

**From:** [respiratory124@mchsi.com](mailto:respiratory124@mchsi.com)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Board members/item #7.4  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 1:10:14 PM

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To: Moke Simon, Honorable Chair  
Lake County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Simon:

Please accept this letter of strong support for the proposed urgency ordinance establishing a civil enforcement process for Covid-19-related public health orders.

I am compelled to write the board as licensed respiratory care practitioner in the state of California and a national registered respiratory therapist. I have been practicing for 20 years now and a lake county resident for 12 years. I had the opportunity to work for Sutter Lakeside hospital for 8 years prior to accepting a position at Kaiser in Santa Rosa. I am seeing first hand how this virus behaves and whom it is effecting. I've also witnessed how effective social distancing and efforts such as masking and increased awareness in hand hygiene have undoubtedly helped dampen the curve. Right now I'm witnessing the increase in covid cases and have worked with several of the worst. Let me tell you- this is no flu and it behaves differently in many of its victims. When the pandemic first hit I thought for sure I'd see mostly older people and so far the patients I've worked with have been predominantly middle aged Hispanic males and essential workers- some with no preexist conditions. It takes enormous resources to deal with one of these patients in the critical care. Our small county hospitals are no match for this virus and will be easily overwhelmed with just a few of these critical cases. It takes 4 to 5 nurses and respiratory therapist to turn, rotate and prone a ventilated patient that has multiple I/V lines, arterial catheters and tubes in every orifice- many times it appears the patient is recovering and they crash again- we are constantly walking a tight rope in keeping them stable. if the breathing gets better we still have to deal with the blood clots, strokes, pulmonary embolisms and many other horrifying aspects of the virus. It is honestly unlike anything I've ever seen and I've worked through some of the worst flu epidemics. It feels as if this virus toying with us. I honestly felt less anxiety back in my Army days as a sergeant working during desert shield because at least I know what I was dealing with. Because of HIPPA there are many things I can not disclose. If I were not working the front lines, I'd be at this board meeting to give more clarity.

I'm beyond disappointed that Dr. Gary Paces recommendations are not being adhered to. The simplest being that of a face covering. I'm working with patients who are normally productive members of society that now have to go on medical leave and disability because they can not work during the reopening because people refuse to mask up and they have fragile lungs or ongoing immune disorders. Many essential workers have compromised loved ones at home that will die if they bring this virus home. The least we can do as a human and civilized society is enforce a respectable amount of social distancing and face coverings. Native, Hispanic and African american communities are being disproportionately effected. I am 100% convinced we can significantly slow the spread of this virus and not overburden our small local hospitals with these simple measures. I'm asking the board of supervisors to stand on the right side of history. I know there is incredible backlash from a small segment of our county making a lot of noise and threats, I promise that I and many others will stand with the board and champion your efforts in keeping our beloved county safe.

In solidarity

Stephanie M Pahwa