

**Julie Enea**

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**Subject:** FW: question for 17th meeting

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**From:** Laura Magu

**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 10:12 AM

**To:** SupervisorMitchoff

**Cc:** Jay Lifson

**Subject:** question for 17th meeting

Dear Supervisor Mitchoff,

I am a restaurant owner in Lafayette. Over the last 8 months, we have all been in uncharted territory, and I can't imagine the struggles you face trying to make the best decisions for Contra Costa County. This latest pre-emptive shut down caught me by surprise. The state set limits, based on their best (guess?) with the grouping of counties and shut down mandates. Two of those (playgrounds and store capacity) have since been revised. The county made the decision to override what the state felt was a needed plan. The move was done after it was pointed out our area has done better than others.

What SCIENCE was used to make the decision to close outdoor dining? As an employer who has just reduced the hours of my remaining staff by 20%, thus reducing their pay 20% and laid off 25% of my workforce for a minimum of a month, what do you say to them? These are people who are in the "very low" to "extremely low" median income range. These shut down are hurting families who live pay-check to pack-check. What studies / contract tracing have been done to CONFIRM that outdoor dining needs to be shut down? Our tables are socially distanced, staff & guests are masked, we sanitize between use. I don't know of ONE restaurant that has been the source of an outbreak of guests while outdoor dining.

We are hearing doctors, CDC, psychologists come out against these drastic lockdowns. When I watch county meetings and read the responses from county official such as yourself, I don't see any empathy or scientific based facts that tract the spread to outdoor dining. I see anger and frustration for people not listening and following the rules - however our elected state and other Bay Area city leaders are not following the rules. No county or state official has backed up the reasoning for these lockdowns. It's as if we're supposed to do it because a group of people who are collecting very good salaries, who have not had this impact them financially (and don't believe the supposed risks) just said so, while providing no solid reason?

Specific facts are what people have been asking for. Yet what we get is anger and frustration from you and other elected officials. We don't get an answer. Please answer the question, and if you can't, then open the county back up.

Laura Magu  
owner REVE