

RELIEF FROM COUNTY-WIDE RESTRICTIONS

Did you read or hear that last week Governor Gruesome Newsom announced a relaxing of restrictions for certain counties, so that restaurants, churches, gyms, etc., could again reopen while observing certain rules? Of course, San Bernardino County was not included and remains under the most stringent orders, leaving small businesses and churches⁽¹⁾ struggling to survive or to decide whether to obey government or God.

Why are we in the corner with the other naughty counties? Because such a large proportion of the population of this county is densely populated cities, so that county virus statistics are relatively high when compared to others. So we in the desert who are not naughty are treated as if we were naughty just because we are part of a naughty county.

As our heroic School Superintendent Peter Livingston demonstrated, Lucerne Valley should NOT be held to the same restrictions as the urban areas down below. Our local virus stats are very low, and on that basis, he won a waiver for our elementary school to reopen. Now even the middle-high school can have very limited classroom sessions.

Last Wednesday (9/9), I wrote to the members of the County Board of Supervisors, requesting that Lucerne Valley and low-risk desert areas be placed in the same category as the other low-risk counties so that the severe lockdown restrictions would be lessened here. I don't know if there is such a thing as a waiver for a region of a county, but I thought I would ask anyway. Here is what I wrote:

PLEASE GRANT US A WAIVER OF THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE LOCKDOWN IN THE RURAL DESERT AREAS!

As you can see and undoubtedly know already, Newsom has

⁽¹⁾You probably already know that as far as State rules about churches are concerned, I say the rule-makers can go straight to the place they're gonna go anyway, only a little sooner!

relaxed more restrictions on more counties, San Bernardino County NOT included!

As our elementary school, and marginally the middle-high school have been able to do (bless Peter Livingston!), we need a waiver to the county lockdown due to the low risk and low statistics in our area.

In this huge, geographically diverse county, it makes little sense to subject all areas to the same "standards" or one-size-fits-all restrictions.

We need to be able to reopen our Deli Café to indoor seating, as customers are requesting. We need to restore normal human interactions, including pleasant neighboring and small community relationships, as much as we possibly can. Our entrepreneurial restaurants need to be able to open, if they even have been able to survive all of this. Churches should never have been subjected to this lockdown in the first place.

Please issue us an exemption ASAP!

I didn't expect a positive answer, but I had some hope that our Supervisor, Dawn Rowe, would at least stand up for us and try, since she is exceptionally responsive and cooperative. The good news is that she did respond, to show me a letter that the County sends to the State health bureaucracy each week. Here are portions of the letter:

While California's new guidelines contained in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy offer counties a simpler, more limited set of metrics, the immediate impact on San Bernardino County residents and businesses is fairly limited. With the exception of barbershops and hair salons now having the option to serve patrons indoors, and indoor shopping malls opening again with limited capacity,

most of the previous restrictions are still in place.

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the nation, spanning more than 20,000 square miles. Our cities range from urban to rural, and the impact of COVID-19 varies by community, necessitating that we adopt different strategies to minimize the spread of infection.

Many of our communities exist in remote and isolated parts of the county, where the infection rate has been substantially lower than other parts of the county. For instance, the community of Lucerne Valley has seen a positivity rate of 2.8 percent, while Lake Arrowhead has seen a positivity rate of 4.2 percent over the past 14 days. Higher-density communities such as Bloomington and San Bernardino are experiencing significantly higher positivity rates, requiring more inter-

COVID-19 at a far less-intensive rate than other areas within the County.

I confess that I'm pleasantly surprised to know that our County has recognized this issue, even BEFORE hearing from me (cough, cough!). I never thought that anyone beyond Dawn Rowe and Robert Lovingood even knew the desert existed, but it seems that they do, and probably because our two desert Supervisors won't let them forget!

Let's see if the Comrades of the People's Republic of California in Sacramento will listen and respond with any kind of common sense. (Hahahahahahaha-haha.....)

Linda Gimmel

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

L.V. 5TH ANNUAL MEGA SWAP MEET

Saturday, October 3, 8AM to 3PM. Sellers will be at 6 different locations around Lucerne Valley. The spaces at the store and the LV Chamber are sold out. Look for the flyer on the bulletin board for other locations with spaces.

- Lucerne Valley Market
- "Do it Best" Hardware
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- Crossroads Center

e-mail address: Market.Hardware@lucernevalleymarket.com
website: lucernevalleymarket.com

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Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

SOME LOCKDOWN HUMOR

1. My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

2. Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow romaine to be seen.

3. My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!

4. Yesterday I ran out of soap and body wash and all I could find was dish detergent. Then it dawned on me.

5. I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!



6. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog—we laughed a lot.

7. Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line.

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
County Administrative Office
Gary McBride
Chief Executive Officer

September 4, 2020

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
1600 Ninth Street, Suite 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sandra Shewry
Dr. Erica Pan
California Department of Public Health
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

RE: Communities with Low Rates of Infection

Dear Secretary Ghaly, Director Shewry, and Health Officer Pan,

On behalf of San Bernardino County, thank you for taking into consideration the varying individual needs of California's diverse geographic regions as the State reopens the economy based on safety indicators. We appreciate your partnership with our local government, as well as your efforts to ensure the safety and health of all Californians. Our highest priority is also the well-being of our residents and we maintain a deep and ongoing commitment to their overall health.

While California's new guidelines contained in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy offer counties a simpler, more limited set of metrics, the immediate impact on San Bernardino County residents and businesses is fairly limited. With the exception of barbershops and hair salons now having the option to serve patrons indoors, and indoor shopping malls opening again with limited capacity, most of the previous restrictions are still in place.

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vention than the more-rural communities. . . .

As the County directly addresses the needs of our urban communities, we respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss strategies to assist our rural communities. Specifically, the County would like to discuss the possibility of reopening businesses in communities consistently experiencing