
From: Thomas Boo
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:21 AM
To: Simply Massage Mammoth
Cc: Queenie Barnard; Frank Frievalt; Jamie Gray; Dan Holler; Christian Milovich; Keirsten Anderson; Robert Lawton; Stuart Brown
Subject: RE: Personal Services

Greetings. The pandemic rules (orders) pertaining to “personal services” are state, not local. It can definitely be confusing. My take on the situation is that massage is permitted, but only outdoors because Mono is on the Monitoring List. If you can make it work outdoors please go ahead, with the precautions detailed in state guidance, here:

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/expanded-personal-services--en.pdf>

Tom Boo

From: Simply Massage Mammoth <simplymassagemammoth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:08 AM
To: Thomas Boo <tboo@mono.ca.gov>
Cc: Queenie Barnard <qbarnard@mono.ca.gov>; Frank@mlfd.ca.gov; jgray@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Subject: Personal Services

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Hello, we have attached a letter pertaining to the recent "personal services" closures. We hope that you take the time to read our letter.

Thank you

Melanie and Jamie

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Simply Massage Mammoth, LLC

Tel 760-709-1329

simplymassagemammoth@gmail.com

www.simplymassagemammoth.com

We are reaching out to express our deep concern about the continued closure of what's been deemed as "non-essential" businesses in Mono County. We can find no reasonable justification as to why an acupuncturist, physical therapist and chiropractor are considered essential and still able to operate when we have the same protocols and contact with our clients as Massage Therapists.

We have been operating as a successful business in Mammoth Lakes since 2004. Since then we have grown our staff to over 21 people. On March 15th we had to lay off all of our employees. Considering the devastation we were seeing worldwide this was completely justified. We were mandated by the state to remain completely closed until we were allowed to reopen June 19th. Our business self certified and on June 19th we reopened with half of our staff ready and excited to work with our Covid- 19 safety protocols in place. During the short time we were operational we followed all guidelines to ensure the safety to our staff and our clients. As a business having been closed for 3 months, we were feeling positive about moving forward and motivated to make revenue to cover our past due rents to our landlord and to see a future in remaining a business in our beloved community of Mammoth Lakes. Upon being put on the state watch list July 23rd, once again we were forced to close our doors July 26th at noon. Sadly we laid off our Massage Therapists for a second time.

Currently we see no future in being able to stay in business in Mammoth Lakes moving forward. Our rent in the village is expensive and we are past due over \$45,000. In speaking with our landlords August 4th, they informed us there will be no forgiveness in past due rent, nor any reductions in rent. All rent past due is owed otherwise we will be threatened with eviction. We have another 3.5 years on our lease to the tune of over \$350,000 which we are 100% responsible for. There are currently no protections for commercial tenants in Mono county, besides the eviction moratorium that is due to expire the end of September with the state.

The continued closure of our business does not only affect us as business owners, it affects all the people no longer employed with us and unable to work in their profession in Mono County. It also affects the people in need of the services we provide. We consider ourselves an "essential" part of this community. We can no longer justify the continued closure of "personal service" businesses in this county when supermarkets, restaurants, liquor stores, retail stores as well as many other businesses remain open.

We in the healing profession, are trained from day one on safety protocols. As business owners, we know best how our business operates, and have put plenty of time and thought in how to navigate and protect our employees, customers and vendors through this pandemic. We are requesting that the town assist us in any way possible so that we can survive this mandatory shutdown. We kindly ask for your consideration in allowing us to re-open with very specific protocols.

Thank you,

Melanie and Jamie
Simply massage Mammoth, LLC

From: Alisa Mokler Harper <amokler@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Lynda Salcido <lsalcido@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>; Thomas Boo <tboo@mono.ca.gov>; Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>; Jennifer Kreitz <jkreitz@mono.ca.gov>; Fred Stump <fstump@mono.ca.gov>; Bob Gardner <bgardner@mono.ca.gov>; jpeters@mono.ca.gov <jpeters@mono.ca.gov>

Cc: Ken Brengle <kbrengle@MammothLakesChamber.org>

Subject: Concerns, Frustrations and Requests of the Mammoth Lakes Restaurant Industry

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Hello all--

I know that you are extremely busy (overwhelmed and exhausted I'm sure), so I will put the main point up front, with supporting evidence below.

The restaurant industry of Mammoth Lakes feels unheard. We feel that we have been vilified. We feel that we continue to pull our hair out to comply with recent county mandates but are unable to get answers about recent test results and what they mean.

We have a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Restaurant Roundtable zoom at 3:30 this afternoon; after a lack of county government attendance at last week's meeting, we categorically request representation this afternoon.

- On July 13, indoor dining was closed statewide. We scrambled, spent significant amounts of money and hired extra staff to adapt to this new normal. But we did so because we need to stay open to survive.

- On July 20, the restaurant industry received an order from the Mono County health department that we were, amongst other things:
 - a. Responsible for a large number of positive COVID-19 cases in the town of Mammoth Lakes.
 - b. Therefore placed under a number of new regulations, including testing 30 percent of our staff, health checking every employee before they were allowed to work, and that ALL state guidance would now become mandatory (please read this guidance if you have not, it's extensive and incredibly burdensome).

We again scrambled, stressed, and spent money to send our employees to stand in long lines to be tested. We did so because we need to stay open to survive.

We were all aware that a SIGNIFICANT number of the positive tests came out of ONE restaurant in town-- a number that, had it been treated as an outlier, would greatly change the percentages attributed to restaurants in general. Yet, we complied, because we are too busy running our businesses under great stress to fight.

Those restaurants who did have positive cases as a result of the broad testing (and one who did not) were forced to shut down, incurring great financial losses. They complied willingly. In some cases the positive results took almost a week to come back and that employee continued to work while unknowingly positive. Yet nobody that he worked alongside tested positive--proving that the safety measures we have in place are WORKING.

- To add insult to injury, on July 21, an [article in the Los Angeles Times](#) vilified the restaurant industry, saying "A surge in coronavirus cases tied to restaurants in Mammoth Lakes has prompted the state to place Mono County on its watchlist for the first time." Due to this national press, we have:
 - a. Lost staff, who no longer feel that it is safe to work in a restaurant.
 - b. Seen other non-restaurant business owners around town give their employees, who have second jobs in restaurants, ultimatums, saying they will not employ them if they work in a restaurant.
 - c. Lost the faith of our ever-so-important local following. We have seen a dramatic decrease in local support since this news came out.

- Finally, we were told that if we did not have 30 percent of our employees tested by midnight on July 28, "...the restaurant shall remain closed until an attestation and appropriate verification are provided."

In this mandate, the county chose to lump us all into one industry. As a business that has spent blood, sweat, tears, money and the faithfulness of our staff to follow the rules and "stay safe to stay open," I'm absolutely livid that those who have chosen not to follow the rules. They should be punished accordingly, and those of us who are in compliance should not be categorized alongside them. If it is true that some restaurants have not yet submitted 30 percent of their staff to be tested, they should be CLOSED IMMEDIATELY.

I feel like we've been very compliant and patient, but many of us are reaching the end of our patience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter--it truly is our livelihood.

Alisa Mokler
The Warming Hut Mammoth
970.581.8856