

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine teaching at the UCLA School of Medicine for over 20 years. I am also a business owner and run a private medical group which staffs the busiest ER in Los Angeles County (Antelope Valley Hospital). I have also been helping with Covid-19 overseas in underdeveloped countries (via a non-profit).

I have been immersed in the Covid-19 crisis since it started in California—learning how to treat it, how to protect our employees and students from getting it, and how to manage when hospital staff get sick.

I have learned that it is possible to effectively prevent ourselves from getting Covid-19 with simple measures such as masks and hand washing. We have not had a single doctor contract Covid-19 in our Emergency Department, despite working in a crowded, under-resourced environment, where we have been reusing PPE, and treating a very high volume of sick patients with Covid-19.

I have also learned that mental and physical well-being is *critically important* if we are going to beat Covid-19. This means that physical exercise *must* be promoted whenever it can be conducted in a safe and socially-distanced manner.

I have been a rock climber for 31 years, climbing outside and in climbing gyms. In my professional opinion, from what I have witnessed and experienced in gyms that have managed to stay open during the Covid-19 crisis, indoor climbing can safely be conducted in a manner that minimizes the risk of spreading Covid-19. I have witnessed this myself in particular at Sender One gyms in the greater Los Angeles area.

I am happy to speak with anyone about my personal and professional opinions regarding indoor climbing gyms and Covid-19.

Sincerely,



Thomas Lee, MD
Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine
Board Chair and Founder, Community Partners International (www.cpintl.org)
tomlee@ucla.edu
310-827-8885