

**Julie Enea**

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**Subject:** FW: AD Hoc Committee on Covid - Public Comment

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**From:** Susan Morgan  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 3:48 PM  
**To:** Chris Wikler <[Chris.Wikler@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:Chris.Wikler@bos.cccounty.us)>  
**Cc:** Susan Morgan  
**Subject:** AD Hoc Committee on Covid - Public Comment

Thank you Chris. Can you please submit the below as a public comment to the May 7 meeting of the Ad Hoc committee, to be read into the public record (Public Comment: Elective Surgery):

I am asking the Health Department to consider allowing certain critical medical procedures, that are currently classified as “elective”, to be allowed to take place immediately, under appropriate safety protocols. These procedures include cataract surgery, where the patients eyes and sight have deteriorated to a point of visual difficulty in seeing, reading and functioning. Delaying such procedures can threaten blindness and life of the patient. Doctors performing these procedures can identify those cases that are more critical, and put in place the appropriate safety protocols, in their surgical centers or office facilities where these procedures are performed on an out-patient basis, to safely proceed with the necessary surgery. Calling these cases “elective” is truly a misnomer, and a grave disservice to the patients suffering from such visual loss. The Governor has allowed all so-called “elective” surgeries to take place now, with appropriate safety measures – shouldn’t Contra Costa at least allow the more serious of these cases to proceed, under those protocols? It is quite cruel to deny these patients the medical care that their doctors are prepared to provide, and that they so desperately need. Let the doctors decide which of their cases are sufficiently advanced to require immediate attention, and allow them to proceed now under appropriate safety guidelines. Let the doctors know that they may provide these critical procedures now, rather than be forced to delay these surgeries for their most critical patients.

Thank you,

**Susan Morgan**