

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I support the revised ordinance presented to the Board of Supervisors today.

Making violations of the health order, especially not wearing facial coverings in public, an infraction rather than a misdemeanor makes great sense.

Perhaps even making violations similar to a parking citation would be even wiser and easier to enforce.

The key will be enforcement of the ordinance. I would suggest reviving the original Coronavirus task force that was disbanded in May. Making violations a fine would not necessarily require law enforcement to be involved.

I believe the county is receiving at least \$280,000 in funding from the Coronavirus Community Development Block Program grant and thousands more from the Department of Finance's Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Using at least a part of those dollars would be a wise investment in ensuring the safety of citizens, especially on the coast where we receive a disproportionate number of visitors from outside the area.

Anecdotally, I have noticed that many visitors do not abide by local face covering requirements. As an example, I was in Gualala on Saturday afternoon and observed dozens of people milling about without facial coverings and without social distancing. Local business owner in Point Arena have also expressed frustration with flouting of the rules from those outside the county.

There should be enforcement of facial covering and social distancing requirements, which doesn't even necessarily have to be punitive.

Some type of "task force" that is visible and present on the weekends in coastal locations such as Gualala, Point Arena, Mendocino, and Fort Bragg would be appreciated by local residents.

Expecting businesses to enforce facial covering requirements does not seem fair and can actually be counterproductive to their bottom line.

It seems like many non-locals need a friendly reminder. Those that are intransigent should receive a fine.

The tourism industry is of great benefit to the County of Mendocino and reopening is welcomed, but we need to ensure the safety of our local residents.

I appreciate the Board of Supervisors holding this special meeting to address an issue of great importance to residents of our coastal communities and the County as a whole.

Thank you,

Paul Andersen  
Point Arena