From: jimmy.secretarski@gmail.com
To: letstalk
Subject: FW: Question/request for audience
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:14:13 PM

We know what the text from the original declaration says. That's why we've been closed for 5 weeks. This doesn't address the request from my original email to you (which has been suspiciously deleted from this thread by you) for early RE-opening due to the similarities of our business to Kolo, which has been allowed to re-open. We are very different from a gym in that our customers do not share equipment. Our customers are spaced out at safe distances, similar to Kolo. We can provide a safe, healthy activity for people….just like Kolo has been allowed to do. it makes absolutely NO sense to treat us any different than Kolo. Given that, one can only suspect kick-backs or some other form of discrimination is taking place. This is NOT right. I am reaching out to City Council to demand that our personal liberties and freedom be respected. I'm tired of seeing packed parking lots at Wal-mart and lowe's…..packed with people supposedly 'exposing themselves' to a virus. All you people are doing, by imprisoning us in our homes, is enabling folks to drive up credit card debt because they are buying useless stuff at wal-mart and not working to make money to pay for it. I've got 14 employees that haven't seen a penny from the state or the fed….they need to eat. We must be allowed to re-open! We will make changes. We will work with gloves, masks, hand sanitizer. Whatever we need to do. we want to take the risk. We might get sick. We might even die. we're ok with that. it could easily happen through other means anyway. Some of our customers will choose not to take the risk. But many want to take the risk. LET US CHOOSE and STOP CHOOSING FOR US!!!!! You are violating our basic human rights!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: Buncombe Ready Team <ReadyTeam@buncombecounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 8:18 AM
To: jimmy.secretarski@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Question/request for audience

From: jimmy.secretarski@gmail.com <jimmy.secretarski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Buncombe Business Inquiries <business@buncombecounty.org>
Subject: RE: Question/request for audience

Hi! Thank you for the response.

It is a baseball and softball facility. Let me begin by saying that an independent third party recently ranked us as the number #1 facility in the country based on cleanliness. We have 9 individualized cages and an artificial turf field. The turf field is used by people that are standing at least 20 feet apart at all times. Some do running, stretching and strength exercises while others throw or work on fielding movements. Each cage is separated by heavy gauge netting (complete with steel cabling and stapling on bottom) AND metal fencing. 3 of the cages have pitching machines that throw balls to one hitter at a time. The other cages are used for hitting off of tees or pitching off of mounds. Again, only one customer per cage. The only time there is more than one person in a cage is when we do a lesson. In that case, the instructor is typically throwing the ball to a customer from behind a l-screen from a distance of 30-60 feet.

If we were allowed to re-open, a few precautions we could make are:

1. We would require all people to wear batting gloves at all times. Most do anyway, but we could require for instructors throwing and anybody doing field work/throwing on the turf field to wear batting gloves too. Same for front desk staff. We could even offer to spray the gloves with disinfectant/Lysol.
2. We would spray the balls with disinfectant (we were doing this before we were forced to close).

3. Provide hand sanitizer at the front desk.
4. Require everyone to wear masks.
5. Restrict the total number of customers allowed in the building at any one time to less than 20, or whatever you feel is the right number. I believe 10 is the number used in some other situations, but the total space (covered and uncovered) is nearly 40,000 square feet, with most of it being outside.
6. Much of our business is by appointment only, which allows us to control the number of customers in the building, but we could also place X's on the floor to encourage/enforce social distancing near the pitching machines.

We have so many customers emailing and texting us to see when we can re-open. I know it would be a healthy and safe outlet for everyone. It feels good to hit and play catch! We would be providing a low-risk/riskless way for folks to get out of their house and exercise. I know that grocery stores sell food, but somebody at our facility wouldn't encounter even a fraction of the number of people one encounters when at the grocery store. I was waiting in line at Target yesterday, and I counted 34 people around me or crossing in front of me while I was in line. Please help us here. we have employees that need money and we have customers who really want this. if there is anything else I can provide to help you think through this, just let me know. We are open to suggestions as well, if you think there are ways to make a safe situation even safer. We really do appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Jimmy,

Thank you for your question concerning your business.

Per Section 9.b.1: https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/health/Decl%20STAY%20Home%20STAY%20Safe%204-8%20Final.pdf

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE April 8, 2020

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE SUPERSEDING DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY April 8, 2020 STAY HOME- STAY SAFE WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which

www.buncombecounty.org

For purposes of this Declaration, "Essential Businesses" is defined as follows: i. Essential Healthcare Operations. Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance use disorder service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities. Healthcare operations do not include elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures as established in accordance with Subsection 8 of this Order.

To request a policy change, you may send an email to all City Council members at this email address: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov or calling 828-259-5604 to reach the City Manager's Office to leave a message that will be received.

You can contact your district County Commissioner by visiting this site: https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/commissioners/default.aspx#connect-modal or emailing letstalk@buncombecounty.org or calling (828) 250-4066 to leave a message that will be received.

Warm Regards,

Ready Team | Buncombe County

Online Resources:
+ National Guidelines: CDC
+ Statewide Guidelines: NCDHHS
+ Buncombe County Guidelines

Phone/Mobile Device Resources:
+ 24-Hour COVID-19 Phone Support: Dial 211 from your mobile device
+ Subscribe for Emergency Notifications: Text to 888-777

Sign up to receive emergency texts directly from Buncombe County for breaking health and safety news. Text **BCALERT** on your smart phone to **888-777** to receive alerts on important information such as floods, communicable disease, county office closings, and relevant traffic safety notifications OR visit **buncomberready.org**

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