



May 5, 2020

Anna Roth RN, MS, MPH,

Director, Contra Costa County Health Services

Re: COVID -19 Guidelines

The Lafayette business community would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for the steps Contra Costa County Health Services and the neighboring Bay Area counties have taken in managing this crisis. Understandably, the measures imposed were made with a broad brush and those decisions saved thousands of lives. We all know there were sacrifices and tradeoffs that needed to be made. We are not eager to rush the re-opening of the economy. However, we do believe that there are some prudent steps the county could allow that would keep our residents safe and let many of our small businesses get back to work.

We absolutely agree that basic safety precautions need to be followed by all businesses and customers. Crowd control, distancing, create extra space in isles, masks and in some cases gloves, proper postings for staff and customers and enforcement by business owners are all critical. Anything less should be considered non-conforming and irresponsible.

We have two requests that would allow modest business activity as soon as possible while providing safety for customers and workers:

- We believe Governor Newsom's plan for allowing early "stage 2" relaxation of business rules makes sense. If it has been deemed safe to do food pick up curbside, we believe that retail can do curbside pickup safely as well. We would like that capability as well in Lafayette as soon as possible.
- We also would like you to consider allowing retail business and the service industry to have one-on-one appointments within the business establishment while allowing time between visits to practice reoccurring sanitation procedures.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has roughly 600 members. More than half of our members are business of 1-2 people. It is no secret they are struggling. We believe these small steps will allow many of these businesses to get back on their feet and begin contributing to our local economy. There has

never been a more important time in our history for the disposable income our residents spend to stay in Lafayette and Contra Costa County.

All of us are in this together. Our tenacity to stay the course with social distancing and hygiene “best practices” is essential to move to the next phases planned by the Governor. You have received many letters from communities like Lafayette urging you to be safe but be fair. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce supports decisions that are founded in facts, science and fairness.

Please consider these recommendations when you review the next phase to arrive at our “new normal.”

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Lifson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Lifson

Executive Director

Cc: Chris Farnitano, MD
Supervisor Candace Anderson
John McCormick