

**From:** [Douglas M. Harris](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Covid-19 Reopening and Public Health Concerns  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 1:19:14 PM

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To: Lake County Board of Supervisors

I want to urge you to exercise great caution and employ the best strategies public health expertise has to offer in considering reopening of economic activity, travel, and other features of routine life in our county.

My biggest concerns are that I see minimal heed being paid to use of face coverings, social distancing, and other protective measures that minimize transmission of the virus. I fully understand that economic hardship is very harsh. A thriving economy with a virus-devastated population is an oxymoron. I understand that without firm control of the virus the return to economic vitality is not possible. One does not exist without the other.

We are approaching two Vietnam Wars worth of deaths in this country. Covid-19 has, in the flash of two months, gone from not appearing on the list of the 100 most common causes of deaths in the U.S. to the top of that list. Outside of New York State, deaths have not plateaued but continue to rise. We have been very fortunate in Lake County precisely because of our isolation, and quick action early on to deal with misguided people from outside the county who thought flocking to Clear Lake to socialize was a good option. It is foolhardy to risk our fortunate position with lax public health policies.

I strongly urge setting and enforcing clear expectations about the use of face coverings and social distancing, etc., as economic activity gradually expands. We regulate who can drive cars when, where, how, etc. We regulate when, where, and how firearms may be discharged. We mandate vaccinations of children upon entering school. We control how and where alcohol is consumed and purchase and by whom. We do all these things and more which constrict our options because we want to reduce risk of great harm to members of the community at large. This situation requires the same analysis and serious measures promoted by the best public health expertise available.

Thank you.

Doug Harris, Clearlake, CA

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