

Dear Board of Supervisors

As a local business owner that cares about our community and our members health we have done everything we can to comply with the Heath orders. We are running our business that has been impacted by the current SIP health order that is more stringent than the state since July 25th. I am writing to request a discussion as to the reasoning of some of the restrictions put in place. Now that we are officially on the state watch list it would be great to have local support headed up. There are millions of people in the state, there is only 58 counties. Your voice will carry much more weight than a regular small business.

It is increasingly apparent this is an ongoing event not a 2week, or even a 3 month event. We must find a way to balance the health and economy impact in our response to COVID-19

The increased restrictions have not seemed to reduced the cases, a lot of the orders seem to target small businesses. Salons and gyms have some of the most stringent guidelines for cleaning and have no substantial evidence that it's the source of infection.

What comes from these places is, health, confidence, self esteem, and a sense of self worth not COVID-19. The guidelines have stripped this from our community and people.

From the beginning it's been said that regular hand washing, keeping hands away from your face, increasing your immunity, staying healthy (exercise), and reduceing stress are all helpful to fight this virus. We have heard this from the beginning, but one of the places with the most restrictions is health clubs or fitness centers. I understand that heavy breathing takes place in gyms and can build up the concentration of the COVID-19 virus inside the facility. I feel our local gym owners know this are are doing everything in their power to reduce this threat.

At The Ukiah Valley Athletic Club we are taking the following measures. We have UV-C lights (to kill mold, virus, germs as it circulates air) in almost all HVAC units; we have opened up the economizers (to maximize fresh outside air intake) on all the units; we disinfect every night; we have supplemental powerful air scrubbers running 24 hours a day (when the inside is open) we clean throughout the day; we police the facility from open to close; we make sure people are wearing masks and are cleaning equipment when done. We have gone above and beyond all health orders to ensure a safe and healthy atmosphere. We are the only heated therapy pool in the county for people that have arthritic or other conditions that limit their time in cooler water or on land. We are the only public indoor swimming pool for people that are sensitive to sun.

Here is some information gathered from around the US about gyms and the threat or spread of the virus.

We were able to participate in this study by sending our data to them as well MXMetrics.com

RESULTS Note: the final numbers are posted on the MXMetrics.com home page

- 255 gym operators participated
 - 2,873 locations provided total check-ins since re-opening and total Covid 19 cases identified –
called in about a member who had visited or employee who worked there
 - 49.4 Million Check-ins / member visits
 - 1,155 instances where a member or employee was identified as having Covid 19 and visited a facility. These are not cases contracted at a gym. Covid could have been acquired anywhere.
 - 0.0023% of member visits had someone identified as positive, = 2.3 per 100,000 member visits
- àLet's compare to the rate of auto accidents. In 2018, there were 0.00208 accidents per 1,000 miles driven in the US*, = 0.208 accidents per 100,000 miles. The chance of encountering a person with Covid in a visit to a gym is about the same as the chance of experiencing an accident driving a car 11 miles.
- Over 85% of data was provided by organizations that answer to investment banks and have risk management discipline in place.

We have adopted to the current health order with bringing a lot of the gym equipment and operations outdoors. This is a challenge but one we embraced and have worked with. So far with the exception of yesterday, the weather has worked with us to allow this to happen. We are concerned when we start getting rain having hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment outdoors will not work.

We are willing to build a permanent overhang to allow for us to remain outdoors. However the preliminary talks it sounds like it may not work due to planning and building and having the ALCU overlay. We are wanting to keep this community asset open and running however with the added restrictions and the lack of support or cooperation from our local county this may not be achievable. The City of Ukiah is waiving many permit fees, and fast tracking items to help businesses comply with COVID-19. Without support from our local officials when the weather changes it will likely close down all gyms. When the weather changes, chances are the weather will not be good for any outdoor exercise of any kind. Our community depends on us for therapy, health, for swim lessons to save kids lives, exercise and for a reduction of stress. Gyms depend on the paying members to keep bills paid and employees on the roster. When

Covid started UVAC had 87 employees and we are down to 43 now, that's a 50% reduction of employees from the first shut down.

Please let's help our community and reevaluate what businesses are closed, let's reevaluate where the spread and threat is. Let's not continue to punish businesses that are trying to do the right thing and trying to help make a difference.

The following is a few things that that we have tried to do, not only our business but the community. We were denied by these by the county planning and building. We understand why it was denied by them, but in times like this, some exceptions leniency and support should be in place when businesses are trying to comply and help out in these areas: we purchased a 25 foot movie screen and drive in set up to keep our services similar to before (we used to do BBQ's and movies), this was going to allow us to move that to the parking lot in cars to comply with COVID-19, and we would allow more than just members come. The county planning said no, Due to the ALCU overlay a theater would not comply. We tried to do it at 2 other locations we have and told no because it's zoned industrial and outdoor recreation is not allowed there. We are trying to build a canopy to allow us better comfort outdoors and to remain open when we get rain, in the talks I have had so far I was told it would most likely be turned down.

As you can see we are a small business trying our best to help our community and trying to survive. We love our community and have the upmost respect for our county officials and staff. We would love some help to see what we can do to keep the doors open while respecting the health orders. We know you are not supposed to go less stringent than the state, but you can help businesses that are trying to comply and trying to keep COVID-19 down.

With your help, support and voice, we can work towards a better health/economy for our county.

Please feel free to call me at anytime with any questions

John Strangio