



CITY OF CORONADO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RICHARD BAILEY

December 7, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The rising number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths bring a renewed sense of urgency to develop an effective public health policy based on data and common sense.

A policy that mitigates risks associated with the pandemic by temporarily restricting some business operations and personal activities that significantly contribute to the spread of COVID-19 is prudent. Likewise, measuring hospital capacity on a regional basis to make better use of resources is sensible.

However, the latest health order appears neither prudent nor sensible.

There is no data to suggest outdoor dining is responsible for the rising number of cases or hospitalizations. The rates of transmission occurring at gyms and personal care services, according to data from the county of San Diego Department of Health, are only marginal when protocols are in place.

Under the new health order, although hospital metrics from the county of San Diego are currently below the threshold necessary to trigger these closures, San Diego is subject to metrics from counties as far north as Mono, which is physically closer to the state of Utah than to the county of San Diego.

A policy that closes local businesses based on metrics from counties that are over 400 miles away will not reduce cases or save lives, but it will put tens of thousands of people out of work and further erode the public's trust in the health orders.

I respectfully request you reconsider the latest health order and implement a new public health strategy known in the medical community as "harm reduction." This approach emphasizes best practices to protect the most vulnerable population while allowing businesses to stay open with protocols in place.

The vast majority of Californians want to do the "right thing," but they are growing weary of policies that are inconsistent, arbitrary, and ineffective. I believe the public would welcome a new strategy.

Respectfully,

Richard P. Bailey
Mayor, City of Coronado