BUSINESSES BEGIN TO REOPEN INDOOR SPACES

Restaurants, bars, salons, gyms welcome customers inside under new state guidelines

BY PAUL SISSON & LYNDAY WINKLEY

Despite cries from some to go faster or slower than the pace set by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday, Dr. Wilma Wooten, San Diego's public health officer, largely stuck with the state's new rules that allowed a wide range of businesses to resume varying levels of indoor activity.

There were a few new public health orders announced, including one that all businesses now reopening keep logs with names and phone numbers of everyone they serve to make it easier to track people if a COVID-19 outbreak is detected.

Overall, Wooten's take on the move back indoors seemed to be: Now it's up to you.

Continuing to meet the state's requirements, she said, will come down to whether the community can collectively buy into facial covering, hand-washing and distancing requirements even as they begin to move more freely.

"If people do not do what we are asking them to do, we will find ourselves in the very same situation that we did in mid-July," Wooten said.

The new reopening rules arrive just as local K-12 schools regain the ability to bring students back to campuses. Because the local number of cases per 100,000 residents stayed lower than 100 through Monday, school districts, by state decree, will regain their reopening powers today.

It did not appear, though, that there would be immediate lines of...

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The county announced 104 new cases Monday, two additional community outbreaks and no additional COVID-related deaths.

While Wooten has, for the most part, gone along with the state's new reopening plan, that does not mean that everyone agrees.

County Supervisor Jim Desmond has been by far the most vocal detractor, holding a news conference at the County Administration Center on Monday to say that the uneven nature of relaxed restrictions is unfair for businesses that have struggled to stay open for months.

Salons and barbershops, for example, were allowed to use 100 percent of their facilities, provided proper 6-foot spacing, and a range of other infection control requirements, were met. Restaurants, though, can only use 25 percent of their indoor capacity.

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9.01.20