



5-6-2020

To: Wendy NorthCross: Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Dylan Fernandez: Massachusetts State Representative

Julian Cyr: Massachusetts State Senator

As the seasonal economy of Martha's Vineyard approaches and as representatives of our towns business associations, we feel it is imperative to reopen safely. Please find attached proposals from both the retail and restaurant sectors of our memberships. We are asking that these are considered when the state of Massachusetts is developing its state guidelines.

In addition, we respectfully ask that given the nature of our location, please take into account these additional situational issues and things we consider essential to reopening.

- 1) Addressing potential ferry interruption. Interruption would be significantly detrimental to our already challenged tourism industry. This needs to be addressed particularly going into the town of Oak Bluffs
- 2) May 18th ease of order on brick and mortar closure. Allow brick and mortar to open at 50% capacity or at percentage of capacity to be determined by the state. This needs to be along with a clear re-opening plan ... it is impossible to think about summer staffing, product management etc without a reasonable expectation of time.
- 3) Immediate Relaxation of retail curbside pick up on Martha's Vineyard - as we watch the daily stream of Amazon trucks on our roadways, our retailers are frustrated. Our customers want to buy from us - many of our shops are not set up yet to provide ecommerce but would be able to accept phone orders. Fulfilling orders by delivery does not make sense if a store has to deliver a \$10 item by driving it 25 miles from Edgartown to Aquinnah.
- 4) Access to clear and consistent signage stating safety guidelines/orders that are in place.

- 5) Access to bulk buying of PPE - our small businesses cannot purchase in bulk and are having difficulty locating appropriate product
- 6) Access to testing materials for our towns & businesses - Like every other community testing would allow us to operate safely significantly faster and with more confidence than anything else. Unlike other communities, Martha's Vineyard needs to have some level of economic activity in order to ensure continued operation of the ferry, restaurants, grocery stores and other essential businesses into this winter. If the state can help us secure materials, we can help absorb the cost.
- 7) Mobile Sanitation Stations - we need to be able to provide these stations to encourage everyone, particularly visitors and ensure we will meet state guidelines and provide continuity throughout our community.
- 8) Allow for local restaurant requirements to be addressed locally as indicated in attached guideline

Thank you for your time.

Erin Ready Edgartown Board of Trade erinreadymv@gmail.com

Julia Celeste Edgartown Board of Trade julia@rosewatermv.com

Sarah York Vineyard Haven Business Association slyork197@gmail.com

Elaine Barse Vineyard Haven Business Association greenroommv@outlook.com

Christine Todd Oak Bluffs Business Association cjctodd@gmail.com