

For the Tuesday board meeting

To whom it may concern ,

My name is Emilie Cavallari and I am the new manicurist at Luscious Beauty Boutique and Day Spa.

This has been an extremely trying time for all small businesses, but as I look around and appreciate my fellow community members and their efforts to keep their business doors open, I can't ignore the fact that all of my friends and family members working within my industry have unfairly been forced to shut down while our small business neighbors remain open with no logical explanation as to why it had been set up this way.

My business is 100% essential.

It is essential for my mom, who cannot reach her toes easily and desperately needs a trim.

It is essential for my brother, who is diabetic and needs special care, but can't afford a visit to the podiatrist.

It is essential for my father, who has arthritis so bad that he can barely make a fist at times, and something as simple as a basic manicure with heat therapy can alleviate his pain.

I am not a doctor, but I am a healer. In order to attain my job title, I went through months of vigorous training with the focus being on sanitation and cleanliness. I know what to do to keep my community safe while still performing my job that, COVID present or not, requires sanitation practices that are on a higher level than almost every business that is open right now in Mendocino County.

What I need to make very clear is that I have spent the past 10 years of my life implementing the very strict sanitation guidelines that it takes to run and operate a business like mine. I have gone through 400 hours of training, with the FOUNDATION of my training being focused on sanitation and health hazard prevention. I pride myself on my thoroughness within my practice, and my clients come to me because of this.

Due to Covid shut downs, I have recently relocated back to Willits from Santa Cruz. I was forced to shut down with barely any warning, which after two months caused the initial move. After arriving in Willits and finding Luscious, I had been told I could open up again. I then began to rebuild a clientele only to be told I have to shut down, again, with very little warning.

I have followed all guidelines including temperature checks, handwashing practices, state board-level sanitation of all surfaces and tools and multiple physical barriers between my client and I including gloves, plexiglass shields and sneeze guards.

The idea that it is safe to walk into a boutique to purchase an item, but it is not safe to sit down behind four layers of physical barrier and get a manicure from a well practiced and gloved technician makes no logical sense whatsoever.

The shut down has been extremely hard on everybody, but we all know that small businesses have been hit the hardest by far. After relocating and moving everything I own, including my business, I'm writing to simply ask that salon services in Mendocino County are able to open and operate indoors again, so we can all get back to work in our safe and controlled environment and continue to provide services that are absolutely essential to this community.

Emilie Cavallari

Nail Technician and independent contractor at Luscious Beauty Boutique and Day Spa