

Exercise has always been promoted as a way to stay healthy. Not just healthy for your muscles, but healthy for your mental state, your immune system, your cardiovascular system. The list goes on and on. Being healthy is one of the best ways to prevent disease and sickness. Walking around your block isn't going to get you there. That is why gyms were created in the first place - to give people access to fitness activities they could not get at home. And that is still the case. Sure there is Beach Body and classes on YouTube, but those are not the same. They are not sustainable. Plus that just puts money in the pockets of outsiders. Beach Body is not a locally owned business in Oregon.

Closing gyms is 2 knives into your fellow Oregonians. One goes into those that need the gym to stay healthy, and the other knife goes into the small business owner. I was stabbed by both of those knives. I am a gym owner. I even have some equipment in my home. Because of my profession, I know how to maximize the use of the little bit of equipment in my basement. The vast majority of Oregonians do not know how to do that. They need our help.

I watched in utter amazement at the restrictions put on gyms. We were cleaner (safer) than every single retail store in Oregon. How? Because we have been sanitizing since the day we opened in 1994. It is part of owning a gym - daily sanitizing. Did IKEA ever sanitize daily? No. Did Target ever sanitize daily? No. Shopping carts were NEVER sanitized. It was just not part of their procedures. It was always protocol at gyms. Always.

For a brief time in the spring, I would see stores post an employee to sanitize carts. Haven't seen that since April. It's a joke that gyms are subject to such arbitrary restrictions. Go ahead and test the handle of a shopping cart for germs. Then test ANYTHING in a gym. You will see my point.

You put unnecessary fear into the public's mind about gyms. So much that our business has lost almost half of our members due to cancellations. Our 27 year old business is ready to crumble because of this. We are the largest business in our small, under-served part of Portland (St. Johns). What happens if we are forced to close?