About 50 salon owners, hairstylists, manicurists, estheticians and barbers marched for the reopening of salons Friday morning. They walked from the offices of state Sen. Minority Leader Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, to the corner of Truxtun Avenue and Maldonado Street, calling for California regulators to loosen up and let them get back to work.

Salon workers call for lifting ban as state adjusts virus metrics

BY STACEY SHEPARD

Local couple launches effort to 'Mask up to open up'

In the hopes of getting back to some semblance of normal life, a Bakersfield couple is trying to appeal to the public in a particular way that will resonate among local residents: coming together for a good cause.

Shanna Treanor, a dermatologist with Bakersfield Dermatology, and her husband, Fernando Fan, local chief of police for Kern County Paramedics, have started a campaign to encourage mask-wearing, which they believe is better than social distancing and vaccine procurement.

“I believe it’s safer than grocery stores. It’s safer than being in my car getting gas, you know,” she said.

Launched Friday, the campaign appeared its vision had materialized earlier this month when Gov. Gavin Newsom introduced a new statewide COVID-19 monitoring system that included a reopening of salons, barbershops and shopping malls starting Monday.

Throughout pandemic shutdowns, state regulators had threatened to fine and jail the business owners who did not follow the state’s official guidelines, but now two new state laws punishment were reported in Kern.

People in the business locally said some stylists and barbers have defied orders, some even in their garages or custom- ers’ backyards — or even their garages or custom- ers’ backyards.

As for what would happen to the businesses in the back door to clients in the back door to the business.

“People are very supported” of the message being delivered Friday, Bakersfield dermatologist Valle Lamas said, adding that the goal is to support the demonstration to Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose administration doesn’t see the precautions she and others take to keep indoor conditions sanitary.

Hair salons, malls, libraries can reopen Monday under new rules

BY STACEY SHEPARD

Hair salons, libraries and shopping malls in Kern County can reopen as soon as Monday with certain restrictions under a new process for reopening businesses unveiled by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday.

The newly announced four-tiered, color-coded system is the state’s second attempt at finding a way to allow businesses and other activities to resume in California in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, though this time Newsom said it will happen in a “slow and stringent” way.

“We’re going to err on the side of safety with this and have a mandatory wait time between moves. We didn’t do that last time,” Newsom said.

The new system ties the extent of business reopening to a county’s ability to contain COVID-19 cases.

“More cases in a county mean a slower pace of reopening,” Newsom said.

The colored tiers indicate the severity of a county’s COVID-19 outbreak, with purple representing widespread, red for substantial, orange for moderate and yellow for minimal. Kern and 37 other counties are in the purple category. They also correspond to the extent reopening is allowed. For example, restaurants in counties in the purple tier can only offer outdoor dining, but in counties in the red a limited amount of indoor dining is allowed.

Local couple launches effort to ‘Mask up to open up’