

Public Comment for Item 6a.  
Maureen Mulheren  
104 N School Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
mo@maureenmulheren.com

Board of Supervisors, Public Health Officers and CEO Angelo,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to have this important conversation about our community.

This has been a tumultuous time for our agencies, our businesses and our residents. It appears this is an opportunity to confirm roles and responsibilities for next steps when the Mendocino County economy can be "UnPaused" safely.

Mendocino County needs a common-sense, transparent plan for the reopening of our economy and our community. The Shelter in Place appears to have been an effective approach to slow the spread of the virus and protect our vulnerable populations while avoiding overwhelming the health care system. At some point we need to move forward with a reopening plan that incorporates the very important factors the Governor has lined out including adequate testing capacity, an ability to have comprehensive tracking of local and regional transmission, a comprehensive ongoing plan for medical facility impact, and a strategy for isolation and quarantine capacity. A staged re-opening can be strategized in advance of any changes to the Governors order in coordination with regional partners including the Counties of Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Trinity, Del Norte and Humboldt.

There is certainly varied level of opinions of what a staged re-opening could look like. One concept is to allow for activities and opening strategies can roll out two weeks at a time starting with loosening some of the restrictions on recreational activities. We know that physical and mental health are crucial to Community health. We are currently experiencing increases in domestic violence, child abuse and drug and alcohol addiction. We must move forward as a County to create a safe space for people to relieve some of their stress by venturing outdoors. In many of our neighboring counties activities such as golf, disc golf, hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding and fishing are now allowed if safety protocols are met. Mendocino County has many areas where outdoor recreation could be allowed where people would be able to meet distance regulations and with face coverings being required the risk of catching the virus is greatly reduced. Playground equipment can remain closed while parks open for passing through with social distancing.

The next step forward is to open what have been deemed as non-essential businesses and/or slowly repopulate businesses that have been allowing staff to work from home. First, I would like to talk about our small business retailers. The Shelter in Place Orders have done a great disservice to our mom and pop bookstores and clothing retailers when large box stores have been able to continue to operate. We need to create protocols to allow these businesses to safely operate in our community if we expect them to be in our community six months from now. Its no secret that dollars spent in locally owned stores are retained at a rate of 68 cents per dollar. There are many service-related industries that compliment those that are considered essential attorneys, web designers and mortgage brokers. In our community these businesses are small sometimes with only the owner working or a handful of employees. It is reasonable to expect that these businesses would be able to implement safety protocols that include face covering, hand washing and regularly sanitizing work surfaces. There are ways that restaurants could open with tables 6 to 10 feet away, focusing on outdoor dining and ensuring that other safety measures are in place. If we are prepared as a community and our businesses know what to expect they will be able to act quickly when the Governor shifts the order towards the "UnPause".

As we move into the summer with the potential re-opening of businesses, we do need to look at what summer childcare looks like for working parents. If that is potentially small groups of 12 that would stay together through the summer in a day camp style. There would need to be a lot of hand washing, and sanitizing of

surfaces but we do need to have this conversation as we talk about parents getting back to work and waiting until the re-opening would not leave enough for caregivers to prepare.

We can slowly open our economy to locals only, and wait as the counties in the Bay Area work to slow the spread of the virus before they are invited with open arms to our tourism economy by limiting hotels and motels to continuing to serve essential workers and long term renters. We can monitor and react every two weeks and mirror the orders that the Governor is placing on the State of California. Certainly Mendocino County is a wonderful place to visit but we need to protect the health and safety of our residents first and foremost.

As we move forward Standard Operating Procedures for large capacity testing sites should be fully vetted with community stakeholders before proceeding. The plan for who will be tested should be publicized in advance so that the community has access in advance through social media and the County website. Most people in our community have been made aware of what an important piece of the puzzle testing is and are looking for more testing in Mendocino County. We cannot move forward without factual data and relying on models from other communities does not accurately reflect rural Mendocino County.

Most importantly we need to continue to be open and transparent with these tough conversations with our community. We need to clarify who is most at risk, this includes: Individuals over 65 years of age, Individuals who have serious chronic medical conditions like: Heart disease, Diabetes, Lung disease and individuals who have compromised immune systems. We need to make sure that our businesses, our residents and our elected have all the information that they need to make informed decisions. We need to make accessing signage and protocols as simple as possible for our businesses and community.

I am grateful for the opportunities that have been given to hear the Public Health Officer describe the reasons behind the Orders. I think our community really needs to understand why we are not collaborating with our neighboring rural northern California communities instead of the Bay Area. If there is a way that the Board could look at establishing guidelines that match what is relevant to our area, I would hope that we would be able to have an improved response from the community to the Public Health Orders. Mendocino County has done a great job of flattening the curve and with collaboration we can have a successful reopening as well. We need to create an official collaborative that is responsible to creating protocols and strategies for the reopening of our economy, our citizens need Leadership and support through this incredibly challenging time.

Stay safe and healthy,



Maureen Mulheren

### **What does a “Soft-Opening” look like for Mendocino County?**

The following guidelines are designed for business to follow regarding engaging with the public. Employee health, increased sanitation measures, crowd prevention etc. are outlined in the attached Statement of Protocols/Soft Open for Business.

All business must follow overall guidelines including potential customers allowed per square foot:

Traffic Flow and People Allowed in Store – 5 Customers per 1000 Sq ft

500 Ft and Under – 2-3 customers

500-1000 Sq Ft – 3-4 customers

Specific Operating Hours (potential early close times)

- Limited hours for customers to allow for adequate time to clean
- Designated Times for Compromised Customers (Including Disabled and Elders)
- Available by appointment only (as needed)

Adequate Signage to remind the customers about

- Where to wait
- Have hand sanitation station available
- Social Distancing requirements including marked locations (ie. chalked footprints, x-marks the spot) for standing/waiting along sidewalk – 6 ft. apart
- Facial Covering requirements
- Standard Covid-19 Signage: avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever, etc.

The County has an important role to play in making sure to have these printable forms readily available for business and community members on the County website and an opportunity to share with associated agencies

### **Retail – Open Up Downtown Small and Micro Business**

General – For Public

- Single Entry Door
- Admitted One by One – Customers admitted in a “one in; one out” method
- Marked and directed one-way movement throughout store
- Must always maintain 6 ft distance
- All customers must wear face coverings/masks
- Provide and require use of cloth face coverings/masks for employees
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes/sprays available at entrances and exits; strategically placed though out store
- Provide online ordering, curbside pickup and no contact checkout
- Assist routing through store
- Limited shopping surfaces open to the touch

### **Cosmetology, Barber and Esthetician Businesses**

The California Board of Barbering & Cosmetology requires that all operators perform services with the highest sanitation standards prior to Covid-19. Therefore, they are accustomed to sanitation protocols.

General

- Health and temperature check prior to appointment – no fever, coughing, etc. in last two weeks
- Only clients with appointment allowed in salon, no waiting in business. Must wait outside.
- Masks on clients and operators
- Operators must wear gloves
- Sanitize stations and shampoo bowls before and after each client
- Hand sanitizer provided at entrance and at station for clients

NOTE: sanitation solution company - Barbicide - which is used by all operators, has issued a statement that the EPA has approved its efficacy against the Human CoronaVirus including COVID-19 (link: <https://barbicide.com/barbicide-statement-regarding-covid-19/>).

### Tasting Rooms – Wineries

#### General

- Single Entry Door
- Single Exit Door, if possible.
- Admitted One by One – Customers admitted in a “one in; one out” method with members of the same household
- Marked and directed one-way movement throughout tasting room
- Provide and encourage use of cloth face coverings/masks for employees
- All guests must wear face coverings/masks entering the building
- Employees to use gloves and hand sanitizer often
- Tastings limited to set number of bottles/varietals
- Bottles handled by one person for entire day and discarded in outside recycle bin after shift
- Tastings conducted 6 ft distance, or if possible, by appointment
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes/sprays available at entrances and exits; strategically placed though out tasting area
- Glasses (cups) disposed after each tasting
- Provide curbside pickup and no contact checkout
- Assisted routing through tasting room

### Exercise Studio (Crossfit, Zumba, Yoga and similar)

- hand washing upon entrance
- increased hand sanitizer and hand washing stations on premises
- signage for compliance and education
- no sick, or recovering members with illness allowed
- increased working space for classes as well as transition times
- enhanced disinfectant requirements for equipment handling by staff and participants
- end of day floor and equipment cleaning/ some increased professional cleaning contracts
- observance of all public health recommendations regarding physical distancing
- decrease in class size
- minimal equipment use or body weight workouts only
- classes held outdoors as weather permitted
- requiring immunocompromised members to stay at home
- providing “at home” workouts and virtual support
- Post safety protocol signage throughout the building
- Each athlete has 75-100sq/ft of workout space
- Workouts use minimal equipment which is disinfected before and after each class
- Class size is limited based on space requirements
- Floor is cleaned and disinfected daily
- Hand sanitizer stations are present throughout gym space

Those attending classes may not be able to wear masks those leading classes could, however, could wear a mask without danger.

Wedding/Event Industry –

- Private events only
- Outdoor events with appropriate spacing
- Limited entrance and exit for indoor events
- Limit amount of guests allowed indoors including tiered increases in groups from 10 to 50 to 100 to 200 etc with time in between increase to determine if there are no additional cases

Adequate Signage to remind the customers about :

- Where to wait
- Have hand sanitation station available
- Social Distancing requirements including marked locations (ie. chalked footprints, x-marks the spot) for standing/waiting along sidewalk – 6 ft. apart
- Facial Covering requirements
- Standard Covid-19 Signage: avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever, etc.

There are many similar protocols that could be enacted for every business in our community and our businesses are ready and willing to work with the Public Health Officer to help establish these guidelines so they are prepared to open when its appropriate. They need direction on who to submit these inquiries to have their voices be heard.