for restaurants decreasing capacity by half, is going to be very hard for me to make a living. So during this time, I realized it would be best if I added more outside dining tables for seating during our busy time this summer and fall, so I have ordered 5 more outdoor tables. I also have come up with several Take Away menu ideas. But I think it is important to be able to separate the locals from the visitors. So I propose we figure out a plan to make designated days or times when locals can take advantage of restaurants and shopping without the threat of visitors being in there spaces. This for me was going to be offer locals days where the inside of the restaurant was designated only for them, and visitors can sit in my garden area. If this will be permitted, without being discriminatory. This could also work for the beaches. Certain beaches or parts of beaches could be by permit only. Locals obtain the permits for the car, and have to have local Identification to show they are allowed there. Same with grocery shopping, and retail stores. Say some shops open earlier than 10 on certain days to allow shoppers to come without tourists.

Of course Masks will still be mandatory until this virus goes away, but only inside areas. No in outside areas with lots of space.

The other thing I am finding very hard to maintain is children and friendships. I think we parents need to find a small circle of our friends and stick to that circle during this time. SO our children can continue to have friends, and playdates, and enjoy life. This SIP has been very hard for kids, lots of watching TV, and walks, and hikes, but they need friends. In this last week I have decided we have all been staying home for almost 6 weeks now, with very limited visits to grocery stores and out in any public place, and we are all healthy and unlikely to have been exposed to the Virus, so I have allowed outside hikes with friends and outside playdates.

These are just ways I think could work to reopen the local economy.

I hope it helps!

Thanks so much,

Sandra McElroy

Trillium Cafe & Inn