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SUBJECT: Additional Reopening Plan,

To Del Norte County residents;

We have had a lot of questions about the announcement last week by the Governor's office and the State Health Department (CDPH), about allowing counties to partially move into the next stage of reopening. As I had promised to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting this week, we have been working on a strategy to introduce the allowed businesses back into Del Norte in a stepwise manner that allows time to measure the impact. What we need to do is to assure that whatever plan we decide on is safe enough to be rolled out. That is the hard part, how do you measure safety for something that is untried? We, along with the rest of the state, have been in shelter-in-place for months. We have only just restarted parts of the economy, maybe 3-4 weeks of experience in total, and many individual businesses have not jumped at the chance to re-open. Nobody has a lot of experience to draw upon.

But what we do know is that our first experiences with the virus in April (3 cases) and mid-May (the other 44 cases) shows that transmission can happen here in Del Norte, but is usually relatively slow and can be impacted by case contact tracing. And that is the goal nationwide; put the tools in place everywhere to trace the contacts of known cases and get them to go on self-quarantine. That is simply the best way there is to slow or stop the virus, short of staying in shelter-in-place mode forever. We track it down and do our best to shut it down. It has been done very successfully in other places around the world, and has enabled those places to continue much of their daily life, although even in those places, people do things differently than before (like universally wearing face coverings and universally isolating and quarantining when they are told that they need to do so.)

So, we need to continue to open the local activity in the community, and for the most part the state strategy right now is focusing on areas that have greater economic impact. The areas in business that have been moved from Stage 3 to Stage 2 of reopening include all the following; Outdoor Recreation, Campgrounds, RV Parks, Hotels and Vacation Rentals, Bars and Wineries, Fitness Centers, Family Entertainment (which includes bowling, movies and arcades), Museums, Galleries, Zoos and Aquariums, Racetracks, Satellite Wagering, and Cardrooms. That is quite a lot, and much of it is pertinent to our county. The earliest date available is June 12th, if we as a county feel we are in a position to take advantage of the opportunity to open as early as possible. In addition, there are some statewide changes, one of which has an impact on all the rest. Travel for non-essential purposes is still not encouraged, but is no longer strictly forbidden by state order. We have already seen travelers shirking the order but we will undoubtedly see more now that the order is modified.

I have already told the Board in their meeting this week that opening everything at once is not on the table, not on my watch anyway. That would be reckless, and not very strategic. Our original plan to reopen is now pretty much out of date as it was spread out over about 12-16 weeks, to allow measurement of the effects of reopening. However, that plan was not designed with statewide contact tracing available and we have learned a few things along the way about what to expect. So, we are still going to open in steps but I think that we can move things into play a little faster than we had planned before.

In consultation with a number of people in the county, (City and County government, and EOC task force) we have come up with the following schedule;

June 12- Campgrounds, RV parks, Vacation Rentals can open to non-essential travelers. Hotels can also open to such travelers, but only up to 50% capacity. Aquariums and Outdoor Recreation can open. (Outdoor Recreation refers to commercial operations, such as kayak tours, or guided bicycle rides.)

June 26th- Hotels can move to full capacity. Museums, Galleries, and Family entertainment can open.

July 10th- Fitness Centers can open.

July 24th- Bars can open.

This will space the effect of the re-introduction of all these activities over at least the next 6-8 weeks. We have stratified the various activities based on what we consider to be the risk involved of re-opening them, and have grouped them accordingly. Each group of businesses will have specific orders to allow re-opening. The date for opening is the earliest that they may, and depends on submitting plan documents to us, to show that they have taken COVID-19 into account as they re-open for business and that they have consulted the website that has CDPH Guidance for each type of business. The Governor's press release also mentioned Casinos, which are largely tribally owned in California-we know that 2 of 3 casinos in Del Norte have already opened in a partial fashion.

Some are not going to be happy about this plan, but there is no way to make everyone happy with this and do it with any degree of safety. We have concerns about the risks of businesses that are on this list, just by the nature of what goes on in their business. Some businesses just need more planning and attention to detail to avoid problems from COVID-19.

And here is the most important part about this-since we are moving into uncharted territory with this next stage, **everyone in the county needs to be more careful than ever.**

- Wear masks in public places
- Don't go anywhere when you are sick
- Practice good hygiene
- Get tested for COVID
- And most of all, if you are vulnerable to COVID-19 by virtue of age or illness, stay sheltering-in-place. The world is going to be less safe for you.
- And lastly, if you think you might have COVID-19, and are waiting for a test result, STAY HOME and isolate yourself, and start thinking about who you might have come in contact with. If your test is positive, or someone that you have been in contact with has a positive test, we are going to be giving you a call-be prepared to help us figure out who in your life might have been exposed as well. That is the best way to protect your friends and family, and the best way for us to protect the community.

We really need people to keep the personal habits to prevent COVID front and center in their daily life, and to be ready to help us with contact tracing. These are the best ways to avoid the worst outcome, that COVID disease starts to take hold in our county, and we are forced to go back to shelter-in-place. People need to know that this is a possibility, and having to do so would undo a lot of hard work, and put a lot of Del Norte residents at risk. We do not want to see the reopening fall apart, so help us keep this process safe for all!

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