

Hello;

I am Capt. Cass Forrington, owner of the Sea Glass Museum.

I was on Sen. McGuire's conference call last night and was **extremely** distressed to hear the public health officer say we are "no longer a tourist economy until there is a vaccine".

I find this to be completely naïve and off base. On the coast, ALL we are is a tourist economy, pandemic or no. What if there is never a vaccine? We still don't have one for AIDS or the common cold.

If you folks do not allow tourism June – August, even if it is limited, you will completely destroy the local economy.

This will have severe repercussions that could last decades.

We could lose the Skunk Train and the Botanical Gardens.

If the economy collapses, we will probably also lose our struggling hospital, which means retirees will have to move out.

The problem is, the public health officer does not trust people to do the right thing, even though the whole world now knows about mitigation procedures.

People can follow those procedures here just as well as at their home town.

Motels can hold a room for 2 days, or 3, before renting it again so they know there is no virus. Non-adjacent campsites can be utilized. There ARE other options.

What is the point in opening restaurants when there is no one here to eat in them?

Restaurants already run on slim margins. There are, by necessity, a lot of employees. If they can't sell enough meals to cover costs, they will not open and fold up.

Property prices will plummet. Foreclosures will eventually ensue. You can forget about developing the GP land.

Domestic violence and divorce will go up.

We haven't lost a soul to COVID yet, but if our economy doesn't open up, we will lose a lot of people to suicide, drugs, alcohol, etc.

You folks need to wake up and get public health on board. I am also disturbed to see public health does not have an email address. Why not?

I would appreciate a reply to this email.

Thank you,
Cass

Hello;

I sent you what is below yesterday and have noted your post about the lack of testing.

You do not need mobile units immediately to come up to speed on testing, though they should be gotten for the more rural areas.

All you need is 2 of the Abbot instant test machines. You put one in Fort Bragg and one in Ukiah. Then have people schedule 15 minute appointments on a 18/7 basis until we can expand it out. Do it as a drive thru so people don't have to get out of their cars. Each test takes 15 minutes so that is 72 tests/day/machine.

Mobilize the people, they will fight to get on the schedule.

We need some thinking outside of the box here. We HAVE to open our economy, testing or no, but the testing can be done.

If the state won't help, get our reps in DC on it.

Again, we have to open the economy as we build up our capacity. The alternative is catastrophic.

We **have** to trust people to do the right things to keep us safe when they visit, just like they would at home.

Stay Well

Cass