

Julie Enea

Subject: FW: The wrong businesses are being closed - unlawful opening of small business
Attachments: Reopening_PersonalCare (1).pdf

From: Nicole Lecher
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:56 AM
Cc: Scott Schubiger
Subject: The wrong businesses are being closed - unlawful opening of small business

This is a plea for Contra Costa County to permit personal care services businesses, which were scheduled to reopen on July 1, to reopen and no longer delay without any date. Estheticians and cosmetologists are all licensed by the State of California, Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, yet the State and County have selected certain groups within this industry such as hair salons and barber shops to reopen (June 19th) while preventing other businesses including waxing, lashes, tattooing, massage, facials from reopening. How would this be no different if the decision had been made to allow pizza restaurants to open but not steak houses?

CCHS has acknowledged that they have closely monitored the key data and it show that the spread all the virus in the County is attributed to an increase in young people under 40 years of age. This is similar to the trend across the country and is attributed to mass gatherings and family gathers without social distancing– most likely as a result of mass protesting without masks. Governor Newsom on Sunday recommended Contra Costa not open bars. There was no recommendation as to any delay of reopening of any other business in the July 1 reopen phase. The operation of personal care businesses does not create a venue for mass gatherings of young people. To the contrary. most salons and spas are well-sanitized and operated in smaller places. I can speak to my business, LunchboxWax, where all of our services are performed in private suites in which only the guest and the professional are permitted to be in during the time of services. The lobby area is set up and regulated for social distancing, all guests and professionals wear masks at all times, and temperatures are taken at check-in and we abide by all the requirements issued by the State in the *CoVid-19 Industry Guidance: Expanded Personal Services*, released June 12.

As per an earlier request and as data is critical for decision making, I am sharing data to show our operations across the country. After performing over 45,817 services as of June 29, 2020 (since Co-Vid reopening) , and having served 45,817 guests, we can report zero incidences with guests. I would like to point out that we have a number of salons that help make up these numbers in areas with similar restrictions. These include Portland OR, Boston, and the states of CT and NJ -which of course have the most stringent protocols. We were able to open salons in CA, including Los Angeles (having met the criteria in the attached document), San Diego and Costa Mesa.

Furthermore, the lack of enforcement of the permitted businesses to reopen has allowed many businesses to open illegally and continue to offer services that all prohibited at this time. Specifically in San Ramon (threading – where the mask is pulled down and thread placed in their mouth) and Walnut Creek there personal service business that opened on June 19 offering exclusively facial services; Other hair salons which were permitted to be open are likewise performing/offering facial services including tinting (which is illegal in the State of California regardless of Co-Vid). Law abiding citizens and business owners who are working with the County for the safe reopening are losing their livelihoods and their employees and have to sit by and watch illegal operations continue without any enforcement.

Please, the County needs to make the decision that does not continue to cripple the hundreds of small law abiding business owners who have had NO revenue since March 17th and are battling with landlords who are demanding 100% of rent and NNN. We need your help.

Thank you in advance for addressing this most critical need.

Best regards,
Nicky

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