



**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
418 EAST SECOND STREET
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020
10:00 AM**

Ordinance numbers start with 20-11. Resolution numbers start with 20-20.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) PUBLIC HEARINGS (Items will be considered for action after public hearings) (Resolution No. 07-33 establishes a 30-minute time limit for applicant's land use presentations. Ordinances require 4 votes for passage – Section 1-6-2 (E)(3) WCC)
 - a) Emergency Ordinance No. 20-__ : An Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Only Reading)

We encourage individuals who wish to provide public comment to provide an email to the City Clerk, Michelle Howke, at mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org by 9:30 a.m. on July 14, 2020, prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed ordinance may be obtained by contacting the City Attorney, Angela Jacobs, at 406-863-2444 or ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org.

- 3) ADJOURNMENT (Resolution 08-10 establishes 11:00 p.m. as end of meeting unless extended to 11:30 by majority)

ORDINANCE NO. 20-__

An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, requiring the use of face coverings in public settings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and waiving a second reading.

WHEREAS, coronaviruses are a large family of virus that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more serious issues, including death; and

WHEREAS, in late 2019, an outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus began in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the new strain of coronavirus causing illness in China "COVID-19;" and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control: "COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. People who are infected often have symptoms of illness. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus."; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has warned: "The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people."; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump, Governor Steve Bullock, the Flathead County Board of Commissioners, and Mayor John Muhlfeld have all declared states of emergency related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16 and April 5, 2020, the City adopted emergency Ordinance Nos. 20-04 and 20-05, enacting measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Governor Bullock issued a "stay at home" Directive; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, Governor Bullock issued a Directive requiring that individuals traveling to Montana from another state or country self-quarantine for 14 days; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 3, 2020, the Center for Disease Control recommended that individuals wear masks or cloth face coverings in public settings especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City has been strongly committed to following all recommendations from the federal, state, and county levels and instituted measures such as requiring sheltering-in-place, supporting the closure of schools, closing City Hall to the public, closing some City parks and recreational facilities, allowing or requiring City employees to work from home, closing lodging facilities, developing methods for extensive public outreach, and discouraging travel to the region; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the State and City were successful in helping limit the spread of COVID-19 within our community; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, Governor Bullock issued a Directive for "Reopening the Big Sky" that provided for a phased re-opening of Montana and addressed the guidelines for Phase One; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock's April 22, 2020, Directive set forth the following guidelines for every Phase of the re-opening:

- Individuals should continue to practice good hygiene by adhering to the following guidelines:
 - Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
 - Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
 - Strongly consider using non-medical face coverings while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (e.g., grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation).
- People who feel sick should stay at home.
 - Do not go to work or school.
 - Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.
 - Follow local health department guidance on isolation and quarantine.
- Employers should:
 - Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices, regarding:
 - Social distancing and protective equipment.
 - Temperature checks and/or symptom screening.
 - Testing, isolating, and contact tracing, in collaboration with public health authorities.
 - Sanitation.
 - Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas.
 - Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work.
 - Collaborate with public health officials when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee's COVID-19 positive test result.

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, Governor Bullock issued a Directive moving the State into Phase Two of the re-opening which:

- Increased permissible group size to 50 individuals, provided social distancing can be accomplished.

- Allowed all businesses to operate, provided they adhere to physical distancing, the Phase Two Guidelines, all other Directives and guidance remaining in effect, and CDC sanitation protocols.
- Allowed restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos to remain in the same operational status as Phase One, but with an increase to 75 percent capacity.
- Allowed gyms, indoor group fitness classes, pools, and hot tubs to operate at 75 percent capacity if they adhere to strict physical distancing and exercise frequent sanitation protocols.
- Allowed concert halls, bowling alleys, and other places of assembly to operate with reduced capacity provided they adhere to physical distancing guidelines and follow CDC sanitation protocols.
- Allowed childcare facilities to increase capacity consistent with the guidelines contained in the Governor's previous Directive on childcare if physical distancing guidelines can be implemented and removed the 24-person cap per facility effective June 1.
- Directed employers to continue to permit telework as much as possible and where feasible.
- Directed senior living or assisted living facilities and outdoor recreation to continue to follow the guidelines of Phase One.

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock's May 19, 2020 Directive also lifted the 14-day quarantine requirement for travelers from other states and countries effective June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2018 alone, the City welcomed between 500,000 and 1,250,000 visitors; and

WHEREAS, since Governor Bullock lifted the 14-day quarantine requirement for visitors from other states and countries, the City has experienced a significant influx of visitors, many of whom have traveled from areas with a high rate of COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that its citizens and business owners desire, and that it is in the best economic interests of the community, for its businesses to remain open; and

WHEREAS, since Phase Two of the re-opening, the State has experienced a marked increase in COVID-19 cases, with 67 cases, the highest number ever, being reported on July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since Phase Two of the re-opening, Flathead County has experienced a marked increase in COVID-19 cases, with 28 new cases reported after four weeks of no new cases; and

WHEREAS, on or about June 5, 2020, the World Health Organization advised governments to encourage the public to wear masks or cloth face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that wearing masks or cloth face coverings reduces the transmissibility of COVID-19 by reducing transmission of infected droplets in both laboratory and clinical contexts; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2020, the City passed Resolution No. 20-18, which strongly encouraged residents, businesses, and visitors to use masks or cloth face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20-18 provided the City would pass an ordinance requiring the use of masks or cloth face coverings if residents, businesses and visitors were not adhering to its recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the City remains committed to protecting its most vulnerable population, to ensuring that businesses remain open and financially viable, and to helping schools to re-open in the fall; and

WHEREAS, as a municipal corporation with its own governmental charter, the City is a self-governing unit that may exercise any power not prohibited by the Montana Constitution, state law or its own charter; and

WHEREAS, the City's power and authority are liberally construed, with every reasonable doubt as to the existence of a power or authority resolved in favor of the power or authority's existence; and

WHEREAS, the City possesses an inherent power to enact reasonable legislation for the health, safety, welfare, or morals of the public; and

WHEREAS, § 7-5-4104, MCA, authorizes the City to define and abate nuisances and impose fines upon persons guilty of creating or continuing a nuisance to exist on premises they occupy or control; and

WHEREAS, § 7-5-104, MCA, authorizes the City Council to waive the second reading of an ordinance passed in response to an emergency and provides such ordinance is effective upon passage; and

WHEREAS, an emergency ordinance requires a two-thirds vote of the whole City Council for passage and remains effective for no more than 90 days; and

WHEREAS, §§ 2-3-103 through 2-3-111, MCA, provide that public agencies must ensure that prior to a final agency decision is taken that is of significant interest to the public, adequate notice is given and the public is allowed a reasonable opportunity to participate; and

WHEREAS, § 2-3-112, MCA, provides §§ 2-3-103 through 2-3-111, MCA, do not apply to an agency decision that must be made to address an emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare, or safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 constitutes an emergency situation affecting the public health, safety and general welfare and requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public settings in accordance with federal and state guidance will help ensure the health and safety of the City's

residents and visitors, will reduce the likelihood that the State will reinstate Directives closing businesses, and will limit the cascading impacts on critical services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana and its inhabitants, as follows:

Section 1: All the recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as Findings of Fact.

Section 2:

1. Definitions.

a. “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft material, without holes, that securely covers the nose and mouth and remains affixed without use of one’s hands. Face coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, disposable masks, cloth masks, scarves, buffs and gaiters provided they are worn such that they securely cover one’s nose and mouth. The term does not include face shields.

b. “Place of Business” means any facility, building, or structure operated by or for a business engaged in the sale or other transaction of any kind for anything of value in exchange for goods, commodities, services, or lodging and that is open to the general public or by appointment and includes, but is not limited to, grocery stores, convenience stores, retail stores, office buildings, hospitals, clinics, restaurants and bars (including outdoor seating for such facilities but subject to the exclusion below), and hotels and motels (excluding within the rented room or suite).

2. Use of Face Coverings Required.

a. All Places of Business must require employees, contractors, volunteers, customers and visitors to wear a Face Covering in areas open to the general public.

b. All Places of Business must require employees to wear Face Coverings in areas not open to the general public if social distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

c. All individuals must wear a Face Covering when inside a Place of Business and when standing in line to enter any Place of Business.

d. All individuals must wear a Face Covering when riding on public transportation or when they are a driver or passenger in a taxi, private car service, shuttle, or transportation network company.

e. All individuals participating in organized outdoor gatherings of 20 or more must wear a Face Covering.

f. All individuals outdoors where social distancing is not possible must wear a Face Covering.

3. Exemptions. Face Coverings are not required:
 - a. For children under the age of twelve (12), provided that adults accompanying children ages two through eleven must use reasonable efforts to cause those children to wear Face Coverings while inside a Place of Business.
 - b. For any individual who cannot wear a Face Covering because of a medical condition, mental health condition or developmental disability or any individual who should not wear a Face Covering under the guidance of the Center for Disease Control. An individual is not required to provide medical documentation demonstrating that the individual cannot tolerate wearing a Face Covering.
 - c. For individuals who are seated at a table or the bar of a restaurant or a bar while such individuals are eating and/or drinking.
 - d. For individuals actively exercising or swimming.
 - e. For individuals working in a profession in which the use of a mask or face covering will not be compatible with the duties of the profession or present a safety risk.
 - f. For individuals while in their private, individual offices provided social distancing of at least six feet can be maintained.
 - g. For individuals fully separated from the public by a protective barrier. A plexiglass shield that provides only partial protection between the public and an employee does not negate the requirement to wear a face covering.
 - h. In settings where it is not practicable or feasible to wear a Face Covering, including complying with directions of law enforcement officers, or obtaining services involving the head, face, or scalp such as dental work, haircuts and facials.
4. Penalties.
 - a. Any Place of Business that violates the provisions of this emergency ordinance will be deemed guilty of a municipal infraction and will be subject to the penalties set forth in section 1-4-4 of the city code.
 - b. Violation of the provisions of this emergency ordinance by a Place of Business may result in the suspension or revocation of any business license issued for the premises on which the violations occurred.
 - c. Violation of this emergency ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance which may be abated by the city by restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or other means provided by law and the city may take action to recover the costs of the nuisance abatement.
 - d. Each day of continuing violation of this emergency ordinance may be considered a separate and distinct offense.
5. Duties of Places of Business. Places of Business have the duty to: (1) enforce the provisions of this emergency ordinance within the premises of the Place of

Business; and (2) provide Face Coverings for employees; and (3) post signage notifying its customers and patrons of the provisions of this emergency ordinance.

- 6. Most Restrictive Standard Controls. To the extent any state, federal or local regulations, laws or orders are more restrictive than this emergency ordinance, such regulations, laws or orders apply.
- 7. Time Limitations. This emergency ordinance shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. This emergency ordinance will remain in effect for one (1) month thereafter unless sooner repealed. The City Council may extend this emergency ordinance for one or more additional terms.
- 8. Severability. Should any word, provision, section, paragraph or sentence of this emergency ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of preemptive legislation, the remaining words, provisions, sections, paragraphs and sentences of this emergency ordinance as adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEFISH, MONTANA, THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2020.

John M. Muhlfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Howke, City Clerk

ADDENDUM TO EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

WHITEFISH CITY CODE

1-4-4: MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS; PENALTIES:

- A. A municipal infraction is a civil offense and for a proven violation, a civil penalty may be imposed.

- B. For a first violation, a civil penalty of not more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be imposed.

- C. For each repeat violation, a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be imposed.

- D. Seeking a civil penalty as authorized in this chapter does not preclude the city from seeking alternative relief from the court in the same action; provided, however, that the city must elect whether to treat a specific incident as a municipal infraction, subject to the penalty set forth in this section, or as a misdemeanor, punishable as set forth in section 1-4-1 of this chapter. If a violation is repeated, the city may treat the initial violation as a municipal infraction, and the repeat violation as a misdemeanor, or vice versa. (Ord. 09-20, 10-19-2009)

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate- YES

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Paul M Alsippi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please say NO to a mask ordinance.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ann Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Masks in Whitefish public-Please mandate them and keep us safe!

I sent the following email regarding the previous mask "Resolution" and obviously the resolution was ignored. Please pass the proposed mask ordinance before it is too late. Don't let Whitefish become a coronavirus hotspot where everything has to shut down.

Ann Jones

On Jul 6, 2020, at 8:36 AM, Ann Jones [REDACTED] wrote:

I am scared to go into my own city right now! The influx of people who are ignoring the danger to me and endangering the economy and vitality of our town in spreading the coronavirus by not social distancing and in particular not wearing masks is alarming! Whitefish did a great job in flattening the curve initially but let's continue to be proactive and not let the virus get out of hand here like it has done in other parts of the country.

People came here because we did a good job in keeping the numbers down and people healthy. They will not come if the whole area is shut down because everyone is sick. But they will continue to come even if masks are the norm because they love Whitefish.

I highly support the Whitefish mask resolution but encourage it to be more than a recommendation-I prefer a mandate. Allow shopkeepers to refuse service-"no mask, no service" and give them the backing to have that enforced.

Thank you. Please keep us safe.

Ann Jones

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Mt 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Shelly Arbuckle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

YES! We need to protect the local population as well as our visitors. This is getting out of hand. Please make mask use mandatory Shelly Arbuckle

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mary Arnot [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish City Clerk

Dear Ms. Howke,

My family and I continue to applaud, support, and follow the guidance from the mayor's office. As a longtime resident of Lake County and previously a resident of Flathead County, Whitefish measures taken to protect all citizens to thwart the spread of Covid-19 are highly commended.

I am also a home owner in Whitefish and value the extraordinary leadership and courage displayed by Mayor Mulfeld in these unprecedented times.

We wear masks each and every time we leave our home and travel to areas where we will be in contact with other pedestrians, shoppers, citizens, etc. We respect them and hope they in turn respect us by wearing a mask.

Thank you for your efforts and yes, we highly support the mandatory wearing of masks.

Regards,

Mary Beth and Stuart Arnot
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Megan Arseneau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Thank you for being a leader in the health and safety of our valley. I absolutely support a mandate requiring masks. It's hard to be the first but if you approve this I am confident we will see other communities follow suit.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: pete avery [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Michelle,

I'm just writing to lend my support for the mask ordinance. Businesses are being put in a difficult position as they have a financial interest in not potentially upsetting their customers. Take the decision out of their hands. The mask ordinance would be a simple and effective decision for the physical and economic safety of our local community members and businesses.

Thanks,

Pete Avery

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Molly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Michelle Howke; John Muhlfeld; Andy Feury; Ryan Hennen; Rebecca Norton; Frank Sweeney; Steve Qunell
Subject: Whitefish Mask Mandate
Attachments: Children's Health Defense - Lockdown Lunacy 2.0 Second wave Not even close..pdf; Mask3.0.pdf

Hello,

I am writing in response to the Whitefish Mask Mandate request that seems to be infesting the City of Whitefish recently. I am a healthcare worker who has been performing direct contact patient care for over 30 years and I am vehemently opposed to mask wearing.

Mask wearing, especially homemade ones, does NOT prevent virus spread. The SARS-CoV-2 virus particle is 100nm (nanometers) in diameter. The virus particles are microscopic and can move freely through the material as well as out all 4 sides of the mask. Homemade masks also are not fitted to the face. In healthcare, we have to have a "fit test" performed yearly to make sure our N95 surgical respirator masks aren't allowing in particles with the use of a saccharine spray with a hood over our heads to ensure a proper seal around our nose and mouth. This is impossible with OTC and homemade masks.

Masks outside of the hospital setting are simply a "feel good" gesture to make people feel "safe" when in fact they are doing the exact opposite. Masks are making people sick. Decreased oxygenation in the blood from rebreathing exhaled CO₂, also known as hypoxia, causes the person wearing the mask to become lightheaded, experience syncopal episodes (fainting), get headaches as well as many other symptoms. Masks decrease the wearers natural immunity by putting extra stress on the immune system from hypoxia, reduce our exposure to bacteria and viruses in our environment that actually make our immune system stronger and have the ability to fight off infection.

I have included 2 PDF files as well as a website link that provides actual data and statistical facts for your council to review in order to make an "informed" decision. It includes data from the CDC and WHO as well as data from multiple states including New York, Texas and Florida. There is no political agenda attached to any of this information. Unfortunately, I believe that there are parties out there, including some in the main stream media, who are pushing a fear narrative and excluding real time data that demonstrates the opposite.

The COVID numbers are rising because everyone is being tested - if you go in for lab work , they're testing you for COVID. If you go in for an elective surgery or procedure, they're testing you for COVID. The statistic that must be looked at is the actual death rate, and that number has been significantly decreased and is continuing to fall. The hospitals ICU wards are not being overrun with COVID patients needing ventilators. We are approaching herd immunity which IS what we need.

Please look at the real facts. Do your own research. Stop listening to the fear and propaganda. Whitefish needs a City Council that will do what is right for the people who live here and are trying to support their families.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. It is greatly appreciated.

Molly Baffa
[REDACTED]

Whitefish

LOCKDOWN LUNACY 2.0: Second wave? Not even close. • Children's Health Defense
<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/lockdown-lunacy-2-0-second-wave-not-even-close/>

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

[JOIN THE MOVEMENT](#)[SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS](#)[TAKE ACTION](#)[MEMBERS ONLY](#)[EBOOKS](#)

JULY 07, 2020

LOCKDOWN LUNACY 2.0: Second wave? Not even close.

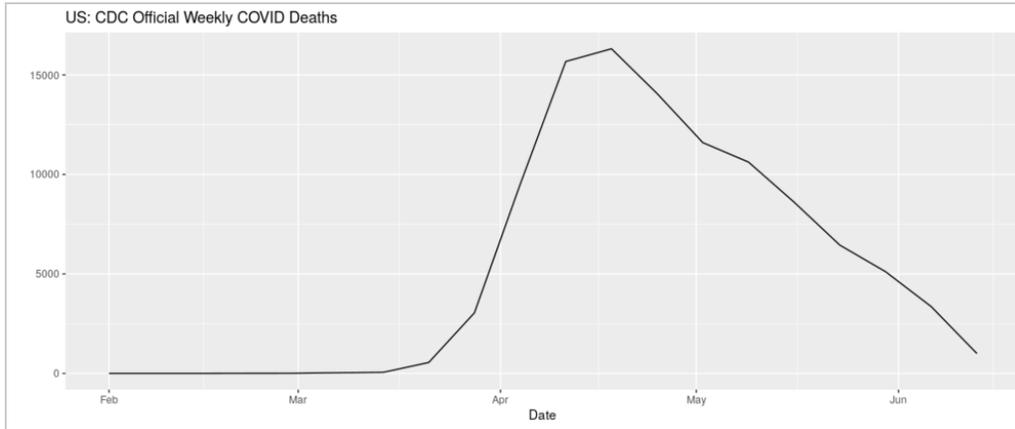


 Print

By **J.B. Handley**, [CHD Contributing Writer](#)

Why did politicians ever lockdown society in the first place? Can we all agree that the stated purpose was to “flatten the curve” so our hospital system could handle the inevitable COVID-19 patients who needed care? At that point, at least, back in early March, people were behaving rationally. They accepted that you can’t

eradicate a virus, so let's postpone things enough to handle it. The fact is, we have done that, and so much more. The headlines are filled with dire warnings of a "second wave" and trigger-happy Governors are rolling back regulations to try to stem the tide of new cases. But, is any of it actually true and should we all be worried? No, it's not a second wave. The COVID-19 virus is on its final legs, and while I have filled this post with graphs to prove everything I just said, this is really the only graph you need to see, it's the [CDC's data](#), over time, of deaths from COVID-19 here in the U.S., and the [trend line is unmistakable](#):



If virologists were driving policy about COVID-19 rather than public health officials, we'd all be Sweden right now, which means life would effectively be back to normal. The only thing our lockdowns have done at this point is prolong the agony a little bit, and encouraged Governors to make up more useless rules. Sweden's health minister understood that the only chance to beat COVID-19 was to get the Swedish population to a Herd Immunity Threshold against COVID-19, and that's exactly what they have done, so let me start there.

The Herd Immunity Threshold (“HIT”) for COVID-19 is between 10-20%

This fact gets less press than any other. Most people understand the basic concept of herd immunity and the math behind it. In the early days, some public health officials speculated that COVID-19's HIT was 70%. Obviously, the difference between a HIT of 70% and a HIT of 10-20% is dramatic, and the lower the HIT, the quicker a virus will burn out as it loses the ability to infect more people, which is exactly what COVID-19 is doing everywhere, including the U.S, which is why the death curve above looks the way it looks. Scientists from Oxford, Virginia Tech, and the Liverpool school of Tropical Medicine, all recently explained the HIT of COVID-19 in [this paper](#):

“We searched the literature for estimates of individual variation in propensity to acquire or transmit COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and overlaid the findings as vertical lines in Figure 3. Most CV estimates are comprised between 2 and 4, a range where naturally acquired immunity to SARS-CoV-2 may place populations over the herd immunity threshold once as few as 10-20% of its individuals are immune.”

Calculations from this study of [data in Stockholm](#) showed a **HIT of 17%**, and if you really love data check out this great essay by Brown Professor Dr. Andrew Bostom titled, [COVID-19 ‘herd immunity’ without vaccination? Teaching modern vaccine dogma old tricks](#). I’m going to share his summary with you, because it’s so good:

“Naturally acquired herd immunity to COVID-19 combined with earnest protection of the vulnerable elderly — especially [nursing home](#) and [assisted living facility](#) residents — is an eminently reasonable and practical [alternative to the dubious panacea](#) of mass [compulsory](#) vaccination against the virus. This strategy was [successfully implemented](#) in Malmö, Sweden, which had few COVID-19 deaths by assiduously protecting its elder care homes, while ‘schools remained open, residents carried on drinking in bars and cafes, and the doors of hairdressers and gyms were open throughout.”

One of the most vocal members of the scientific community discussing COVID-19’s HIT is Stanford’s Nobel-laureate Dr. Michael Levitt. Back on May 4, he gave this great interview to the [Stanford Daily](#) where he advocated for Sweden’s approach of letting COVID-19 spread naturally through the community until you arrive at HIT. He stated:

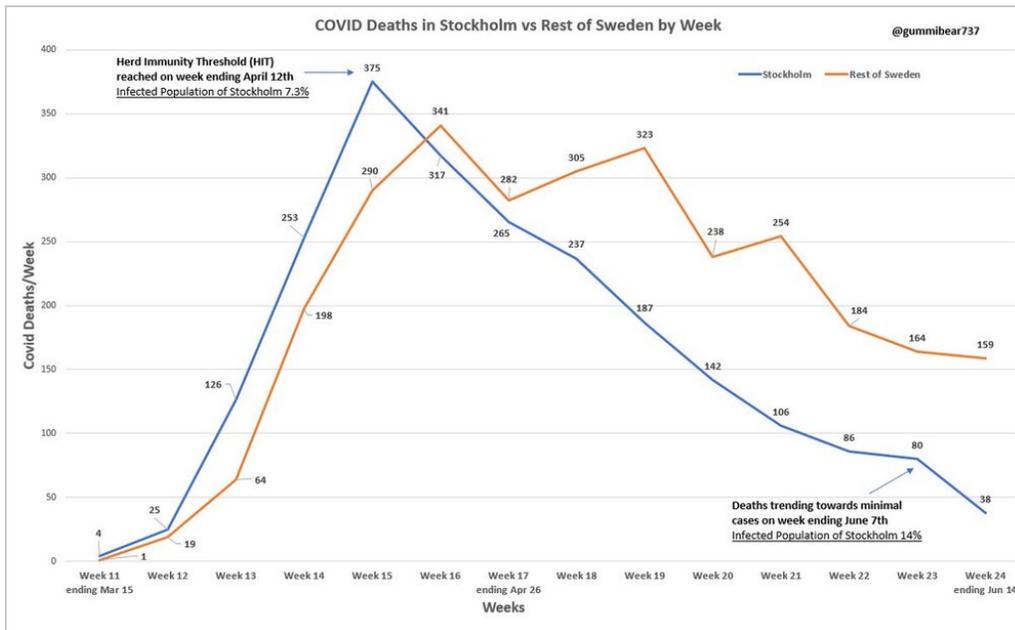
“If Sweden stops at about 5,000 or 6,000 deaths, we will know that they’ve reached herd immunity, and we didn’t need to do any kind of lockdown. My own feeling is that it will probably stop



Stanford’s Nobel-

because of herd immunity. Laureate Dr. Michael
 COVID is serious, it's at least a Levitt
 serious flu. But it's not going
 to destroy humanity as people thought."

Guess what? That's exactly what happened. As of today, 7 weeks after his prediction, **Sweden has 5,280 deaths**. In this graph, you can see that deaths in Sweden PEAKED when the HIT was halfway to its peak (roughly 7.3%) and by the time the virus hit 14% it was nearly extinguished. (Shoutout to [Gummi Bear](#) on Twitter, a scientist who makes great graphs.)



How could Dr. Levitt have predicted the death range for Sweden so perfectly 7 weeks ago? Because he had a pretty solid idea of what the HIT would be. (If you'd like to further geek-out on HIT, check out: [Why herd immunity to COVID-19 is reached much earlier than thought](#).) I absolutely LOVE Dr. Levitt (and as a Stanford alum, so proud he is a Stanford professor), watch this [incredible video](#) from just yesterday, go to 10:59 and just listen to this remarkable man!! Thrilled with his brand-new paper, released today, [Predicting the Trajectory of Any COVID19 Epidemic From the Best Straight Line](#).

By the way, as a quick aside, and something else the press won't touch: COVID-19 is a coronavirus, and we have ALL been exposed to MANY coronaviruses during our lives on earth (like the common cold). Guess what? [Scientists are now showing evidence](#) that up to 81% of us can mount a strong response to COVID-19 without ever having been exposed to it before:

Cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 T-cell epitopes revealed preexisting T-cell responses in 81% of unexposed individuals, and validation of similarity to common cold human coronaviruses provided a functional basis for postulated heterologous immunity.

This alone could explain WHY the HIT is so much lower for COVID-19 than some scientists thought originally, when the number being talked about was closer to 70%. Many of us have always been immune! If that's not enough for you, a [similar study](#) from Sweden was [just released](#) and shows that "roughly twice as many people have developed T-cell immunity compared with those who we can detect antibodies in." (We kind of knew this from the data on the Diamond Princess when [only 17% of the people on board](#) tested positive, despite an ideal environment for mass spread, implying 83% of the people were somehow protected from the new virus.)

Quick Update: [This article](#) came out one day after I wrote mine, and validated everything I just said, except the author is wrong about COVID-19's HIT, it's 10-20%, not 60%, which is even better news:



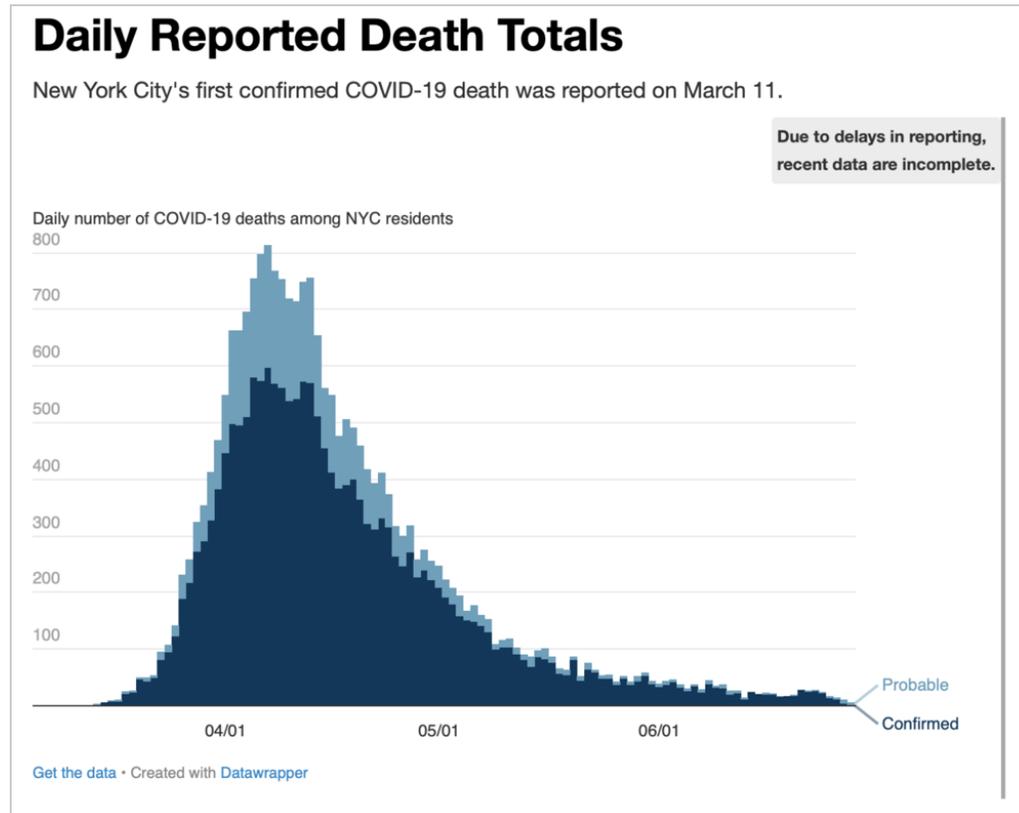
Is Covid immunity more common than we think?
spectator.co.uk

"However, it does provide a possible explanation for why the Covid-19 epidemic seems to have died away in many places once it had infected around 20 percent of the local population (as judged by the presence of antibodies). If people are developing some

kind of immunity to Covid-19 via their T cells then it could mean that a far higher percentage of the population has been exposed to Covid-19 than previously thought. Antibodies and T cells combined, it is conceivable that some places such as London or New York are already at or near the 60 per cent infection level required to achieve herd immunity."

Back to death rates over time.

We actually have our own Sweden here in the U.S. It's called New York City. In our case, we accidentally created a Sweden scenario, in that we took our medicine quickly, because: 1) New York locked down so late that they didn't flatten anything, 2) they have the highest population density in the U.S. in NYC, and 3) the public health officials and Governors there made the [bone-headed decision to send COVID-positive nursing home residents back to their nursing home](#), accelerating deaths of the most vulnerable. What's their death curve look like today? In this case, I borrowed the graph from the NYC public health website:



Hmm...notice anything about the chart or its slope? The reason deaths from COVID-19 are dwindling down to nothing isn't because Governor Cuomo is a policy genius (in fact, he likely created more unnecessary deaths than any other Governor with the nursing home decision), it's because the virus—like every virus in the history of mankind—is running out of people to infect. The virus has a HIT of 10-20% and 70% of people are likely naturally immune. Hosts are in short supply! That's what viruses do, and wait until you see what New York's likely HIT is today. Infection Fatality Rate. In my first blog post late last month, [LOCKDOWN LUNACY: the thinking person's guide](#), I discussed Infection Fatality Rate in detail, so I am just going to give a very quick summary here. Stanford's Dr. John Ioannidis [published a meta-analysis](#) (because so many IFR studies have been done around the world in April and early May) where he analyzed TWELVE separate IFR studies and his conclusion lays out the likely

IFR for COVID-19:

*“The infection fatality rate (IFR), the probability of dying for a person who is infected, is one of the most critical and most contested features of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The expected total mortality burden of COVID-19 is directly related to the IFR. Moreover, justification for various non-pharmacological public health interventions depends crucially on the IFR. Some aggressive interventions that potentially induce also more pronounced collateral harms¹ may be considered appropriate, if IFR is high. Conversely, the same measures may fall short of acceptable risk-benefit thresholds, if the IFR is low...Interestingly, despite their differences in design, execution, and analysis, most studies provide IFR point estimates that are within a relatively narrow range. Seven of the 12 inferred IFRs are in the range **0.07 to 0.20** (corrected IFR of 0.06 to 0.16) which are similar to IFR values of seasonal influenza. Three values are modestly higher (corrected IFR of 0.25-0.40 in Gangelt, Geneva, and Wuhan) and two are modestly lower than this range (corrected IFR of 0.02-0.03 in Kobe and Oise).”*

The data on IFR has now been replicated so many times that our own Centers for Disease Control announced that their ‘best estimate’ showed an IFR **below 0.3%**. In this [article on the CDC’s new data](#), they also highlighted how the cascading declines in IFR has removed all the fears of doomsday:

“That “best estimate” scenario also assumes that 35 percent of infections are asymptomatic, meaning the total number of infections is more than 50 percent larger than the number of symptomatic cases. It therefore implies that the IFR is between 0.2 percent and 0.3 percent. By contrast, the projections that the CDC made in March, which [predicted](#) that as many as 1.7 million Americans could die from COVID-19 without intervention, assumed an IFR of 0.8 percent. Around the same time, researchers at Imperial College produced a [worst-case scenario](#) in which 2.2 million Americans died, based on an IFR of 0.9 percent.”

In order to be as bullet-proof as possible, and because the IFR is

an important part of the math I will do right now, I've decided to pick a simple and defensible number, the [final number pegged by the CDC for COVID-19's IFR: 0.26%](#) (As an aside, if we'd known this 3 months ago, no one in the public health world would have panicked. It's a bad flu, and the rates for younger people are dramatically below 0.26% and approaching zero for children.) Now that you understand COVID's IFR and the likely HIT, it's much easier to talk about the second wave, the data, and the implications. Here's the deal:

"Yes, certain states are having an uptick in three measurements: COVID-19 tests administered, positive COVID-19 tests, and hospitalizations. All three of these measurements are dubious. Hopefully, some of the rise in cases is REAL, because then the U.S. will arrive at Herd Immunity Threshold ("HIT"), which has been slightly delayed by lockdowns, sooner. Based on the "death curve" in the US, we are very close to being done."

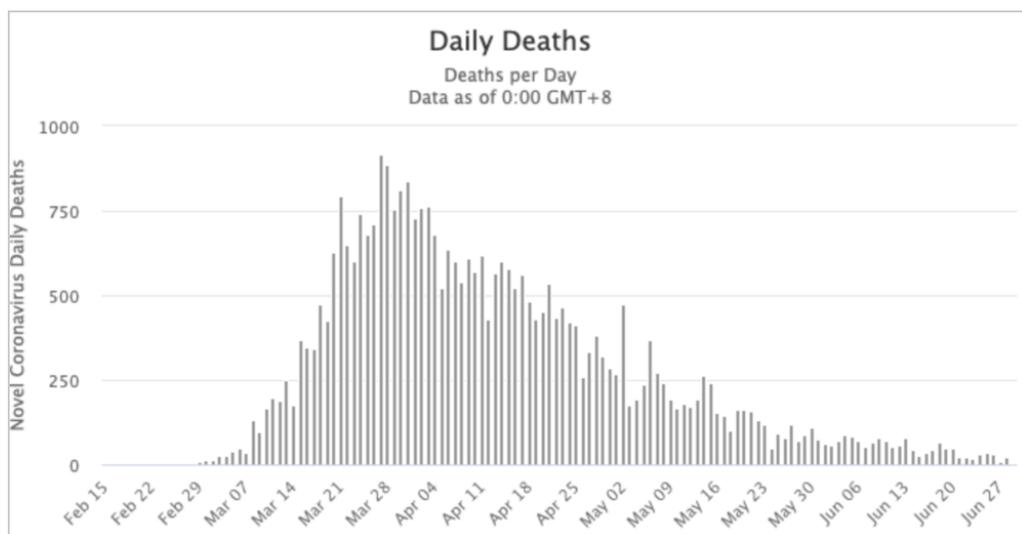
Take population, COVID Deaths, and IFR to find HIT

C'mon stay with me! This math is basic, junior high level stuff. And, it's going to give us the most important, but very crude, number we need to understand all this second wave nonsense: the approximate HIT already attained by state and by the United States. If you know how many people have died from COVID-19 in any one region, you can quickly calculate how many people have had COVID-19 in that same region. All you do is divide deaths by the IFR. Let's use NY as the example. As of today, there have been 31,137 deaths from COVID-19. Take $31,137 / 0.0026$, you get 11,975,969 people infected with COVID-19. Take those 11 million people divided by New York's population of 19.45 million, you get a HIT of...65%. (Data geek comment: New York's HIT is clearly OVER-stated, because total deaths drives HIT, and NY has a much higher rate of nursing home deaths due to bad policy.)

Huge disclaimer: This math is crude, but it's also directionally accurate, and the comparisons BETWEEN states helps explain what's going on. Importantly, the HIT required to snuff out the virus in any one region could be lower than Sweden's number of 17%, for a million reasons, most notably better medical knowledge today than a few months ago about how to keep a vulnerable person alive. Still, just look at this table I created using the math above:

| State | Population | COVID Deaths | IFR | Infected poulation | Implied HIT |
|------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------|
| New York | 19,450,000.00 | 31,137.00 | 0.0026 | 11,975,769 | 62% |
| Florida | 21,480,000.00 | 3,418.00 | 0.0026 | 1,314,615 | 6% |
| Texas | 29,000,000.00 | 2,407.00 | 0.0026 | 925,769 | 3% |
| Arizona | 7,279,000.00 | 1,594.00 | 0.0026 | 613,077 | 8% |
| New Jersey | 8,882,000.00 | 14,975.00 | 0.0026 | 5,759,615 | 65% |
| U.S. | 328,200,000.00 | 128,000.00 | 0.0026 | 49,230,769 | 15% |

Notice anything? New York is WELL PAST Herd Immunity Threshold (as is New Jersey), the southern states in the news are BELOW the implied HIT, while the U.S. overall is nearly there with 15%. This is why the death curve from the CDC (and NYC!) that I opened this blog post with looks the way it looks: **we are basically done with the virus.** Just like Sweden. Oh, and Italy:



Quick update: Mount Sinai doctors just [released a study](#) showing a seroprevalence study of a random sample of 5,000 New Yorkers, it states that “by the week ending April 19, the seroprevalence in the screening group reached 19.3%.” If you take that 19.3% number, and consider what we just learned from Sweden—that half of people with immunity won’t show it with this test—and then consider how many more people have been exposed since April 28, it’s entirely plausible that NY is **well past 40% or more people**, which starts to look closer to the 65% number my math shows. Either way, let’s just keep it simple: New York, and especially NYC, are WELL PAST HIT of 10-20%, which explains why their death curve looks the way it looks.

Florida details

While HIT matters more than anything else in explaining the trajectory of the virus, and tells us that the U.S. is very close to being done with COVID-19, I wanted to take a closer look at one state, Florida, the current whipping boy of the press. They also have great data. No one seems to be listening to the Governor, the health department, or the hospitals in Florida, who all seem to be saying the same thing, which is basically that everything is fine. On June 20, Florida's department of health produced a presentation that explained how their testing had changed over time. Check out this slide:

COVID-19 TESTING EVOLUTION IN FLORIDA:

February and early March: test if symptomatic and traveled to China (or other international location)

Mid-March through April: test if 65+ and symptomatic regardless of travel history (age limit gradually lowered as April wore on)

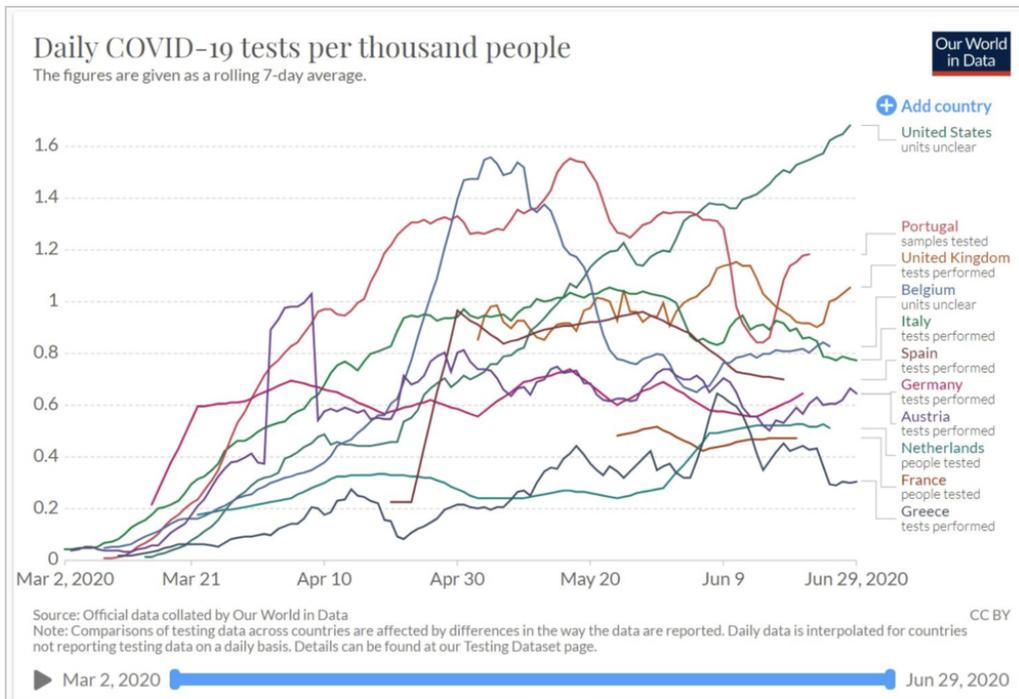
May (re-opening): test regardless of age and symptoms



So, as the state re-opened, they began to test everyone, "regardless of age and symptoms." What do you think would happen when they did that? Obviously, more positives. So, here's my first fact:

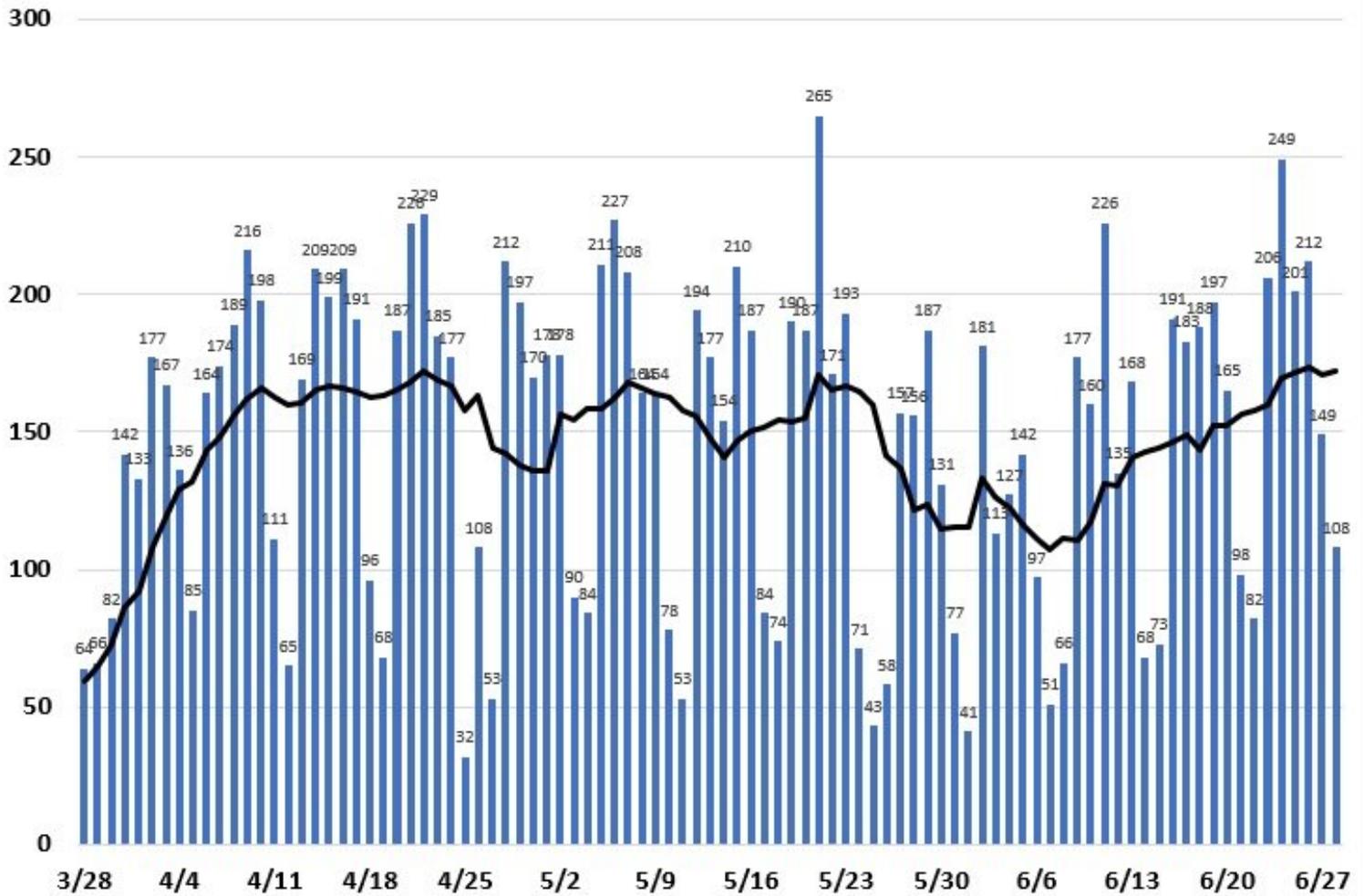
Fact #1: All of the "second wave" states have dramatically increased their testing. This alone causes cases to rise, and is the single biggest reason they have.

Still not convinced? Check out this eye-opener of a chart that shows per-capita testing in the U.S. versus other countries. Notice anything about June? Not only do we do MORE testing than any other country, but our testing spiked in June, right as all the headlines about more cases came out. Hmm...



It's not quite that simple. Yes, cases are up because more testing is being done. Cases have never, ever been a reliable indicator of ANYTHING. But, hospitalizations have been a reliable indicator. And, unexpectedly, there was an uptick in hospitalizations for COVID-19 beginning around June 6th in Florida, as you can [see here](#):

Daily Hospitalizations, 7-Day Ave. Trend Line



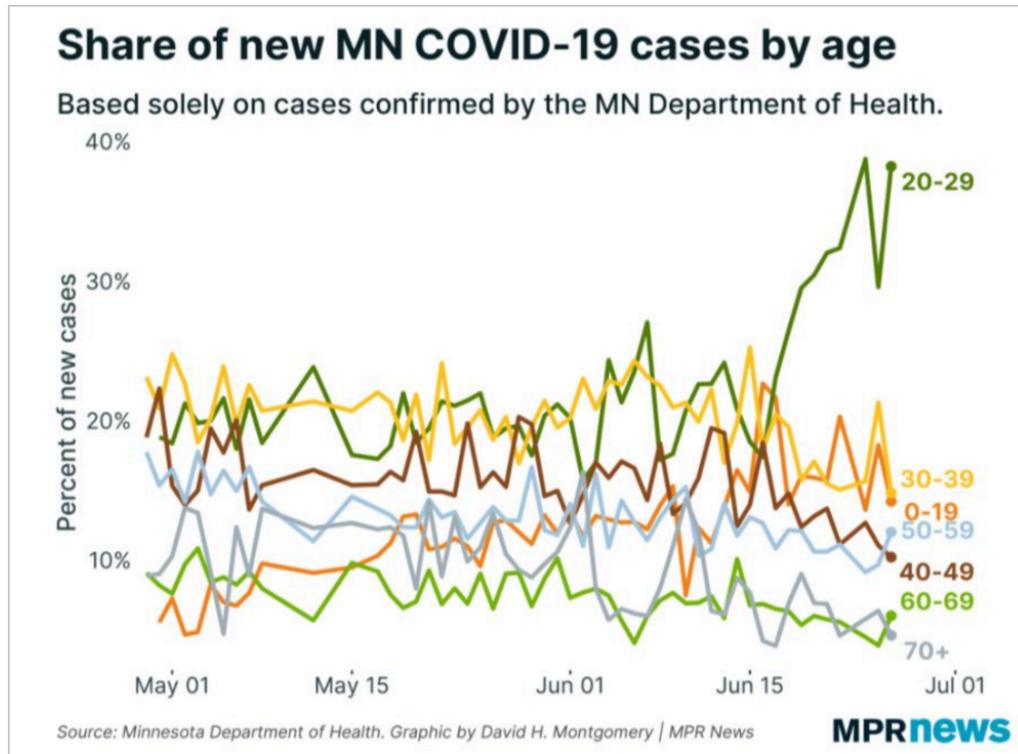
Florida hospitalizations due to COVID-19 trend line.

The most obvious reason COVID-19 hospitalizations are going up is because of what's happening in the hospital system. Patients are returning to the hospitals for elective surgery that were all delayed during the lockdown. EVERY patient is screened for COVID-19. A patient who is undergoing elective knee surgery and tests positive for COVID-19 even though they are asymptomatic will be classified as "hospitalized with COVID-19." This was explained in a recent [NY Times article](#):

"One-third of all patients admitted to the city's [Miami] main public hospital over the past two weeks after going to the emergency room for car-crash injuries and other urgent problems have tested positive for the coronavirus."

Fact #2: Hospitalizations for COVID-19 are up slightly because of how COVID-19 positive patients are tracked. They will be in the number even if they didn't go to the hospital BECAUSE of COVID-19.

Still, there is something else going on. It's not just more tests and the way hospitalizations are happening. Many states re-opened on May 1 and their trend lines were flat to down for weeks. It's as if some super-spreader event happened in certain states towards late May/Early June. It's really clear that something unique is going on if you look at data from Minnesota, the state where George Floyd was tragically murdered, where positive cases are stratified by age:



As you can see, in Minnesota, the percentage of positive cases by people age 20-29 really spiked in mid to late June, which means infections likely happened in early June or late May. Yes, obviously, the densely-packed protests for racial equality and social justice—which I personally applaud—appear to have caused a REAL uptick in cases and hospitalizations. See this article, [Houston Protesters Begin to Fall Ill With Coronavirus After Marching for George Floyd](#). Just look at the median age of NEW cases in Florida for mid-June (used to be in the mid-60s):

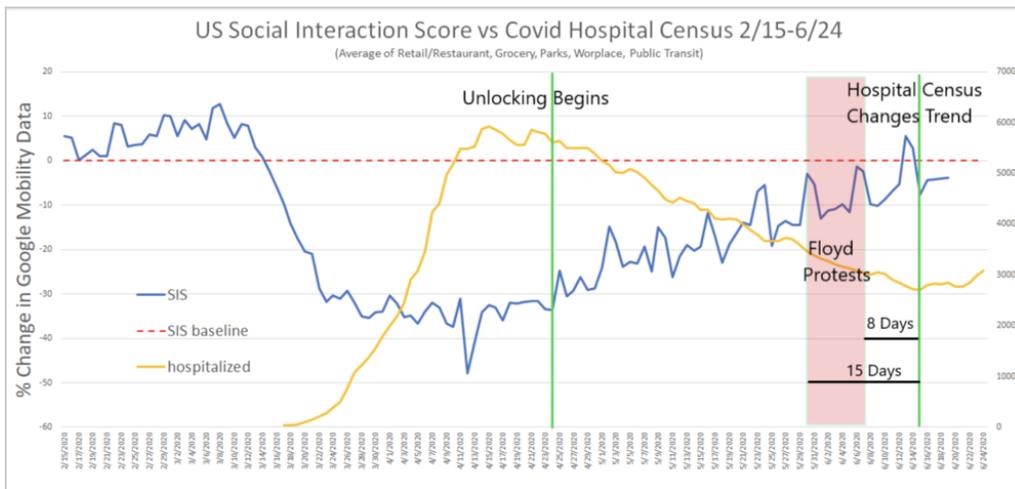
MEDIAN AGE OF NEW CASES FOR 6/19 IN SELECT FLORIDA COUNTIES:

- Broward: 32
- Duval: 29
- Hillsborough: 30
- Orange: 29
- Pinellas: 29
- Seminole: 27

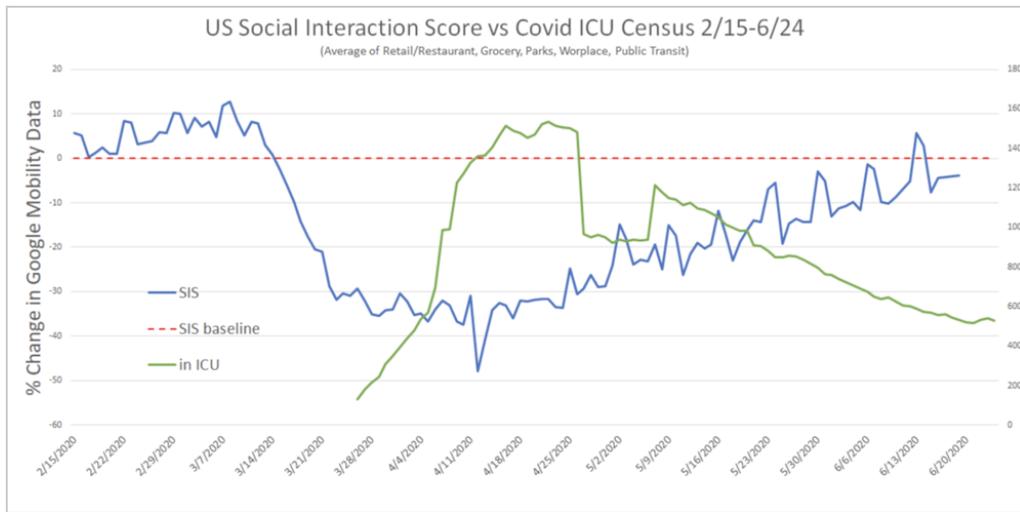
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Fact #3: A REAL rise in both cases and hospitalizations perfectly matches the timing of the nationwide protests which included many densely-packed crowds together for many hours and even days.

Not convinced? Check out this [great graph](#) that overlays the timing of the protests, lockdowns, social mobility, and hospitalizations using data for the entire US. Note there is a time delay between exposure and hospitalizations (between 8 and 15 days), and look at when the yellow hospitalization line goes up.



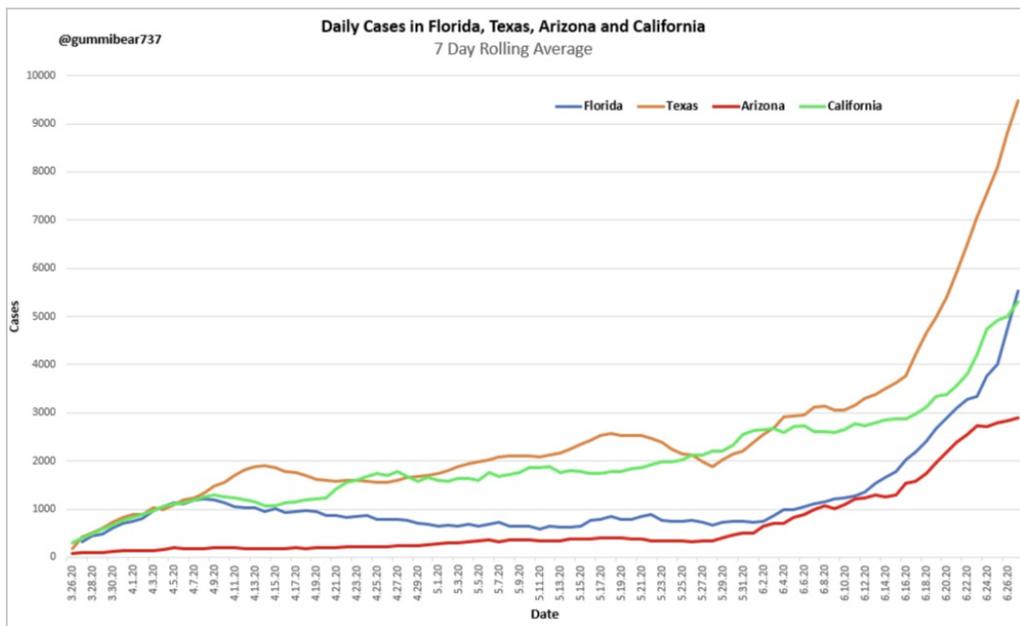
However, the good news about all of this is that there has been no impact on the number of COVID-19 patients in ICUs, which is consistent with the fact that we know younger patients are less impacted by COVID-19, check out this chart:



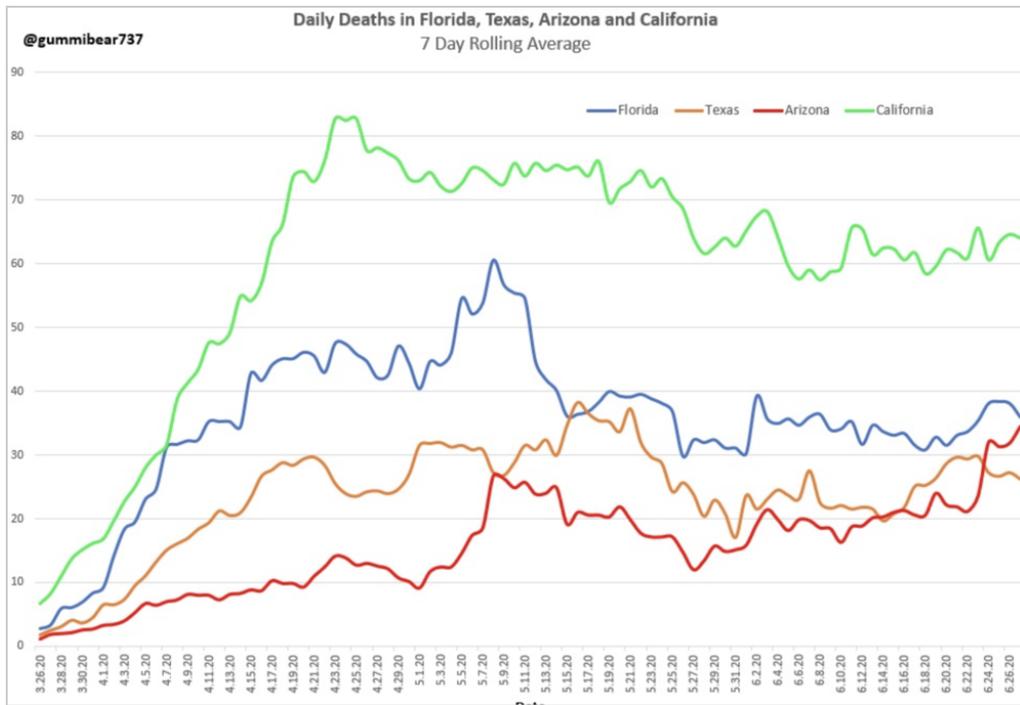
Fact #4: Despite a small uptick in hospitalizations, the number of COVID-19 patients in the ICU continues to decline.

IT'S DEATHS, NOT CASES

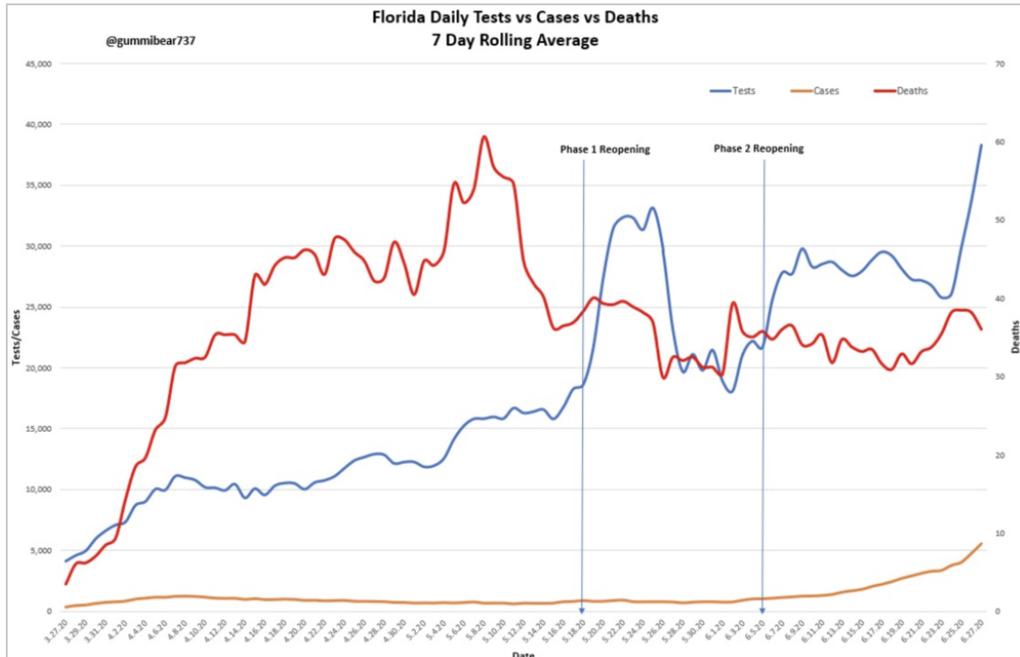
You've been hearing about a handful of states with rising cases, here they are on a chart, cases are clearly rising:



But for those states, what about deaths? They appear to be going the other way:



And, finally, perhaps the most important slide, using Florida as the example, there is NO correlation between more tests, more positive tests, and DEATHS (red line in the graph). The fact that these three measures are not linear means Florida has a low and stable death rate, and the recent uptick in positive cases—which happens to be perfectly timed to the nationwide protests—means nothing:



Fact #5: There is NO correlation in Florida—the state taking the most heat in the press about a second wave—between positive tests and deaths.

Of course, anyone who has been paying attention to the data could have told you that, because the national data on COVID-19 deaths is looking more and more like Sweden's, as we already discussed. Today, our national HIT is roughly 15%, which means we are almost done, no matter what any Governor does.

I've seen discussion about how the protests caused an uptick in infections amongst younger people. Some in opposition to that fairly obvious reality point to New York, which also had densely-packed protests but has NOT seen an uptick in hospitalizations—how do you explain that? By now, you know the answer: **New York's HIT is already 65%!**

Notably, in the math I used, Florida only had a Herd Immunity Threshold number of 6%, well below the target of 17%. So, yes, they MAY WELL have to endure a few more deaths before they achieve HIT. But, it's highly likely that 1) it won't need to be as high as 17% because the people being infected are much younger (where death rate is much lower) and 2) that it will happen in the next few weeks, and policy will have nothing to do with whether it happens or not. Either way, because we know the national number is 15%, the virus is almost gone, no matter what anyone says or does, and all you need to do to verify that is look at the CDC's death curve.

A final thought about Florida: John Thomas Littell, MD is a family physician in Florida. I was going to publish an excerpt from his [Letter to the Editor](#) of the *Orlando Medical News*, but it's so good and so wide-ranging, I want you to read the whole thing, and then we can wrap this up:

"Several times a day, on every possible news outlet, we are bombarded with updates as to the new number of "cases" of COVID-19 in the U.S. and elsewhere. News analysts then use these numbers to justify criticisms of those who dare to reject the CDC's recommendations with regards to mask wearing and social distancing. It is imperative that all Americans – and especially those in the medical profession – understand the actual definition of a "case" of COVID -19 so as to make informed decisions as to how to live our lives.

"Older Americans remember all too well the dread they experienced when a family member was diagnosed with a "case" of scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), or polio. During my career in family medicine, including several years as an Army physician, I have cared for patients with chickenpox, shingles, Lyme disease as well as measles, tuberculosis, malaria, and

AIDS. The “case definition” established for all of these diseases by the CDC requires the presence of signs and symptoms of that disease. In other words, each case involved a SICK patient. Laboratory studies may be performed to “confirm” a diagnosis, but are not sufficient in the absence of clinical symptoms.

“Having now been privileged to care for sick patients with COVID-19, both in and out of the hospital setting, I am happy to see the number of these sick patients dwindle almost to zero in my community – while the “case numbers” for COVID-19 continue to go up. Why is that?

“In marked contrast to measles, shingles, and other infectious disease, “cases” of COVID-19 do NOT require the presence of ANY symptoms whatsoever. Health departments are encouraging everyone and anyone to come in for testing, and each positive test is reported as yet another “new” case of COVID-19!

“On April 5, 2020, a small number of state epidemiologists (Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Technical Supplement: Interim-20-ID-01) came up with a “surveillance” case definition for COVID-19. At the time, there was uncertainty as to whether or not completely asymptomatic persons could transmit COVID-19 sufficiently enough to infect and cause disease in others. (This notion has never been proven and, in fact, has recently been discounted – cfr “A Study on the Infectivity of Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Carriers, Ming Fao et al, Respir Med, 2020 Aug – available online through PubMed 2020 May 13, as well as recent reports from the WHO itself). The CSTF thereby justified the unconventional case definition for COVID-19, adding ‘CSTE realizes that field investigations will involve evaluations of persons with no symptoms and these individuals will need to be counted as cases.’

“Hence, anyone who has a positive PCR test (the nasal swab, PCR test for COVID Antigen or Nucleic Acid) or serological test (blood test for antibodies –IgG and/or IgM) would be classified as a “case” – even in the absence of symptoms. In our hospitals at this time, there are hundreds of former nursing home residents sitting in “COVID” units who are in their usual state of good health, banned from returning to their former nursing home residences simply because they have TESTED Positive for COVID-19 during mass testing programs in the nursing homes.

"The presence of a positive lab test for COVID-19 in a person who has never been sick is actually GOOD news for that person and for the rest of us. The positive test indicates that this person has likely mounted an adequate immune response to a small dose of COVID-19 to whom he or she was exposed – naturally (hence, no need for a vaccine vs. COVID-19).

"It is important as well to understand that the presence of lab testing is not the ONLY criterion that the the CDC uses to established a diagnosis of COVID-19. The presence of only 1 or 2 flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) – in the absence of another proven cause (e.g., influenza, bacterial pneumonia) is SUFFICIENT to give a diagnosis of COVID-19 – as long as the patient also meets certain "epidemiological linkage" criteria as follows:

"In a person with clinically compatible symptoms, [a 'case' will be reported if that person had] one or more of the following exposures in the 14 days before onset of symptoms: travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2; close contact (10 minutes or longer, within a 6 foot distance) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak." Note that the definition of a "risk cohort" includes age > 70 or living in a nursing home or similar facility.

"So, in essence, any person with an influenza- like illness (ILI) could be considered a "case" of COVID-19, even WITHOUT confirmatory lab testing. The CDC has even advised to consider any deaths from pneumonia or ILI as "Covid-related" deaths – unless the physician or medical examiner establishes another infectious agent as the cause of illness.

"Now perhaps you see why the increasing number of cases, and even deaths, due to COVID-19 is fraught with misinterpretation and is NOT in any way a measure of the ACTUAL morbidity and mortality FROM COVID-19. My patients who insist upon wearing masks, gloves and social distancing are citing these misleading statistics as justification for their decisions (and, of course, that they are following the 'CDC guidelines'). I simply advise them, 'COVID-19 is NOT in the atmosphere around us; it resides in the respiratory tracts of infected individuals and can only be transmitted to others by sick, infected persons after prolonged contact with others'.

“So you may ask – why are we continuing to report increasing numbers of cases of COVID as though it were BAD news for America? Rather than as GOOD news, i.e, that the thousands of healthy Americans testing positive (also known as “asymptomatic”) are indicative of the presence of herd immunity – protecting themselves and many of us from potential future assaults by variants of COVID?”

“Why did we as a society stop sending our children to schools and camps and sports activities? Why did we stop going to work and church and public parks and beaches? Why did we insist that healthy persons “stay at home” – rather than observing the evidence-based, medically prudent method of identifying those who were sick and isolating them from the rest of the population – advising the sick to “stay at home” and allowing the rest of society to function normally? And, while we witnessed the gatherings of protestors in recent days with little concerns for COVID-19 spread among these asymptomatic persons, most certainly many are hoping that the increasing “case” numbers for COVID-19 will discourage folks from coming to any more rallies for certain candidates for political office.

“Fear is a powerful weapon. FDR famously broadcast to Americans in 1933 that “We have nothing to fear, but fear itself”. I would argue that we have to fear those who would have us remain fearful and servile and willing to surrender basic freedoms without justification.”

**John Thomas Littell, MD, is a board-certified family physician. After earning his MD from George Washington University, he served in the US Army, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal for his work in quality improvement, and also served with the National Health Service Corps in Montana. During his eighteen years in Kissimmee, FL, Dr Littell has served on the faculty of the UCF School of Medicine, President of the County Medical Society, and Chief of Staff at the Florida Hospital. He currently resides with his wife, Kathleen, and family in Ocala, Florida, where he remains very active as a family physician with practices both in Kissimmee and Ocala.*

Dr. Littell brings up many more issues than I have chosen to address in this post, because I already wrote about them in my [previous blog post on May 30](#).

Wasn't this supposed to be about hospitals?

The only reason ever given for locking down in the first place was space availability in hospitals. Here's what Florida said about their hospitals last week:

FLORIDA'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM

- Twice as many beds available than before the pandemic as a percentage.
- Far fewer COVID-19 patients in ICU and on ventilators than in April.
- Non-COVID hospital patients are tested for COVID.

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And here's what doctors in Houston, Texas [said last week](#):

*"Hospital CEO's including, Dr. Marc Boom with **Houston Methodist**, Dr. David L. Callender with **Memorial Hermann Health System**, Dr. Doug Lawson with **St. Luke's Health**, and Mark A. Wallace with **Texas Children's Hospital**, held a zoom conference, June 25, out of concern, "that recent news coverage has unnecessarily alarmed the Houston community about hospital capacity during this COVID-19 surge." The two key major takeaways from today's discussion: The Houston health care system has the resources and capacity necessary to treat patients with COVID-19 and otherwise..."*

Sigh. So why is the press making such a big deal out of the "second wave"? I don't do politics, but if I did I would probably [mention that here](#).

What are Governors doing?

In a quick word: nothing helpful. I think this guy summarizes how I feel:



Seriously, though, the rollbacks of openings are simply ridiculous, and simply compounding a terrible idea, and delaying the inevitable process within each region of achieving a proper Herd Immunity Threshold. If you want to get angry about lockdowns all over again, like I did in [my article in May](#), just read this: [The lockdown is causing so many deaths](#). Here's an excerpt:

"How many people aged 15 or under have died of Covid-19? Four. The chance of dying from a lightning strike is one in 700,000. The chance of dying of Covid-19 in that age group is one in 3.5 million. And we locked them all down. Even among the 15- to 44-year-olds, the death rate is very low and the vast majority of deaths have been people who had significant underlying health conditions. We locked them down as well. We locked down the population that had virtually zero risk of getting any serious problems from the disease, and then spread it wildly among the highly vulnerable age group. If you had written a plan for making a complete bollocks of things you would have come up with this one."

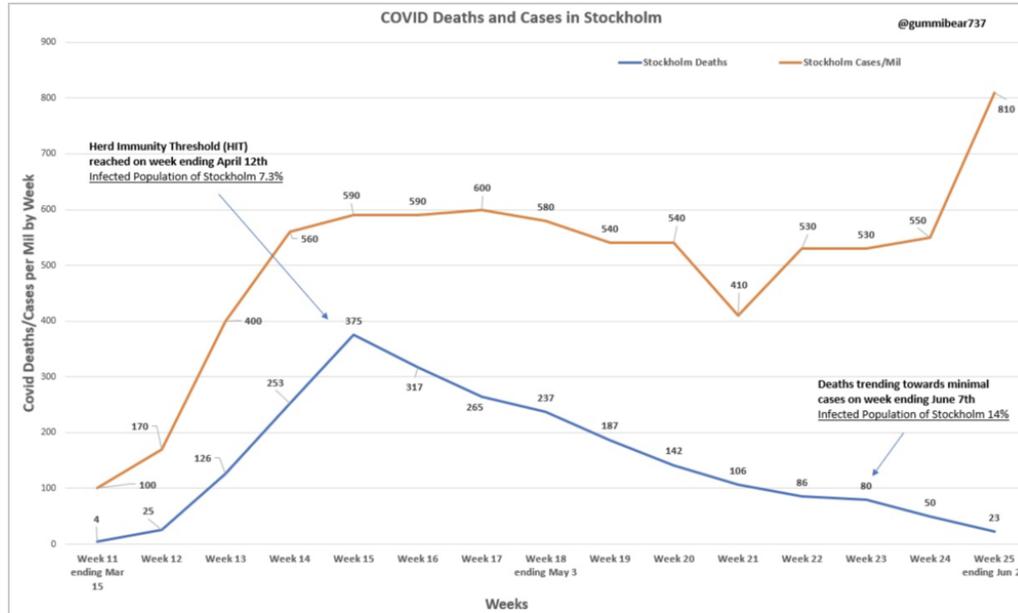
In Conclusion

Dr. Michael Levitt and Sweden have been right all along. The only way through COVID-19 is by achieving the modest (10-20%) Herd Immunity Threshold required to have the virus snuff itself out. The sooner politicians—and the press—start talking about HIT and stop talking about new confirmed cases, the better off we will all be. Either way, it's likely weeks, not months, before the data of new daily deaths will be so low that the press will have to find

something new to scare everyone. It's over.

A quick note:

Haters of this article will post articles about Sweden saying their approach has been a failure. They will point to recent press about Sweden having higher rates of COVID-19 positive tests lately —[Sweden has pushed back strongly](#)—so here's a chart for the haters, it shows positive cases in Sweden, tracked against deaths. There's no correlation.



For my truly committed readers who made it this far:

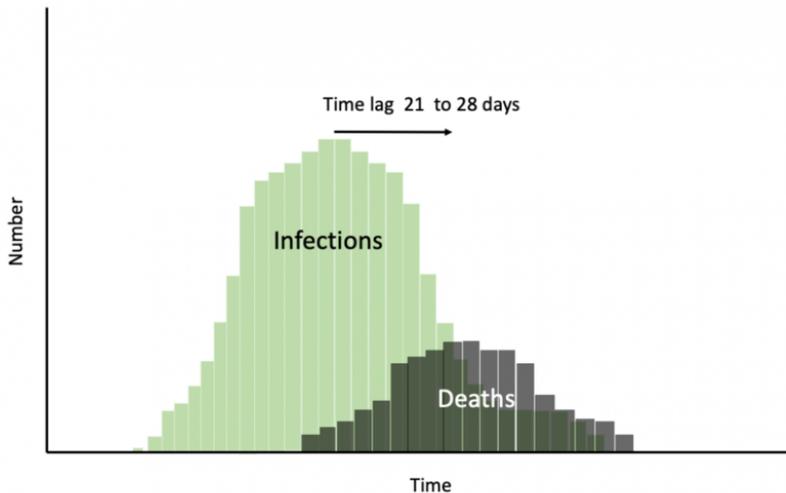
“The death rate is a fact; anything beyond this is an inference.”

—William Farr (1807 – 1883)

William Farr, creator of Farr's law, knew this over 100 years ago. Viruses rise and fall at roughly the same slopes. It's predictable, and COVID-19 is no different, which is why, after looking at all these death curves, it's not very hard to declare that the pandemic is over. Oxford's center for Evidence Based Medicine has a wonderful explanation of Farr's law, and it's [well worth a read](#). Some of my favorite quotes:

“Farr shows us that once peak infection has been reached then it will roughly follow the same symmetrical pattern on the downward slope.”

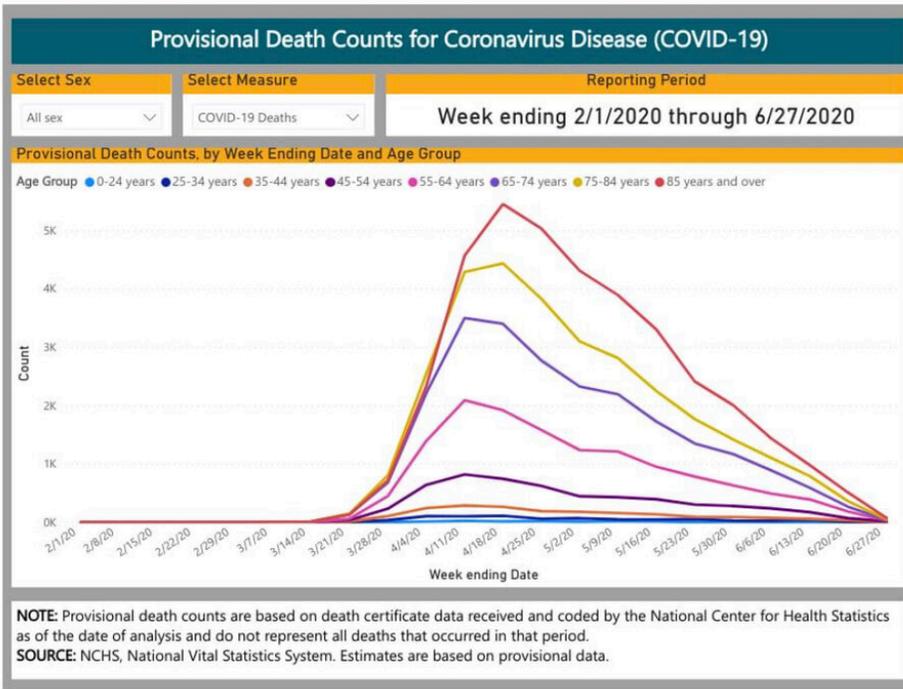
"In the midst of a pandemic, it is easy to forget Farr's Law, and think the number infected will just keep rising, it will not. Just as quick as measures were introduced to prevent the spread of infection we need to recognise the point at which to open up society and also the special measures due to 'density' that require special considerations."



"Once peak deaths have been reached we should be working on the assumption that the infection has already started falling in the same progressive steps. Using deaths as the proxy for falling infections facilitates the planning of the next steps for reopening those societies that are in lockdown."

A reader just sent me this chart from the CDC. If you don't think the COVID-19 virus has run its course according to Farr's Law, I can't help you!

> Table 1. Deaths involving coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), pneumonia, and influenza reported to NCHS by sex and age group. United States. Week ending 2/1/2020 to 6/27/2020



About the author: *J.B. Handley is the best-selling author of [How to End the Autism Epidemic](#). He graduated with honors from Stanford University, and currently serves as a Managing member of [Bochi Investments](#), a private investment firm. He can be reached at jbhandleyblog@gmail.com*

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Press Conference Video & Transcript

Should healthy people or asymptomatic carriers wear a mask?

A large, prospective, randomized clinical trial (RCT); and the first RCT ever conducted of cloth masks. Conclusion- **“This study is the first RCT of cloth masks, and the results caution against the use of cloth masks. Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection”** <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/4/e006577>

From University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. **“Cloth masks are ineffective as source control and PPE, surgical masks have some role to play in preventing emissions from infected patients, and respirators are the best choice for protecting healthcare and other frontline workers, but not recommended for source control. These recommendations apply to pandemic and non-pandemic situations.”**

<https://publichealth.uic.edu/news-stories/commentary-masks-for-all-for-covid-19-not-based-on-sound-data/>

“WHO stands by recommendation to not wear masks if you are not sick or not caring for someone who is sick . . . There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there’s some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly,” Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO health emergencies program.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/30/world/coronavirus-who-masks-recommendation-trnd/index.html>

Although . . . **“CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission” . . . there are no scientific citations provided to support this on the page**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

CDC says masks don’t work for the flu. **“No recommendation can be made at this time for mask use in the community by asymptomatic persons, including those at high risk for complications, to prevent exposure to influenza viruses.”**

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/maskguidance.htm>

On a separate page related to face covering, the CDC provides seven publications to support their recommendation– but none of the studies support that wearing a mask is effective or safe in preventing transmission. They only support that transmission is person to person

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

On March 2, the U.S. Surgeon General said, **“one of the things they shouldn’t be doing, the general public, is going out and buying masks. It actually does not help and it has not been proven to be effective at preventing the spread of Corona virus decreasing amongst the general public”**. Interview: <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6137596907001#sp=show-clips> He tweeted on February 29th **“Seriously people -STOP BUYING MASKS! They are not effective in preventing the general public from catching the corona virus”**

READ studies that support community masking CRITICALLY: did they examine real-world conditions? Were masks, hands, touched objects, swabbed? The surrounding air tested?

For more information

<https://jennifermargulis.net/healthy-people-wearing-masks-during-covid19/>

Michelle Howke

From: Linh Barinowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In favor of mask ordinance

And I support any further mandated measures to help slow the spread.

Thank you,
Linh Barinowski

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sue Basta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask - emergency ordenance- yes

I say yes to mandatory masks in WF. The numbers are going up and unfortunately without an enforceable mandate with fines many people will not wear a mask.

Super1 must mandate that their employees wear masks and all other businesses in WF also must mandate or locals will not shop those stores. We need to feel safe.

Thank you for protecting the welfare of the local residents of WF.

Sue Basta

[REDACTED]

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Shelby Bauman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support of requiring masks in Whitefish...
Attachments: 2020-07-14.Emergency Special Session.packet-1.pdf

Hello,

I would like to add my support for passing a requirement for masks in our community, through this email, as I am unable to attend the meeting in person, and do not want to put myself or others at risk during this time of coronavirus and Covid19.

We need to take this seriously and make every effort to decrease our positive numbers again. Our community was doing very well until Phase 2 of reopening. Please take this seriously and require masks in public places.

Thank you. Concerned resident of Whitefish.

Best Regards,

Shelby Bauman

shelby bauman

studio4130

[REDACTED]
graphic + interactive design
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dana Smith** <dsmith@cityofwhitefish.org>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 4:36 PM

Subject: Update from City Hall

To:

Good afternoon Whitefish Folks,

Mayor John Muhlfeld, pursuant to § 7-5-4102, MCA, has called a special session of the City Council on July 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., to be held in the Whitefish City Council Chambers located at 418 East Second Street, Whitefish, Montana, to conduct a public hearing regarding an emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We encourage individuals who wish to provide public comment to provide an email to the City Clerk, Michelle Howke, at mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org by 9:30 a.m. on July 14, 2020, prior to the meeting. The agenda and a copy of the proposed ordinance is attached.

Thank you,

Dana Smith, CPA

City Manager

City of Whitefish

418 E. 2nd Street

P.O. Box 158

Whitefish, MT 59937

Ph: 406-863-2406

Fax: 406-863-2419



EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Joanie Bechtle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask.s

I am a veterinarian here in Whitefish and daily see numerous tourist's animals for medical care. Our staff is in direct contact with them every day and although all employees wear masks, many clients do not choose to wear one. I know this is true in many businesses as well, despite passing the previous recommendation. I do not feel like enough of the public realize the risk they are placing our staff in every day. Also, we have a staff of almost 50 between two hospitals and have been wearing masks all day, often 10-12 hr shifts for almost 4 mo now and not a single employee has been adversely affected. We actually used a pulse oximeter to evaluate our oxygen levels both masked and unmasked and it is unchanged. This should refute any argument that masks cause medical issues in general. They do not. They are not always comfortable but one gets used to them and some varieties are better than others. We all know science has proven that masks slow transmission. If we want to stay open and keep our citizens safe, we need to make the responsible choice and mask up. If people cannot comply by choice I feel a requirement will likely have to happen for the betterment of the entire community. This isn't political..its about the health of our citizens. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Joanie Bechtle, DVM

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Julie Berquist [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Wearing masks

Hi Michelle,

I work at Rocky Mountain Tile and we get so many out of state customers in here building their home in the Flathead. Many have just flown on an airplane, just came from a populated area (some with heavy Covid numbers), and no one is wearing a mask. I wear mine but it doesn't protect me much if they don't wear theirs. I think it would just be easier if everyone wears a mask period. People just don't want to do what it takes to be safe so I feel it just makes it simple.

Thank you for your time!

Julie Berquist

4 [REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bill Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mandating Masks while in Whitefish public settings-Please pass the mandatory mask ordinance!

I am highly in favor of the ordinance regarding mandatory masks while in Whitefish public. Please refer to my previous email below to reiterate my feelings.

On Jul 5, 2020, at 3:52 PM, Bill Jones [REDACTED] wrote:

We are encouraged that the City of Whitefish is considering further the safety of their residents and businesses as well as slowing the spread of Covid 19 through mask usage. We support any resolution which encourages mask use but we think the City falls short if they just encourage and not mandate use in public settings. Obviously they are already encouraged by the CDC and people do not wear them. The recent letter by Terry and Carol Trierweiler, Whitefish Pilot July 1, 2020 is well founded (with the exception that the number of Covid 19 cases since it was published have alarmingly increased here since!) and we believe the City should follow their logic and recommendation to make masks mandatory while in Whitefish public settings.

Sincerely,

William Jones

[REDACTED]
Whitefish MT 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mary Beth Blumhardt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Wear your mask

Please support mandatory masks indoors for all Whitefish. We Strongly recommend this to help keep our businesses open.

Why has this become so politicalized and an option in this country? No other country around the globe has this issue. Other Global citizens wear the mask and prevent the spread.

Sincerely

David and Mary Beth Blumhardt

Whitefish Montana

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Noah Bodman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hi,

I'm submitting comments in support of a mask ordinance. I wear a mask myself, but that doesn't do much good when there are swarms of maskless tourists in town. I have two newborn sons that I need to keep healthy, and the last thing I want to be worrying about is bringing them covid that I'm carrying from some tourist I passed in the grocery store.

Thanks for your consideration. I'm glad the city is (hopefully) taking action on this.

- Noah Bodman

[REDACTED], Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brian Boucher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

Maybe you ignorant fools do not understand math. The n95 mask when used perfectly only filters down to .3 microns. The COVID-19 virus is .1 - .2 microns in size which means it passed right through the mask. Not only that it has been stated that it is not healthy for healthy people to wear masks. I will not wear a mask that does not work just to suit this towns ignorance and very obvious political bias and fear mongering so Fxxx You.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Liz Boucher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandate

Since you didn't listen to the majority whom do not want their civil liberties infringed upon. Fxxx your mask mandate!

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Gordon Bower [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for mask ordinance

Dear Ms. Howke:

I write to encourage the City to adopt and enforce a mandatory mask ordinance. (I wish you had done it last week rather than waiting until we had a bad local outbreak.)

I live half an hour up Highway 93 from Whitefish, and have a choice whether I make my occasional shopping trips in Eureka, Libby, or the Flathead -- and I will be making my choice based on where it is safest for me to shop. Requiring masks in stores, offering online ordering and curbside or contactless pickup, and generally doing whatever it takes to keep prevalence of the disease low in your community is what will get you my business.

I invite the City to voice its support to the County for a wider ordinance rather than one that applies only to Whitefish, too. The more people we can keep healthy the better.

Gordon Bower
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Trey Bowlby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

City Council,

As the rise in COVID-19 increases, its unfortunate that we now have to take the next step in mandating masks. As of last weeks meeting, I supported City Council in their decision to urge people to wear masks. However, as cases increase and the ignorance of people increase, begrudgingly I have to say it's now time for all of us to be smart, protect ourselves and others by mandating wearing a mask.

The reason for the change is as a worker in a downtown business, I am appalled by the large number of people coming into our shop ignorantly disregarding large, posted signs requiring a mask be worn. They make all kinds of excuses and have no regard for other people. They act entitled and when asked to put on a mask they always have an excuse or get upset. That blows me away!!!

So yes, please make a mask mandatory!

TB

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Whitney Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: From a small business owner, City needs to REQUIRE face masks

Hello Michelle,

I'm reaching out in regards to the latest recommendation that you and the city passed earlier this week about face masks in downtown Whitefish. I am a small business owner with a downtown location, and I have found myself at the forefront of this pandemic, having to make my own conscious decisions about how to safely operate my business through this stressful time. I have made my decisions based on factual evidence about COVID-19, and have followed guidance from other businesses akin to mine in larger cities. Because we're in such a small town, we have benefited from not many cases compared to other cities and states, but we now find ourselves in our busiest season, with tourists flocking to our town and not being respectful of our public spaces.

I was extremely disappointed in the City of Whitefish for not passing a REQUIREMENT to wear face masks in public spaces. A recommendation is not setting a standard and came across as being fearful of backlash rather than taking a stand for the health of our community.

Because a requirement was not set, I made my own decision to require masks inside my downtown business, which I have already received plenty of negative feedback for (I should note, also a lot of positive feedback from the community—so many people in town are proud of us taking the health of our customers and staff seriously). I have also made the decision to give out free masks to those who enter without one, which is costing my business money simply to do my best to keep my employees safe.

The time to enforce masks or face coverings in downtown Whitefish is now, not in two weeks when we become even busier. Especially with the recent closure of The Great Northern Bar, due to an employee testing positive for Coronavirus, this needs to become a serious mandate for our town. I do not want my business forced to close its doors again and risk going out of business all together. And I don't want to see any other small businesses around us have to close either; but without taking serious measures to ensure public safety while keeping town alive, we face that risk.

I ask that you take this letter into serious consideration and you and the City of Whitefish reevaluate the "recommendation" that was passed, and turn it into a requirement.

Thank you for your time,

Whitney Brien

Owner & Pastry Chef
Fleur Bake Shop

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Marti Bruce [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mark Ordinance

Dear City Council,

I've heard that the Council is considering an emergency ordinance mandating masks. If so, please pass a mask requirement. It's frightening to see how few businesses and (even worse) how few tourists are wearing masks inside buildings.

Now is the time to make the right choice, please consider the wellbeing of our community.

Thanks!

Best,
Marti Brandt
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rachel Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory face masks

Dear Council Members,

Please pass an ordinance requiring face masks in public. My family is horrified by the number of people not voluntarily wearing them and it's not fair to our local populace who has worked so hard to keep our covid cases down.

Thank you

Rachel Burke
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kathy White Carlson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory mask

Mandatory masks will decrease your sales downtown.

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ann Carriveau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Voting no on masks

Again, please do not adopt this and require masks under threat of penalty. You are tearing this city apart financially, mentally and emotionally.

Doing the emergency meeting without ANY public signage is ridiculous and sketchy. You know this is not right.

Ann Carriveau
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jana Cashin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

My husband and I are full time Whitefish residents. We would be in favor of a mandatory mask policy to insure the safety of all individuals. 😊

Thank you!

Jana & Mike Cashin
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Glo Caudillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks Requirement

I am in support of a mask mandate for the City of Whitefish.

The health and wellbeing of our community is at stake and we need to take all possible steps to prevent the spreading of this virus. By enacting a mandate, you will be helping every individual that lives here and visits here.

Time is of the essence. Please ACT expeditiously.

Thank you,
Gloria Caudillo

[REDACTED]
Whitefish MT 59937
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: john chaney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Wearing a face mask should be required.

Wearing a face mask should be required when indoors and when outside when others are present.

Thank you,
John Chaney

--

John Chaney
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chris A. Clouse [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks required in Whitefish?

I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance requiring face masks in Whitefish. The health of our Community is more important than the inconvenience of wearing a mask.

Thank you,

Chris Clouse

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT. 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brent Conrad [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hello,

I am responding to the Emergency Ordinance. We have people flocking to Whitefish because it is the best place. They may or may not be infected with Covid. I am cutting my time at places in town because of this. Please vote yes for to make this happen. Perhaps if masks were worn the Great Northern Bar wouldn't have had to close losing money. If this stops one person that gets it then lets do it.

Thanks for listening,

Brent P. Conrad

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Montana, 59937
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Max Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Masks in the City of Whitefish

Hello Michelle,

My name is Max Curtis and I am a 29 year old who lives and works in Whitefish. I work for a local nonprofit, have lived in Whitefish for 20 years this September, and my mother used to be the Assistant D.A. for the City of Whitefish. I am emailing you today regarding the mandatory mask usage for our lovely little ski town. I wholeheartedly believe that masks should be mandatory throughout businesses, parks, and various other venues due to the alarming number of COVID-19 cases nationwide. I am honestly shocked that hotels, bars, and other non-essential businesses are still open for operation despite the growing number of cases state wide.

I understand that our town relies on tourism to further our economy but frankly it is disheartening to see the lack of social distancing and the blatant disregard for community health. As I'm sure you are aware, every time one gets in the car there are countless out of state license plates from Washington State, Texas, Arizona, and so forth. People are coming into our community from the most highly infected states with no quarantine regulations and no oversight of their movements with the potential to infect or *KILL* residents of Whitefish and tourists alike. If it were my decision alone, we would still be under mandated shelter in place similar to March and April. For the sake of our town and her visitors alike, please at least make masks mandatory in ALL locations where people are working and serving tourists enjoying our town. Thank you for reading.

-Max Curtis

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Suzanne Daniell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke; John Muhlfeld; John Muhlfeld; Frank Sweeney
Subject: Emergency ordinance

Hello all;

I am in complete support of the emergency ordinance mandating masks. This remains our best chance of reducing spread. I suspect closure of bars and requiring restaurants to enforce the 6 ft rule is not far behind. Glad you are moving up the time table with a special meeting.

Suzanne

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Richard DeGroot [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Yes, let's wear masks. It is simple, it is effective, it is painless. The mask not only protects the wearer, but more importantly, the mask protects those around us.

Our numbers are increasing; important that we mask to stop the spread.

Richard DeGroot

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Elizabeth Deihm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Masking in Whitefish

Good Afternoon,

I wish to make my views known regarding the mayor's suggestion that masking be made mandatory in the City of Whitefish.

I highly encourage this move for our city. We are blessed to live in an area that many wish to visit. That blessing brings our small city a good revenue stream, not to mention a great deal of well-deserved pride. The residents of Whitefish are friendly and welcoming to all who come here.

But we are now staring down the COVID-19 plague that we have managed to avoid for months. While very little about this pandemic is 100% certain, I believe we can say that it is something that touches all of us. It is invisible and highly contagious, and it makes many people nervous. A great deal of our visitors are here because they are fleeing "hot spots". All you have to do is look at the license plates. Texas, California, and Arizona, Idaho, South Dakota and Washington. I have even seen Pennsylvania and New Jersey. I cannot blame them. If I were there I would want to come here.

Here is where the blessing becomes a double-edged sword. They might unknowingly be bringing the virus with them. Even if they are not, they are nervous. They don't feel safe because they see the license plates too. Local and tourist are both the same in the eyes of the virus. We need to protect both our health and our economy. I believe a move like this will give everyone a measure of security.

No one said it would be easy. Some people will become upset. It is happening everywhere. But I ask the Council to seriously consider it. I also ask they develop a way to 1) support the employees of the shops who will be on the front lines and 2) find a way to quickly and thoroughly disseminate the new rule if it is passed.

Whitefish has at heart always been a small town of residents who take care of each other. While we have not faced something like this before I pray we continue to work together to get all of us safely through this crisis.

Thank you!

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Renee Denise [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

Dear Michelle Howke

I am writing to you to say that our montana is at risk. Our neighbors are most important and the health of our community is the only way we are going to be able to keep business open and children in school. Whitefish has tried to suggest mask usage for months but as we can all see some people will just not do it that is why I am hoping that you think of our neighbors and make masks mandatory for our communities safety.

Thank you

Renee Hindle

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angel Dominguez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Use of Face Masks Needs to be Required - Public comment

Michelle,

My name is Angel Dominguez and I have lived full time in Whitefish since 2013, part time since 2007. In 2013, I started working at the Going to the Sun Gallery, located at [REDACTED], part time.

I am strongly in favor of requiring people to wear face masks while in indoor places. Scientific evidence supports that masks do help prevent spread of Covid-19. I would rather people not come into the gallery who insist on not wearing a mask. I do not want their business. They are putting me and my loved ones in danger by refusing to do what is beneficial for all. I respect their right to not wear a mask, but they need to respect my right that I do not want their business and do not want them in the gallery.

My health is more important than the dollar.

Please enforce masks being required in indoor places. Our lives depend on it.

Angel Dominguez
[REDACTED]

WF

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Richard Dugan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Mask Ordinance

After failing to impose mandatory masks the first time around, I would hope our leaders would get the spine needed to make this difficult decision before it is too late.

Make masks mandatory while inside any Whitefish establishment.

Regards,

Richard Dugan
[REDACTED]

WF

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sylvia Eckhardt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

Yes. We need EVERYONE to wear a mask inside and out in public places.

SHE

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Heather Ellsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In support of required masks...

Hello, I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for requiring masks to be worn in public. I have been wearing masks every time I do my grocery shopping or other necessary errands in Whitefish. Lots of others around me not wearing masks :/ Masks are MOST EFFECTIVE when everyone does it. The point is to keep germs IN, and reduce the distance the droplets carry out from our nose & mouth. Which means everyone has to do their part.

I work at Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Summer is our busiest time. Resources are already stretched thin. Wait times are long. Careful & thorough cleaning procedures between each patient exacerbates those wait times. Do we really want to put additional strain on our medical personnel & resources? No, of course not. Do the right thing, MAKE MASKS MANDATORY.

Thank you, Heather Ellsworth
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Linda Engh-Grady [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: emergency ordinance

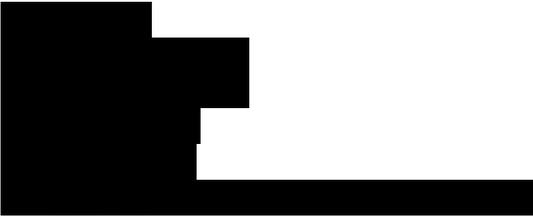
Dear Council,

As much as we all dislike face masks, it is a much better option than closing the town down. If we do not require people to wear face masks, we are heading to a second lockdown. Closing businesses will hurt a lot more than wearing a mask. We need to take the ordinance all the way and require it. This is best for Whitefish right now.

Yes, there will be a great deal of trouble enforcing this ordinance. We are in a serious situation and I sympathize with your situation. Wearing a mask is good for our economy. Hopefully, it is not too late. Protect Whitefish.

Thanks for all you do.
Linda

**Linda Engh-Grady, President
Whitefish Community Foundation**



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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]comcast.net
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Requirement of masks in public

Dear City of Whitefish,

The requirement of the use of face coverings in public spaces in the city of Whitefish will provide necessary protection for the people who live, work and play in the Flathead Valley. With the rapid rise in Covid 19 active cases, this requirement will help slow the spread in our Valley and will demonstrate that the City of Whitefish takes their responsibility for the health and well-being of each and every human being in Whitefish seriously. Please pass the ordinance immediately.

Sincerely,

Kelly Fitzpatrick
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: joann Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency ordinance on requiring facemasks

My husband and I are strongly in favor of the emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We would very much like to see the City Council pass this ordinance at the meeting on July, 14, 2020 in order to protect the people of Whitefish from contracting this virus.

Joann & Don Fleming
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Clint Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Clint Franklin
Subject: Mask mandate

The city council should not mandate masks. Each business and individual can decide if it is appropriate for them. We are adults and know what is best for our situation. If a business requires it and someone does not want to shop there because of that then that's each parties decision and vice versa.

There are 25 active cases in Flathead County out of a population 103,806 that represents .00024 of the entire population of Flathead County. That IS NOT an emergency.

So are you as the council going to mandate something that causes decisiveness and slows down tourism from coming to town which causes ALL businesses in Whitefish to suffer? I would hope your God given common sense would know better.

Clint Franklin
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Christine Lee French [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support mandatory face mask

Hello and thank you for your work. I support requiring the use of face masks. Christine EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Leslie Galloway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mandatory Masks in public

Michelle,

Please require masks in Whitefish, I would certainly begin to go to town if everyone wore a mask when they couldn't social distance.

Thank you

[REDACTED] Whitefish MT

Leslie Galloway
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 5, 2020 at 6:43 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Leslie Galloway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 8:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Re: Mandatory Masks in public

My address [REDACTED] Whitefish, MT 59937

Leslie Galloway

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 7:46 PM Leslie Galloway [REDACTED] wrote:

Please consider **requiring** people to wear masks when they cannot social-distance (inside restaurants, bars, shopping, super markets etc)

We need to learn from other cities that we are not immune.

Thank you

Leslie Galloway

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rory Galloway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Rory Galloway; 'Leslie Galloway (lwalloway@gmail.com)'
Subject: YES, Masks-Emergency Ordinance

Michelle,

My wife, family, and I appreciate the recent resolution regarding the wearing of masks in social settings. We are both scientists and recognize the logical basis for following recommended protective measures.

While we have observed some progress (increased wearing of masks), we still see too many instances of people walking into stores without masks. Today, I went into Ace Hardware and while most customers were cooperating, there still were at least 10% of the customers that were not.

As we all know, it only takes one infected person to further spread the disease and cause significant business disruptions (e.g., Great Northern Bar). Having higher case numbers also would reduce tourist visits, further dampening the economy. Therefore, I think it's reasonable that the City take additional precautions to protect its residents as well as our visitors.

Accordingly, we strongly recommend passing of the emergency ordinance.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Rory and Leslie Galloway

[REDACTED]
Whitefish MT 59937

From: Rory Galloway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:55 PM
To: mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
Subject: Masks

mhowke,

While I applaud the effort to solicit input from our citizens regarding this issue, I think it is a foregone conclusion that masks need to be worn when social distancing can not be achieved. The purpose of a face covering is to decrease infection to others, while providing some protection to the wearer. This is not an unreasonable thing to expect at this time, given our increasing numbers this past June. As evident in the data, initial efforts were very successful in reducing exposures, but then everybody relaxed and our second wave arrived.

It's not unreasonable to request people to wear masks for the greater good of everyone. Just like we all stop at intersections, we all drive in the right lane, and we are all use our turn signals. These safety measures are reasonable and so are facial covers. Also, how is wearing a mask so much worse than covering our mouths when we sneeze, which courteous citizens have been doing long before this pandemic appeared.

This message should be formulated, clearly communicated, and logically encouraged. There really is no reason why these issues are not part of the daily communications in our city. For example, the Art Festival this weekend, their website says nothing at all about safe distancing, hand washing, group sizes, facial covers, etc. It's as if the pandemic did not even exist. This is not only wrong but also is negligent.

<http://www.whitefishartsfestival.org/>

We either can be informed and stay safe, or we can continue to move forward without information/knowledge and be subject to the negative repercussions.

Wear a Mask!

Thanks,

Rory Galloway

████████████████████

Whitefish, MT

C: ██████████

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chris Gardner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: I fully support the city mandate to require face masks in Whitefish to slow the spread of Covid 19

I fully support the city mandate to require face masks In public within the Whitefish City limits to slow the spread of Covid 19

Thanks,
Chris Gardner
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59337

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Tom Garwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:46 PM
To: John Muhlfeld
Subject: Mask ordinance

Dear Mayor Muhlfeld,

While I live outside city limits and so am not a Whitefish voter, I do like to shop in Whitefish. I will be much more likely to go into a store in Whitefish -- as opposed to shopping on Amazon -- if I can rely on staff and shoppers wearing masks pursuant to a city mask ordinance.

Please feel free to share this comment with the members of the city council and the Whitefish city management.

Thank you very much for your leadership.

--
Tom Garwin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED]
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kristi Goetsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Karen Beenken; Robert Sanford
Subject: make masks mandatory!

The ignorance & audacity of the unmasked people who showed up at city hall to say they were against mandatory masks is stupefying. Their choices are based on their politics & not on science. They are a danger to everyone else.

Driving through downtown Whitefish yesterday, I could count on one hand the number of people wearing masks amidst large groups of people.

Make masks mandatory!
Kristi Goetsch

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Thomas Gilfillan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:03 PM
To: kevin@whitefishchamber.org
Cc: Michelle Howke
Subject: RE: Council vote to make masks mandatory ... tomorrow at 10 a.m.

GO FOR IT.! GOOD.! Tom/WFPottery

From: Kevin Gartland [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Council vote to make masks mandatory ... tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Good afternoon all:

Given how fast the rumor mill spins in this town of ours, you may already be aware that the City Council has scheduled an emergency meeting for 10 a.m. tomorrow to consider making facemasks mandatory pretty much everywhere in Whitefish except within the four walls of your home.

The ordinance being proposed places responsibility for enforcement directly (and solely) on local businesses. Businesses who allow unmasked customers, employees or other "individuals" to frequent their business can be charged with either a Municipal Infraction or a Misdemeanor. Maximum fine for first-time offenders has been set at \$300; subsequent violations could cost \$500/day.

Interestingly enough, the Ordinance does not establish fines/penalties for individuals who violate the Ordinance anywhere other than in a place of business. One must assume, therefore, that the City has no plans to try and enforce the mask-wearing edict on the streets of downtown Whitefish, on City trails or in City parks.

I've attached the full Ordinance for your review ... the "meat" starts on Page 5.

If you want to submit comments directly to the Council, email mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org by the end of the day today to make certain they're included.

If you want to consider taking an official Board position on the Mask Ordinance, I've set-up a Zoom meeting for tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. ... the log-in info is below. We need to have at least 7 Board members on the call in order to take a position one way or the other, so please join us if you're able. I'll do my best to keep it to 30 minutes.

Thanks!

KOG

Kevin O. Gartland
Executive Director

Michelle Howke

From: Gail Goodwin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE REQUIRE MASKS!!!- Please pass to City Council and the Mayor- thank you!

PLEASE MANDATE MASKS to protect our lives and our businesses. See the letter below sent prior to the outbreak of all the new cases. Please, help us prevent this problem from growing in Whitefish!

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Lynne Goodwin, CPM®
Montana Bear Properties
[REDACTED]

For one-of-a-kind uniquely located luxury vacation rentals, hibernate with us.



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gail Goodwin <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sat, Jul 4, 2020 at 11:58 AM
Subject: PLEASE REQUIRE MASKS!!!- Please pass to City Council and the Mayor- thank you!
To: <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

Dear City of Whitefish,

My name is Gail Goodwin and I'm a local businesswoman and resident of Whitefish, Montana. My latest development project, Snow Bear Chalets located slopeside at Whitefish Mountain Resort put Whitefish, Montana on the cover of TIME Magazine when we were selected as one of the **100 World's Greatest Places**. Our treehouse chalets provide luxury, short term vacation rentals to guests from all over the country. We're proud to shine a spotlight on Montana, and specifically on Whitefish.

I am writing to you today to beg you to please amend Resolution #20 to make it stronger, and then pass the resolution which will make masks or facial coverings MANDATORY in Whitefish! With the influx of tourism, there is a spike in cases in our country and in our state and our residents are now at a greater risk than ever. In a perfect world this regulation would have been issued as a federal or state mandate, but since it hasn't been, please step us to protect our community by requiring people to wear masks indoors in all public spaces and in outdoor public spaces where social distancing isn't possible.

Here are the reasons I believe a mandatory mask mandate is the best thing to do to protect our community and should be enacted immediately:

- Physical Health:

It has been scientifically proven that if a healthy person and an infected person are in the same room together and both are wearing masks, there is less than a 1% chance that the healthy person will be infected. Less than 1%! The biggest problem with COVID-19 is that many people are asymptomatic and are spreading it without knowing they even have it. A simple cloth mask to prevent the disbursement of their droplets when exhaling will prevent the spread. I wear my mask to protect you. You wear your mask to protect me.

I realize there are those with minimal education who will argue that masks don't work. If they're right and we wore them for nothing, my bad, but no harm has been done. If they're wrong as science proves, then the consequences are severe and people will die. This is an easy decision Whitefish.

- Financial Health of our Businesses:

A mandatory mask requirement would reduce the spread in Montana, and allow us to remain open for responsible business. As a local business, I choose to welcome out-of-state guests who contribute to our local economy in many ways. However, many are coming from hot spots and could, unknowingly, be carrying COVID-19 with them to Montana. Again, I wear my mask to protect you. You wear your mask to protect me. And, by all of us wearing masks, together we protect our economy.

Personally, I can't shop in Whitefish right now. As a type-A blood type woman over 60, I am in a higher risk category. I haven't been able to shop in a local grocery store since early March, due to the lack of masks on staff and other shoppers. I'm now shopping 100% online, which is hurting our local businesses. We need a mandate to protect our local business owners and allow our residents to shop locally once again.

- Creating a Shortage of N-95 PPE for front line workers and health care providers:

If the general population and tourists don't wear masks, then I and many like me are required to wear an N-95 mask, which is the only kind of mask that will prevent me from getting the virus carried by others. Yes, I'm healthy and do what I can to support a strong immune system, but this virus kills healthy people too. If others aren't willing to protect me by simply wearing a mask, then I have to take more serious precautions and wear an N-95 mask. Therefore, without a mandate requiring all of us wearing cloth masks, higher risk healthy people will be forced to shorten the supply of N-95 masks for front line workers. In essence, the lack of a mandate from you would mean that you are in essence contributing to the shortage of PPE available for front line workers.

- Recommendation vs Mandate

Although Governor Bullock has stated his "strong recommendation" for everyone to wear a mask, unfortunately, a recommendation just isn't strong enough and people are ignoring it. Tourists don't know or care that it's "strongly recommended". Try strongly recommending that we file federal or state taxes, or simply recommending that we don't speed when driving, and see how that works. Simply, it won't. A recommendation and a mandate are nowhere near one another. A "strong recommendation" is the same as doing nothing, which ultimately makes our city complicit in the spread. We're better than this Whitefish!

Reward Good Behavior: In cooperation with Explore Whitefish and the local Chamber, consider creating a reward for people wearing a mask. Perhaps if you enter a shop and you're wearing a mask, you get a free "Thank you for wearing your mask" gift with a \$25 purchase or a free coffee with the purchase of a dozen cookies. It would have to be store specific, but it would be easy to put Whitefish on the map as a CARING and SAFE place to visit. Merchants could submit their special offers and the Chamber could hire someone to hand out 'Thank You' cards with a specific special gift to people walking the sidewalks who are just wearing a mask. We could turn this into a positive thing where people would understand we're all in this together and be supportive of the marketing effort to help keep our community and our businesses safe. I would be happy to work with a team to implement this kind of a positive, caring project!

It's the KIND thing to do:

Whitefish is known as a friendly place to visit, filled with kind, caring people. By wearing a mask, we're saying "You are welcome here, and I'm protecting you by wearing my mask".

As a child, my parents taught me to cover my mouth when I would sneeze or cough. Why? Because it was kind to protect others from my germs. With these super nasty germs of COVID-19, this is a no-brainer. We should all be kind to one another and wear our masks as a way of caring.

Again, I wear my mask to protect you, you wear your mask to protect me. And together, we wear our masks to protect our businesses and the economy of Montana. It's as simple as "do unto others that which you would have done unto you". Regardless of where we stand politically, wearing a mask is the kindest thing we can do right now for one another. Let's show our love for one another and #maskupMT!

In summary, yes, we might encounter folks who feel that wearing a mask might be an inconvenience or a discomfort, but if it prevents our fellow Montanans from needing a ventilator, it's an inconvenience that we should all be more than willing to make- for others. With freedom comes responsibility.

Choose not to wear a mask? The safety of our community shouldn't be jeopardized by selfish, inconsiderate people who put their personal beliefs or desires above the physical and economic health of our community. Therefore, I'd tell them "Do want you want on your own property, but **if you intend to exhale in public, wear a mask**".

Whitefish leaders, this is your time to step up and lead by issuing a mandate and not a recommendation. The bottom line, we need leadership to make masks or face coverings mandatory in public spaces and in public spaces outdoors when social distancing isn't possible. **A recommendation won't make a difference- it must be a mandate with consequences.** People don't speed because of fines, so perhaps you impose a stiff fine with the monies going to a fund to help our front line workers who are protecting all of us.

If our government officials don't take this seriously, Montanans won't either. We desperately need this mask mandate to protect the lives and the economy of Montana. I urge you to strengthen Resolution #20 to require mandatory masks in Whitefish and pass this resolution today before it's too late.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community. Please, be strong and do the right thing, for the sake of Whitefish and of our way of life. Thank you in advance for taking serious steps to protect our community.

If I can help in any way, please feel free to reach out to me at your convenience. Thanks again.

Hugs,
Gail

Gail Lynne Goodwin, CPM®
Montana Bear Properties

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Gail Goodwin
[Redacted]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Snow Bear Chalets
[Redacted]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Michelle Howke

From: Daniel Grangroth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Coverings Ordinance

Michelle-

I feel the reactions by our government officials in response to the COVID pandemic has overstepped their duties and responsibilities. Although I understand the desire to create laws and ordinances that may help keep some people from harm, regulating people's activities based on an ever changing science and study, takes things too far.

If face masks are a forced use ordinance, I will stop all commerce I currently do in Whitefish.

Thanks for your service

Dan Grangroth

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Daniel Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask wearing

Hello Michelle,

Please pass this along to the city council and the Mayor in advance of the council meeting.

I have been a local resident of the area for 14 years now and during this time, it seems like the council and mayor's office can often exceed the power granted to them by the voters. The latest infraction is regarding mask wearing due to the Covid 19 virus.

The Covid 19 pandemic has been unprecedented in many ways to our society. For 4-5 months now the media has waged a non-stop 24-7 news cycle war regarding the virus often using hyperbole. Unfortunately, most of what is broadcast are new cases without much, if any, regard to recovery rates and very low death rates. As of this writing, Flathead County had 66 cases. That is about 0.066% of the county's population. Do you know that there are 44 recoveries, also, with only 16 active cases? Do you know that there is 1 hospitalization for Covid 19? Do you know that the 2 deaths represent 3% of the cases; no doubt with more testing this rate will decrease as it has across the country.

At some point, the public has to recognize that we can't live in fear of a virus because the world has had virus and disease throughout our existence. Should at-risk people take precautions? Sure. Are masks a good thing? Perhaps, depending upon the circumstances. It is one thing for the council and mayor to encourage mask wearing. It is another to mandate it. There you start crossing into freedom and liberties.

If it is true that a council member is visiting local stores asking if customers have been wearing masks and if not, threatening that the city council will pass a mask mandate in two weeks is oppressive. It kind of feels like Hong Kong politics.

I hope the council and mayor recognizes that the pandemic while large in scope is not the death knell that the media has been pounding into the heads of society. If the council mandates masks, I guess I'll shop in C-Falls and Kalispell.

Sincerely,

Dan Graves

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rava Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No to mandatory masks

Dear Michele,

For some of us wearing a mask makes it difficult to breathe which then causes anxiety or a panic attack. I am one of those for which it causes a bit of a panic attack.

If someone wants to wear a mask, good for them. If not, for whatever reason, it should be their right to do so. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Thank you.

Rava Graves



"As Christians, we have a musical awareness of life: In our hearts resounds the song of thanksgiving of being redeemed. Its melody is love, and its harmony is joy in God." Cardinal Gerhard Müller

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Alia Hanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support of mask mandate

Hello:

I am writing to support the emergency mask mandate under consideration by Whitefish City Council. Current research shows that mask wearing is one of the most effective measures we have to reduce the spread of Covid19. As a town that relies heavily on tourism, we need to protect our local families and essential workers in order to ensure our businesses stay open to provide the services we all love.

Basically, I am appalled at the lack of concern many people show for community health, as evidenced by the number of unmasked people at any moment downtown, lack of masks on workers in our grocery stores, and the farmers market.

In fact, I think this should be taken a step farther and masks should be required for all students 12 and older when school begins in September.

Please contact me with any questions.

Alia Hanson
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish City Council Emergency Meeting, July 14,2020

To: Michelle Howke, City Clerk, City of Whitefish, Montana

From: Donald P Hawley and Elizabeth Q Hawley
[REDACTED], Whitefish MT

Please let it be known that we support the proposed Emergency Ordinance requiring face coverings in businesses and outdoor public spaces within the City of Whitefish.

Many thanks to all who work to protect us.

Sincerely,
Donald and Elizabeth Hawley
7/13/2020

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mark Heil <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Greg Olson; Todd Twete; David W. Wiley
Subject: emergency mask

Opposed to the emergency mask policy.

Did you not think that virus cases would uptick when tourists started coming for the summer?
More testing equals more cases overall but hospitalizations have not risen.
Matter of fact that the North Valley Hospital has no covid patients.

Masks will not stop the spread - period. It will spread regardless of whatever you do.
You can always follow what the governor of California is doing and close down everything again -
gyms, restaurants, theaters, etc.....
Crush the town economically.

That's my two cents.
Mark Heil
Whitefish, MT.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jen Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Against mandatory mask

Greetings,

I am writing in regards to the emergency vote. I encourage my elderly mother to get outside and walk. We walk by the middle school but not the local shops. She would be unable to do this in a mask.

I like the encouraged masks but mandatory masks for those of us who live in the city oppose the issue. I should be able to walk, boat, bike and work in my yard without a mask!

Voting Whitefish Resident,
Jennifer Higgins

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jen Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Against mandatory mask

Thank you for the draft,

I am still opposed to the mandatory masks. As it reads it will be bad for local business requiring them to be responsible for enforcing the new rule.

Voting Whitefish Resident,
Jennifer Higgins

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: jack hillukka [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face coverings

Hey there,

I don't believe the mandating of face coverings will help prevention of disease spreading, or happiness of society at all. I was just in Michigan where they are mandated and it was sorely depressing to visit public spaces.

Thank you,
A concerned citizen
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: DONNA HOPKINS [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Demand everyone wear masks in public!

I live in my grandparents 100 year old home here in Whitefish. I've been housebound for 4 months and NOW even employees at Super One aren't wearing masks. 100s of people roaming streets without masks and our cases of the virus are going up. If Bullock won't mandate it, PLEASE City Council DO SO!!! Save our lives so we at least can go Grocery shopping safely. Thank you!

Donna Hopkins
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Erik Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate - YES!

Hello,

My name is Erik Jensen. I am a resident of Whitefish, MT.

This message is to express my support of mandating masks with heavy penalties for anyone in violation of said mandate.

My family would also support closure of all dine-in and all drive through services. Only contactless curbside should be allowed.

This would negatively impact our family from a financial standpoint but, it is the correct way to proceed.

Thank you,

Erik Jensen
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Melissa Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and concerns. I, as a whitefish year round resident who works in the restaurant industry, is asking for a mandatory requirement of masks. I have had customers from New York, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Utah, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota, South Carolina, and the list could go on and on. Us employees are required to wear them, sometimes on a 12 hour shift, and our customers don't. We've already had two establishments closed this week due to an employee testing positive for covid. A place I visited just last week... where many many people frequent, just like my restaurant. Please think of the people of Montana, who are literally putting their lives on the line to keep food on our tables... I have a high risk 8 year old with a heart condition, I could take it home to him and it would kill him. Why do I or my family have to risk death because some people think it's inconvenient to wear a mask, a life saving devise. Please, please, mandate the wearing of masks with penalties!!

Thank you,

Melissa Jensen

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Amy Johannes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Mask Order

I respectfully ask that the City Council please, please adopt an emergency mask order. The situation in states that have not taken proper precautions is dire. Help our businesses stay open by adopting a full mask ordinance. It's not rocket science- we need to wear masks.

Thank you,
Amy Johannes
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Taryn Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I believe the emergency ordinance requiring the use of masks in the city of whitefish is unlawful. Residents should have the right to choose what they want to do with thier own bodies. Please do not force us.

-Taryn Johnson

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sheila Johnston [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face mask mandate

I fully support a face mask mandate. Although it does seem like more people are wearing face masks since the resolution, there are far too many still not taking the threat of covid-19 seriously. I fully believe the science that tells us that face masks are one of our best defenses and we must do something to decrease the community spread. Sadly, it appears not enough are willing to do the right thing voluntarily, so I hope the City will, and enforce it!

Thank you for your service,
Sheila K. Johnston
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Missy Jonson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish Resident

Our entire family is in favor of the mandatory mask policy to help slow the spread of Covid in our amazing town! There are petitions being signed to oppose it so I just wanted to express our gratitude and we are IN FAVOR of the mandatory mask policy...especially since we are a tourist town and its not just our residents in our little town right now.

Thank you,
Missy Jonson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brian Joos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Michelle,

Please accept the following as a public comment with regard to the emergency mask ordinance:

I write in vehement support of the ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces. This is an absolute no-brainer. Wearing face coverings is exceptionally easy, does not hurt anyone, and is recommended almost universally by every expert who knows anything about virus transmission and pandemics. All of the objections I've heard are based in politics, ignorance, and selfishness rather than facts, science, and the interest of the community. I strongly urge you to pass the resolution.

Brian Joos
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Thank you.
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: daveyjkaye <d[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: RE: Face Mask Input

Please make sure the Mayor and all councilors read this before they vote tomorrow as how they vote WILL affect their political future. If they choose to ignore their constituents again, they will be voted out of office when they are up for re-election.

I STRONGLY oppose what the Mayor and Council will be voting on tomorrow!

I don't know under which category (in favor, oppose or somewhere in the middle) you included me on what was passed last week, but when I watched the City Council Meeting and became aware of the entire wording, I STRONGLY opposed it as written and modified at the Meeting.

I don't know what the Mayor and Councilors were watching and listening to last week, as it clearly wasn't the same Meeting I watched online. They clearly ignored their constituents! The folks who cared about this topic and spoke at the Meeting were overwhelmingly opposed to what was passed. It was very evident that the Mayor and Council came into that meeting to rubber stamp what they had in front of them.

What the Mayor and Council will be voting on tomorrow is unconstitutional and illegal! It is unenforceable and the city will have no legal grounds to collect any penalties! My prediction is that multiple lawsuits will be filed against the city.

Five to ten years ago my plan was to run for Mayor of Whitefish this past fall. I had become so fed up with politics in this country that I decided not to run. If I had ran, I'd be Mayor right now and this nonsense wouldn't be going on. Not only did the Mayor and Council ignore their constituents last week, but now they are scheduling a last minute meeting at a time when folks are going to find it hard to attend to once again state how much they are opposed to this.

This is a textbook case of politicians not representing the view of their constituents.

David Karmilovich
[REDACTED] Whitefish

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Date: 07/05/2020 6:22 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: David Karmilovich [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Face Mask Input

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: David Karmilovich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Face Mask Input

The city of Whitefish SHOULD strongly encourage the use of masks in Whitefish when social distancing is not possible.

The city SHOULD NOT try to REQUIRE the wearing of masks as this would be government overreach and unconstitutional/illegal.

If I was a business owner I would require all employees and customers to wear a mask if they wanted to be inside my business. This is the legal right of business owners and should be left up to them.

Thanks,

David Karmilovich



Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Robert Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:09 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masking

I am supportive of the mandatory masking policy.

Rob Kelly

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Cathy Kincheloe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for Emergency Ordinance

Please consider my support of the proposed ordinance requiring masks in public.
Much appreciated.

Cathy Kincheloe
[REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lauren King [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hi there-

As a resident of Whitefish I would like to express support of a mask ordinance. I think it is an important health measure. Equally important- I think it sends a message to visitors MT is not a free-for-all and they need to be taking measures to prevent the spread while visiting our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Lauren King

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jesse Kuntz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Hello Michelle,

I am writing in support of a mask ordinance in public spaces in Whitefish.

Thank you,

Jesse Kuntz

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Daniel Lard [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

Good Afternoon Michelle,

I hope all is well with you and your family. Below are my thoughts and comments on the Mask Mandate that I wish be made public to the City of Whitefish council members:

I received notice today that the City of Whitefish is considering an emergency ordinance to mandate masks in the city of Whitefish - a step up from last weeks resolution urging citizens to wear masks in public. As an American, a Montanan with deep roots spanning multiple generations here, and as a veteran, I take particular issue with an action that strips citizens of their freedoms. Such a mandate sits on the ledge of a very slippery slope. The question must be asked, how far is the City willing to go to "protect" its citizens? If you require us to wear mask in the name of safety, what will be the next "line of defense" you are willing to enact in order to keep us "safe"? How far are you willing to take the enforcement of this emergency order? Will you arrest and jail citizens who refuse to wear a mask? Will you shut down a business if they don't require its employees and customers to wear masks?

The fact of the matter is life is dangerous and nothing the City will do can change this. In these uncertain times the worst thing we can do is create more uncertainty and generate more fear - toying with an emergency order requiring masks in our town creates waves of fear that ripple through our community. I suggest we take a simple approach: citizens that want to wear a mask can wear a mask - those that do not want to wear a mask don't have too. Businesses that require a mask in their store can have those policies and deal with the implications of their decision - businesses that do not require a mask can deal with the implications of their decision as well. We can all have the freedom to choose what is best for us. We can all make up our own mind if the risk is too great for us to be in town, enter a store, or congregate with friends.

Let's choose liberty and personal responsibility - let's not live in fear.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
-Daniel C. Lard

Daniel C. Lard
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: LDMAZMT LLC [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No on mask mandate another death due to forced masking
Attachments: Screenshot_20200712-155949_DuckDuckGo.jpg

Masks need to be a choice. Each business needs to require what they feel is best for their business. They can always choose to reserve the right to refuse service.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Arizona seeing surge in coronavirus cases



Texas cit as COVID

CORONAVIRUS · Published 8 hours ago

French bus driver dies after brutal attack by passengers who refused to wear face masks

Widow says assault "destroyed" her and their three daughters

By **Stephen Sorace** | Fox News



Fox News Flash top headlines for July 12

Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on

Michelle Howke

From: Miriam Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Dear Michelle and City Council,

Please pass the ordinance requiring mask usage in Whitefish. With the masses of people that have descended on our area, we really need to try and keep our businesses open for the local economy as well as protect our residents.

Please vote to make the mask use mandatory.

Thank you!



Miriam Lewis - SHRM-CP, CPHR
The ZaneRay Group

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Wearing in Whitefish

Both my husband and myself fall into the high risk category for Covid-19. I have diabetes and my husband has both diabetes and heart disease. I am 76 years old and my husband is 84 years young. Since the onset of protocols for Covid-19, we have both been very careful and observe the stay-at-home recommendations. However, we do need to go out periodically for essentials. We only go into stores whose employees are wearing masks (Safeway, Walgreens, my hairdresser, etc.).

Since Montana has opened up, we have become extremely uncomfortable with what we are seeing throughout our city. Visitors (and some local residents) have become complacent in the recommendations for mask-wearing. With the alarming number of people out and about, and the rising number of cases in the Flathead, our apprehensions have only increased.

We are asking the city to recommend **mandatory orders for mask wearing** as the very least we can do to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our vulnerable community.

Bob and Connie Lockman

[REDACTED]
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Aaron Loukusa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hi,

I feel businesses should be able to make decisions on whether masks are required but as far as a public mask requirement, I don't agree with it. We will keep our business and recreation in Kalispell If a mask requirement were to be enacted in Whitefish.

Thank you,

Aaron - Kalispell
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Aaron & Brooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

As I feel wearing face masks do not actually prevent the spread of COVID-19, I do not agree with the requirements of wearing a face mask in Whitefish. If this is the case, I will avoid visiting Whitefish until face masks are no longer required.

Brooke Loukusa

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kristi Macdonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Ordinance to Require Face Masks

Hi Michelle,

I'm writing to express that I'm strongly in favor of passing the emergency ordinance to require face masks. It's such a simple thing to do to keep us all as safe as possible and I'm happy to do my part.

I've lived in Whitefish for 35yrs and am so proud of the way our city has been handling their responses to the pandemic. Keep up the good work!

Kristi Macdonald

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Mask Ordinance---YES!!!!

Dear Ms. Howke--

I am a resident of Whitefish. I strongly urge the City Council to vote in favor of a mandatory mask ordinance in public spaces to help stop the spread of Covid-19. Montana currently leads the nation with the highest Rt rate of any state. That is the rate that determines how fast the virus will spread. It is imperative, especially given the number of out-of-state tourists that come to town in the summer, that we do everything possible to slow the spread of this insidious virus. Without containment, our community will be at risk and our health system will be in serious danger of being overwhelmed. There is now near unanimous agreement among medical experts that masks and social distancing are imperative to slowing the spread.

Thanks to Mayor Muhlfeld for calling the special session to consider this important issue.

Janice Mazur

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kathy McCabe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re:

People in Whitefish are not taking the suggestion of City Council of wear a mask .everywhere I go it seems like they're not wearing masks.we need to protect each other.

On Sun, Jul 5, 2020, 5:42 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Kathy,

Good evening. Thank you for sending your comment. Unfortunately I am unable to open your comment and share it with the Council. Can you send it to me in a different form, either as a Word document or in your email.

I really appreciate it. Your comment is important for the Council to hear.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Kathy McCabe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 9:43 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject:

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I firmly support mandatory mask requirements in Whitefish.

Janice McCann

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Shelley McCoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Facemasks

Please vote to require face masks. Too many people visiting who do not wear them. Either wear a face mask, or go back where you came from.

Thanks,
Shelley McCoy

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Dear Whitefish City Council,

Re: Mandated Masks in the City of Whitefish

The meeting you held Monday, July 6, in which you discussed the mask policy for the city, held an outcome of a choice for those in Whitefish as to whether they wear a mask or not. It also came to the conclusion that this policy would be reviewed in 60 days. Here we are on July 13, a mere seven days later and you are already revisiting it, and threatening to impose your beliefs with a mandate.

First, the science behind Covid-19 is very inconsistent. Depending on how one feels, they can find justification for whatever choice they want to make about mask wearing. There is nothing solid to conclusively prove that mask wearing prevents the spread of the virus, as the virus itself is much smaller than the gaps in a fabric mask. There is nothing to conclusively prove that not wearing a mask would cause the virus to spread faster, as it seems that, in the most recent data, that those who are asymptomatic do not spread Covid-19. By mandating away my choice, you are assuming that I am not responsible enough to know to stay away from others if I have symptoms, or to take extra precautions if I am in a high risk category. You are assuming that I am unable to make wise choices for myself regarding this issue. Based on the information we have, I believe you are overstepping your bounds by projecting your fears, specifically demonstrated in Rebecca's comments on July 6, and turning them into city mandates.

Second, this will slow the commerce traffic in Whitefish. It is unfair to those businesses who choose to leave the option open to their customers. People will avoid Whitefish because of this. Local businesses will suffer even more than they already have.

Third, some of those who spoke last week said that this was about everyone, it's not about individual rights, but it's about keeping everyone safe. They said that those who argued against masks used selfish arguments. I believe forcing a mask on everyone is selfish. If a person is scared and demands that I act a certain way, then that is selfishness. If a person is afraid and is unwilling to change their own behavior, but instead makes everyone else comply to their wishes, then that is controlling. Covid-19 is not life and death for the overwhelming majority. The numbers that are being reported are so undefined that they can be made to mean anything, and it seems they are being used to generate fear. The demand that everyone wears masks is bowing to the fear in an irrational frenzy.

There is a place to take extra precautions with masks. Those that are at high risk and need special consideration deserve our extra care and proper use of face masks. We need to avoid exposing those in nursing homes or those who have lowered immunity. The streets of Whitefish are generally not where these people are found.

The governor of Montana has not taken the measure to mandate masks, and there is no reason to supersede his decision in Whitefish. We, citizens of this town, should have the right of every other Montanan to make our own choice.

Shannon Mercer, [REDACTED], Whitefish

Michelle Howke

From: Melissa Meuter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Public mask wearing requirement

I would like for there to be a requirement to wear masks in public in Whitefish.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa

--

Melissa Meuter
Broker
Glacier Sotheby's International Realty
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Molly Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Michelle,

Coronavirus is invisible, and to a large extent, so is anxiety. It makes sense that people want to do something visible to quell their anxieties and prevent contracting coronavirus. However, it is unfortunately illogical to mandate non-medical grade masks to community members. Unnervingly, what worked best was to live as a city under stay at home orders and travel restrictions. For 60 days Flathead County enjoyed 0 cases. Thank you for considering my comments.

Molly McCune
Whitefish, MT

--

Molly

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: mary moe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Ordinance on Masks

Dear Whitefish City Council:

My husband and I met and married in Whitefish some 44 years ago. Our careers have taken us around the state since then, but in 2015 we bought a townhome above the golf course and visit whenever we can. We have marveled at all the proactive things Whitefish has done since our early days here to beautify the city and develop its economy in socially and environmentally responsible ways.

We have been alarmed, however, in recent weeks at the steadily increasing lack of compliance with state and national health guidelines as we cope with COVID-19. We routinely see people tightly packed on the downtown sidewalks, most of them unmasked. Stores that used to be conscientious about the number of patrons in the establishment at one time have apparently given up. It is unusual to see even half of the people in any enclosed space wearing masks.

It is so important, not just to the immediate health of our residents, but to the long-term health of the community, to stop the spread of COVID-19 NOW. If we get serious now, we will make it possible to send kids to school in the fall and keep them there, get businesses fully operational and keep them that way, and preserve the reputation of Whitefish as a great place to visit -- and you DO want to live there.

When you meet tomorrow, please adopt stronger measures to ensure compliance with these guidelines, starting with the mandatory wearing of masks in enclosed spaces.

Sincerely,

Mary Sheehy Moe
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Edward Moffatt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

As a whitefish resident I firmly believe masks should certainly be worn. Thank you Ed Moffatt Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sergio Montiel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for mask resolution

I saw the article on the Flahead Beacon and would like to voice my support for the mask resolution. We are a small community with many out of state visitors that are likely visiting other states prior to arriving to the area.

It would be very beneficial to require masks, just like Missoula County. Once its required, no one has to feel self conscious about wearing it if everyone else is doing the same.

Thanks

Sergio Montiel

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mark Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mask ordinance

Hi Michelle -

Hopefully this one won't get lost! :D

I'm writing to encourage the city council to adopt a mandatory-mask ordinance. Our economy depends on tourism, but let's try to keep it safe to the degree we can!

Thanks!
mm

On 7/8/20 2:55 PM, Michelle Howke wrote:

> Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

>

> To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php>, you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

>

> We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

>

> Michelle Howke
> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd
> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
> 406-863-2402

>

> STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark Morgan [REDACTED]
> Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:37 AM
> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
> Subject: Mask ordinance

>

> I'm writing to strongly encourage the city to implement a mandatory mask ordinance. The influx of visitors, whom we do depend on for economic reasons, it guaranteed to bring an influx of Coronavirus as well, and we need to tamp down the spread as well as we can.

>

> Thank you!

>

> Mark Morgan

- > [REDACTED]
- > Partial owner of [REDACTED]
- > Whitefish
- >
- >
- > EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Devon Muhonen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Michelle Howke

Hey Howke I would just like to email saying I my family would like to not wear face masks by law. Its unconstitutional
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Marilyn Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:27 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for emergency ordinance requiring face coverings

Dear Mayor Muhlfeld and Council,

I support the emergency ordinance you are considering at tomorrow's special meeting. Thank you for taking bold and proactive measures to protect our community.

Sincerely,

Marilyn R. Nelson
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Douglas Newton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Mask Order

I respectfully request that the City Council please adopt an emergency full mask order. Having a low Covid count is necessary to keep businesses open, keep summer activities available for children and enable Whitefish to thrive during an otherwise difficult time elsewhere in the country.

If everyone wears masks the risk of spread in our city is low, but otherwise we risk undoing all the progress we made by shutting down in the spring.

Thank you,

Douglas Newton

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Susan Nickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Good morning,

Please...we need to make masks mandatory and the Governor should be getting the state shut down. Yes, it is difficult for businesses but for heaven's sake...it is lives we are talking about..

Thank you,

Susan Nickerson

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Michelle Howke

From: Dana Nunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:49 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Against Mask Mandate

Dear Mayor and City council,

I am writing again because I have been made aware that there will be another city council meeting in two weeks regarding the mask and moving from a recommendation to mandate.

I am so discouraged by the city's stance on this. Were you not all present at the 1st meeting? The over arching theme was PLEASE DON'T MANDATE MASKS! It is clearly the majority voice of the city; proven by the below petition which will continue to pick up signatures and momentum the harder your hammer comes down.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/say-no-to-whitefish-mask-mandate>

There is a group of individuals that are working To create a website that tracks the city councils votes and allows for comment and tracking. Which will come in handy at election time.

It comes down to choice. Are you for choice of the people or against. That is the only question at hand.

I have been proud to be from Whitefish and raising by children in Whitefish. However if the city moves forward with this mandate where I cannot leave my own home with my small children for a walk or to play at the park without a Mask we made he forces to move to CFalls or Kalispell where my children can grow up without fear and constant limitations on whether they can walk down the street to get ice cream or not.

The facts have been presented to you multiple times by many credible individuals in this wonderful community. Masks don't work, asymptomatic people are not a risk and if everyone would just use a little common sense it would go a long way.

With all the hope that you will make the right choice the only choice to have a healthy and happy Whitefish vote NO for a city mask mandate.

-Dana Nunn
Columbia Ave
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Scott Ogrodnik [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Feedback on Public Mask Wearing Ordinance

Hi Michelle,

My family lives in Martin City and, in normal circumstances, we often come to Whitefish for biking, skiing, dining, and some shopping.

If Whitefish implements a mandatory mask wearing policy, we will INCREASE our visits to Whitefish and spend MORE money with the merchants in your city. The extra 10-15 minutes drive time past Columbia Falls for goods and services is worth making to reduce our risk of contracting COVID-19.

We also believe that Whitefish's leadership on this issue will have a larger benefit in the region. It will most likely encourage other cities to implement similar policies as well as raise awareness in the general population of the value of mask wearing.

Best,

Scott Ogrodnik
Martin City

PS: This email may be used inside of the city to support your decision making but I do not give my permission to have it shared with the public.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Corey Olofson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

My name is Corey Olofson and I reside at [REDACTED], Whitefish, MT

I also own 4 other properties inside City Limits that I pay taxes on. I previously wrote a letter against the mask ordinance and am doing so again.

I won't go on long because it doesn't seem that the Council wants to listen to opinions that oppose their own. The mask ordinance is completely wrong and it should not be the ability of the city council or mayor to enact such an ordinance that isn't even based on science.

Yesterday there were 85 new cases of COVID-19 ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE! That was out of 4,035 tests....only 2% of people tested positive. This "pandemic" doesn't even qualify as a pandemic anymore because the death rate has dropped so low.

Apparently though, the city council and mayor have decided that this somehow allows them an aborbanant amount of power to enact restrictions upon the public.

Sincerely,
Corey Olofson
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: RUSSELL OLOFSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Against MANDATORY mask

Hi,

My name is Russel Olofson, I own three residences in the city of whitefish with my primary being [REDACTED] Colorado Ave.

I also own a business that was for this very purpose, was built outside city limits.

I'am writing to have my voice heard against the mandatory mask ordinance. We just had this topic covered but it seems the city did not get the results they wanted from the populace and are now once again revisiting the topic to pass it anyways.

The city is crossing the line between governance into ruling its populace, we are passed the line at this point and this is way outside your scope of governance.

This is apparently being pushed by business owners in the city, have they considered not only tourists no longer shopping in Whitefish but locals such as myself going elsewhere? Because my family and I will not comply with this order, we will take all our commerce and business outside the city to Columbia Falls and Kalispell.

I want to know how you plan on enforcing this, are the city police supporting this? Is the county health commissioner supporting this and are they pushing it for all cities in the county?

I would like an actual response seeing how your meetings are behind closed doors now and the publics vote does not matter in your decision process.

Russel Olofson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: nadine ordway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face mask requirement

Dear Whitefish City Council,

I strongly support a requirement for face coverings when out in public and upon entering businesses. So many people are ignoring the request that you made last week suggesting face masks and with the rise in numbers, I feel it is time to make it a requirement, rather than voluntary. The use of face masks is such a small price to pay for the continued ability to go about our business as normal as possible until such a time when this virus is understood and under control.

Thank you,
Nadine Ordway

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Anne Paschen <a [REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Vote No on mandatory masks

To the members of the Whitefish City Council

With the upmost gravity, in light of the recent news that our city council is considering imposing its arbitrary and leftist views on the people of whitefish, I ask you to consider the words of Judge Mark Henry of Galveston County, Texas:

"Galveston County will not be issuing any orders mandating citizens to wear masks or face coverings in public. America was built upon the fabric of individual liberty and freedom. It's important now more than ever that we stress personal responsibility.

Covering your face while in public is being recommended by national and local health authorities. While we encourage that you consider these recommendations for your own safety and the safety of others around you, I will not be mandating it because I believe it is unconstitutional to do so.

Just as critical as getting our economy back up and running, it is important that elected officials uphold their oaths to defend the Constitution and ensure individual freedoms remain in tact during and after this pandemic.

I look forward to Gov. Abbott's directives and orders in the days and weeks ahead to get our state and county back open while focusing on public health and our economy."

Clearly, we are not all in agreement with the risks of Covid-19 or the benefits of PPE. There is heavy debate even among the medical and scientific community on the risks of covid-29 verses the side effects of wearing masks.

It seems, as with all areas of freedom, the error should be on the side of the individual liberty and property, lest we become yet another failed embittered socialist communist regime requiring more and more resources to enforce compliance.

I for one, would like to make my own personal choices when it comes to my health and well being. It is a private matter. Please stay out of it.

Thank you,

Anne Paschen

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

208 881 7761

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

What happened to this being revisited in two months? All of a sudden there's an emergency meeting not even two weeks later? This is an absolute overreach of government. I am completely against this mandate it is against our constitutional rights to make our own medical decisions. How exactly will this be enforced? What is the code of the law that will be cited when people are fined? Who will be doing the enforcing? This is not a law so how are you going to enforce it when people refuse to wear them? You're going to have a whole lot of cases at City Hall tying up our judges for this instead of real crime. I am absolutely against this mandate!!

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In favor of requiring masks

Ms. Howke,

Since only our behavior can stop the spread of this virus, I'm so glad to see that masks could be required, I was in Super One early this morning and, as usual, hardly any of the staff wear masks and hardly any of the customers. I notice this in some of my favorite shops around town, too, and at Markus' Market and Alpine Market as well. None of us likes wearing a mask, but many of us are glad to do it for each other.

Thanks for trying to keep us all well!

Jane Peranteau

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rebecca Norton
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fwd: Meeting Tuesday

Comments for Tuesday's meeting. Please include in our public record. Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Carole Peschel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:37:07 AM
To: John Muhlfeld <jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org>; Rebecca Norton <rnorton@cityofwhitefish.org>; Andy Feury <afeury@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Meeting Tuesday

Good luck tomorrow night with the mandate. You have my full support and I promise I will defend your decision on social media when the non maskers come after you.

My mind has been racing. I have a few suggestions many of which you have already thought about but I'll list them anyway.

Signage is important. Make banners on our entrances to town that say masks require in all businesses and public spaces.

Also signs placed around town.

As we implement this mandate could the police cruise our downtown areas and turn their lights on and use their microphones to remind people about the mask ordinance if they see people not wearing masks? Will you be able to fine people and businesses if they don't comply? This is probably tricky

I think the golf course needs to tighten up. I could talk to Terry and Tim about making players wear masks as soon as they get out of their cars. They could remove them on the first Tee. Also make them wear masks entering the building to use the restroom and Pro Shop. What do you think think about the putting green and driving range?

I won't talk to them until I get some direction from you.

Thank you for all you do for us. It's a thankless job

Again, know I will fiercely defend this mandate and I will rally my friends to do the same. You have more support than you realize.

You are doing the right thing.

Carole

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: G Trevor Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: ordinance requiring masks in public

Hi Whitefish,

My Wife and Dad are high risk for COVID, please pass the ordinance requiring masks in public.

Thanks

Trevor Phillips
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Whitefish Personalized Health Care
Doug Pitman M.D. - Comprehensive Concierge Medicine
[REDACTED] Whitefish, Montana - [REDACTED]

received
7/13/2020
by matt T.

To: The City Council of the City of Whitefish
Michelle Howke, City Clerk
John Muhlfield, Mayor
From: Doug Pitman M.D.
Re: Covid-19 Prevention Measures
Date: July 4, 2020

While I appreciate your current attempt to diminish the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Whitefish through the “strong encouragement” of our residents and visitors to wear protective face coverings, the fact that the resolution adds “exceptions” renders the resolution/guidelines not just ineffective but dangerous. The City of Whitefish’s ordinances passed during the earlier spike of Covid-19 in Montana were laudable and effective. Why would you deviate from those ordinances when the threat now in Montana is almost three time higher?



U.S. Montana Coronavirus Map and Case Count



New reported cases by day in Montana



Note: The seven-day average is the average of a day and the previous six days of data.

“In state after state, indications point to COVID-19 cases spiking after restaurants and bars reopen. On June 30, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s authority on infectious diseases, warned against going to bars. ‘Congregation at a bar, inside, is bad news,’ he said during a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing. In East Lansing, Michigan, 107 people who visited the same bar over the course of a week tested positive for COVID-19.”

By exempting bars and restaurants from this anemic resolution/guidelines it appears the City Council is more concerned about giving the appearance of wanting to protect the inhabitants of Whitefish than actually taking measures to protect us as you did previously.

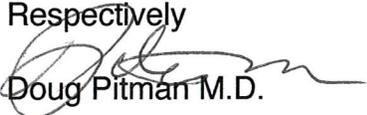
~~bayipen~~

Having said that I can sympathize with the Council's very difficult decision to take measures to shut down the bars and restaurants in our small tourist town in July and August during the height of the tourist season as evidenced by the high number of out of state plates in the downtown area today. These businesses are so important to our economy and the financial wellbeing of our bar and restaurant owners, several of whom are my patients.

BUT as a physician I know that one Covid-19 asymptomatic infected tourist (carrier) entering any of our restaurants and bars can kick off the same situation as East Lansing, Michigan has experienced. I am very concerned about diagnosing my first Covid-19 patient in Whitefish and fearful that Whitefish residents will die if we continue to emulate the other areas of the country that are not addressing the pandemic effectively and seeing large increases in case numbers.

I wish you the best as you grapple with this almost impossible task of balancing disease risk with economic hardship. Maybe there are some other avenues that need to be explored for restaurants and bars; perhaps moving service outside to the streets with significantly less risk and more ability to social distance could be considered.

Respectively


Doug Pitman M.D.

Michelle Howke

From: Nick Polumbus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Ordinance Requiring Use Of Facial Coverings

Michelle, please see my comments regarding this ordinance requiring facial coverings below:

I know these are especially difficult times for our civic leaders and I appreciate the time and energy being dedicated to our response to this pandemic.

My feeling as a resident of Whitefish is that wearing a face covering should be a personal choice. Within reason, personal choice in my opinion is a key component to our free society and our way of life. I believe that making this mandate steps beyond reason and would be an example of government overreach. I realize this is a health crisis and I believe there are many choices we all face on a daily basis in reaction to this crisis - wearing a mask is certainly a choice we could make, as is staying at home or other measures. These are choices a well informed public should be trusted to make based on their individual thoughts and personal risk aversion.

Further, I feel that essentially placing the burden of enforcement solely on the business community is wrong. I understand that enforcement of this issue would be very difficult and these are difficult times however it seems that if you can't find a way to enforce a city ordinance with city resources then that is probably an indication of the overreach I referred to above. If a business chooses to require its patrons to wear face coverings, I respect that choice. However, I think it is stepping too far to place the enforcement of a city ordinance on a private business.

I do wish to sincerely thank you for the time and energy you dedicate to our community and I respect that these are difficult decisions in difficult times.

Nick Polumbus

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: MD Powers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke

Hello,

I am strongly in favor of requiring masks. I worry about the health of our workers who have to deal with anyone who comes into their orbit. As for those who say they won't shop in Whitefish...we went through this before when the resort tax was passed. Keep our workers safe and thus our businesses open.

Mary Drew Powers

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brian Raykowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:49 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Required masks

Hello,

I dont live in the city, but just a short note regarding masks. I think people wearing masks is great, encouraging them is ok too. If masks are forced to be worn, I will be taking my business elsewhere until it's not a mandatory order.

Thanks,

Brian Raykowski

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: emmys razz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask mandate

please please vote for the mask mandate.. my family has been in hiding since march... we all have pre existing conditions, we have been able to do things like online ordering and pick up at the superone, but last time we were overcharged by \$50 also it takes us 2 days to place an online order. we need to actually get into places like grocery stores, drs offices and pharmacies just to survive. and you know at best about 10% are currently wearing a mask without the mandate.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Gerda Reeb [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks in public

Hi, Michelle,

I would like to voice my support for an ordinance to wear masks in public in Whitefish. I feel that this is a much better solution than closing businesses down again, which would harm our economy. Thanks so much for considering my input for tomorrow's meeting. Gerda Reeb

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Janine Richardson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Covid -19 measures

My husband and I just moved to Whitefish in late May and remained at home until phase 2 began on June 1st. Tourism had not come into full swing, but, now it certainly has.

As we are seniors, we have taken this pandemic very seriously and care about taking every precaution we have in our control and for other's wellbeing.

It disheartens us to see so many people in town, in different dining and bakery and grocery stores ignoring the mask wearing "suggestions" made by different leaders and state.

Just last week at Fleur Bakery a wedding or baby shower was held and at least 10-16 ladies all arrived with not one in the group wearing a mask. Their dining table was set up, they all sat elbow to elbow as the group was large.

So, not only did the bakery place the seats close together, but the ladies also did not seem to care.

We both got out of there quickly, and we know that is our choice, we try to give them business by ordering takeout.

The cases reported continue their daily climb across MT. It will continue to do so and it would only make logical sense to be more proactive and issue a mask ordinance and having businesses really vigilant for social distancing measures.

At Super One last week I had to ask a shopper who literally stood at my back to please back off and stand away, so he left my line. No one there was wiping down the carts, or are they doing so at Safeway here in town.

I'm very perplexed with Wf and the entire state had been doing a good job before moving into phase 2.

Please reconsider your stance on mandatory masks.

Thanks,

Janine Richardson
New resident in Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Rommereim [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

Thank you for the leadership. I totally ask to make mandatory face coverings for the people of Whitefish and all businesses and recreational parks. Just do it.

David Rommereim
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Christine A Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: The Trieweiler Letter to the Whitefish Pilot

So I was just at the WF post office and nobody was wearing a mask. There were 13 people including all the visible employees. The "recommendation" is not working.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 6, 2020, at 9:50 AM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ> .

>

> Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying Clean, Careful, and Connected.

- > • Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- > • Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- > • Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com .

>

> Thank you

>

> Michelle Howke

> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd

> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

> 406-863-2402

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Christine A Russell [REDACTED]

> Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:11 AM

> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

> Subject: Re: The Trieweiler Letter to the Whitefish Pilot

>

> The New York Times reported today that 239 worldwide experts claim that coronavirus particles floating indoors are contagious.

>

>

>> On Jul 1, 2020, at 3:37 PM, Christine A Russell [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> I'm sure you've read the Trieweiler letter to the Whitefish Pilot. I am writing to endorse their plea asking for the council to require people to wear masks in our places of business. I am 65 years old and work in downtown retail. So far, since reopening, the majority of shoppers do not wear masks and do not keep 6 (or even 3) feet distance.

>> To me, the situation is alarming and very risky. I am also in

>> disbelief that nothing has been done. In the best interest of saving

>> lives and keeping the doors open you must require all to wear masks

>> in our places of business. Thank you, Christine Russell

>

Michelle Howke

From: Kirsten Sabin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Greetings-

I strongly urge the council pass the 'masks required' ordinance. Retailers who fear this will effect their sales should consider the opposite- I am WAY MORE INCLINED to go out of my way to support retailers who are taking this threat seriously, and asking their patrons to wear masks.

Best regards,

Kirsten Sabin
[REDACTED], Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Robert Sanford [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke; K.montana@bresnan.net
Cc: kjbeenken@icloud.com
Subject: Re: make masks mandatory!

Excellent point! I presume the unmasked minions were armed as well...the Wild West!

The ignorance & audacity of the unmasked people who showed up at city hall to say they were against mandatory masks is stupefying. Their choices are based on their politics & not on science. They are a danger to everyone else.

Driving through downtown Whitefish yesterday, I could count on one hand the number of people wearing masks amidst large groups of people.

Make masks mandatory!
Kristi Goetsch

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

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Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke; K.montana@bresnan.net
Cc: kjbeenken@icloud.com
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Driving through downtown Whitefish yesterday, I could count on one hand the number of people wearing masks amidst large groups of people.

Make masks mandatory!
Kristi Goetsch

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Greg Schatz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Yes! Pass the emergency mask ordinance.

Greg Schatz, Builder
[REDACTED]

Building in Montana since 1989
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sally Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I am fully in support of wearing a mask in public. The lack of regard the tourists have for our safety, and some businesses, is unbelievably sad and disrespectful. I am going to attach a well thought out and accurate analysis of this virus that I found online.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for the extra burden of work that this has caused.

Sally Schmidt

- > Chicken pox is a virus. Lots of people have had it, and probably don't think about it much once the initial illness has passed. But it stays in your body and lives there forever, and maybe when you're older, you have debilitatingly painful outbreaks of shingles. You don't just get over this virus in a few weeks, never to have another health effect. We know this because it's been around for years, and has been studied medically for years.
- >
- > Herpes is also a virus. And once someone has it, it stays in your body and lives there forever, and anytime they get a little run down or stressed-out they're going to have an outbreak. Maybe every time you have a big event coming up (school pictures, job interview, big date) you're going to get a cold sore. For the rest of your life. You don't just get over it in a few weeks. We know this because it's been around for years, and been studied medically for years.
- >
- > HIV is a virus. It attacks the immune system, and makes the carrier far more vulnerable to other illnesses. It has a list of symptoms and negative health impacts that goes on and on. It was decades before viable treatments were developed that allowed people to live with a reasonable quality of life. Once you have it, it lives in your body forever and there is no cure. Over time, that takes a toll on the body, putting people living with HIV at greater risk for health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, diabetes, bone disease, liver disease, cognitive disorders, and some types of cancer. We know this because it has been around for years, and had been studied medically for years.
- >
- > Now with COVID-19, we have a novel virus that spreads rapidly and easily. The full spectrum of symptoms and health effects is only just beginning to be cataloged, much less understood.
- >
- > So far the symptoms may include:
 - > Fever
 - > Fatigue
 - > Coughing
 - > Pneumonia
 - > Chills/Trembling
 - > Acute respiratory distress
 - > Lung damage (potentially permanent)
 - > Loss of taste (a neurological symptom) Sore throat Headaches
 - > Difficulty breathing Mental confusion Diarrhea Nausea or vomiting Loss
 - > of appetite Strokes have also been reported in some people who have
 - > COVID-19 (even in the relatively young) Swollen eyes Blood clots
 - > Seizures Liver damage Kidney damage Rash COVID toes (weird, right?)
- >

> People testing positive for COVID-19 have been documented to be sick even after 60 days. Many people are sick for weeks, get better, and then experience a rapid and sudden flare up and get sick all over again. A man in Seattle was hospitalized for 62 days, and while well enough to be released, still has a long road of recovery ahead of him. Not to mention a \$1.1 million medical bill.

>

> Then there is MIS-C. Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling extra tired. While rare, it has caused deaths.

>

> This disease has not been around for years. It has basically been 6 months. No one knows yet the long-term health effects, or how it may present itself years down the road for people who have been exposed. We literally *do not know* what we do not know.

>

> For those in our society who suggest that people being cautious are cowards, for people who refuse to take even the simplest of precautions to protect themselves and those around them, I want to ask, without hyperbole and in all sincerity:

>

> How dare you?

>

> How dare you risk the lives of others so cavalierly. How dare you decide for others that they should welcome exposure as "getting it over with," when literally no one knows who will be the lucky "mild symptoms" case, and who may fall ill and die. Because while we know that some people are more susceptible to suffering a more serious case, we also know that 20 and 30 year olds have died, marathon runners and fitness nuts have died, children and infants have died.

>

> How dare you behave as though you know more than medical experts, when those same experts acknowledge that there is so much we don't yet know, but with what we DO know, are smart enough to be scared of how easily this is spread, and recommend baseline precautions such as:

>

> Frequent hand-washing

> Physical distancing

> Reduced social/public contact or interaction Mask wearing Covering

> your cough or sneeze Avoiding touching your face Sanitizing frequently

> touched surfaces

>

> The more things we can all do to mitigate our risk of exposure, the better off we all are, in my opinion. Not only does it flatten the curve and allow health care providers to maintain levels of service that aren't immediately and catastrophically overwhelmed; it also reduces unnecessary suffering and deaths, and buys time for the scientific community to study the virus in order to come to a more full understanding of the breadth of its impacts in both the short and long term.

>

> I reject the notion that it's "just a virus" and we'll all get it eventually. What a careless, lazy, heartless stance. And finally, using the line, "...it's my constitutional rights to decide not to wear it" is unapplicable at this time.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Stephen & Patty Schnall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

Hi,

Please if your responding back to me use the following email: [REDACTED] Not that I expect a response as I'm only making an observation.

I am not a resident of Whitefish but I am a resident in the Flathead Valley and just wanted to say that when I was in Phillipsburg, MT all stores required face masks and I didn't hear any tourist from in or out of state complain. One store provided bandanas to wear for face masks while shopping and you put them in a laundry basket on your way out. They washed them nightly.

In my opinion I think employees should also wear them...we are in tourist season. The increase of cases has coincided with the increase of tourist. Let's stop this now so our kids can go back to school in the Fall.

Patty Schnall
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: craig scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:31 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

As a former full time 23 year Whitefish resident and City Councilor I support an Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

My wife Nancy and I are spending the summer in Columbia Falls. Nancy works in Whitefish and we also visit friends there.

We are sensitive to preventing COVID-19 from others infecting us and just as sensitive to preventing COVID-19 transmitting from us to others should we unknowingly be infected.

Thank you for being proactive on this. It is not a political decision; but a science based decision.

Craig Scott

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: maria simon [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

Our town is being inundated with tourists from all over the U. S., and I think they should have to wear Masks. We have one small hospital , DO THE MATH. I don't feel safe anymore, going out in my own town. It's the right thing to do, to mandate that people wear masks in public.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Conner Simonson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Covid

Hey just wanted to let you know that if you research this covid bullcrap for more than 30 seconds you will find that its not a threat in anyway. Based off what I've looked at over the whole "pandemic" I've not been able to find any good reason to wear a mask for any reason other than people feel like they are safer. Covid has a 0.03% death rate. What the hell do we need to be wearing masks for? I have just as good a chance to be struck by lightning but I'm not going to cover myself in rubber just in case. I won't wear a mask in whitefish when I come there from kalispell. Nor do I think any of you people who think you're important have the right to tell me what I can and can't wear. What a bunch of bullshit. This is montana. We've had like 10 people that caught it and none of them died. Wondering what kind of idiots you guys are out there. Bunch of weirdos.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lorinda Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandate masks

Please mandate mask/ face coverings for our Safety. We hope you act this tlme.. thank you. Sincerely, Lorinda Smith

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: John Muhlfeld
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: COVID-19

JOHN M. MUHLFELD | MAYOR, CITY OF WHITEFISH
418 East Second Street | 406.249.2779 mobile

From: richard w smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:46 PM
To: John Muhlfeld <jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: COVID-19

I support mask coverings and shutting down nonessential businesses until this virus is in check. Please take this into consideration when making a decision.

Thank you.

Richard W. Smith

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Richard Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I encourage the Mayor and Council to pass the proposed emergency ordinance to require face coverings be worn in all public businesses and to penalize as per the proposed emergency ordinances all businesses who fail to comply, thank you Richard Smith Whitefish resident

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dan SOTO [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Hello,

I am strongly in favor of a mask ordinance for public spaces. My wife and I will not visit a restaurant or other public setting if there are no precautions. We went to the Tuesday market once and will not go back due to a general lack of precautions we saw. We would love to support our local businesses but will only do so if we feel safe.

Thanks

Dan Soto

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Spring [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask requirement

I am a local physician and I strongly urge the adoption of a mask MANDATE for Whitefish and the entire state.

The concept of prevention is just that -we must all behave in a way to prevent deaths and unnecessary complications from a disease. We have no cure and no vaccine for Covid19.

What we do have are proven public health measures to reduce the risk of spread of this potentially lethal and very morbid virus. Masks, testing, contact tracing, and physical distancing. This disease is very contagious and the WHO has confirmed likely airborne. Frighteningly, it spreads from asymptomatic and presymptomatic infected individuals.

It may be too little, too late, but we must do everything we can to save lives. The only way our economy and the education of our children will remain reasonably intact is if we slow the spread of covid19. NOW. Every single day counts.

Please, please, mandate masks.

Sincerely,

Michelle Spring, MD, FACS

Sent from my iPhone
Michelle Spring, M.D.
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jeanne spring [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

I am a resident of Whitefish and am concerned that so many locals, and visitors, are not wearing masks. Due to the intense contagion of this virus, I feel wearing masks should be obligatory.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Soring

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Terri Sundholm [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Michelle

Just wanted to voice our approval of a mask ordinance for whitefish for indoor public places but also along the downtown core sidewalks where it's impossible to avoid close encounters with people.

Terri

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Produce TSM [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke; scott cooksey
Subject: mandatory masks

We would like to extend our support on behalf of those who work in the public sector here in Whitefish. We support the decision by our City Council to mandate the wearing of masks where it is not possible to safely distance. This is all we have and respect is missing right now from some of our fellow citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hayes, employee at Third Street Market

Scott Cooksey, employee at Nelson's Ace hardware

--

Third Street Market

Produce Department

[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Bernadette Tarnow
Subject: RE: Thank you...
Attachments: 2020-07-14.Emergency Special Session.pdf

Your email will be distributed to the Council during the Special Session and Public Hearing on Tuesday July 14th at 10:00 a.m. The notice is below and the agenda is attached.

CITY OF WHITEFISH NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mayor John Muhlfield, pursuant to § 7-5-4102, MCA, hereby calls a special session of the City Council on July 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., to be held in the Whitefish City Council Chambers located at 418 East Second Street, Whitefish, Montana, to conduct a public hearing regarding an emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We encourage individuals who wish to provide public comment to provide an email to the City Clerk, Michelle Howke, at mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org by 9:30 a.m. on July 13, 2020, prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed ordinance may be obtained by contacting the City Attorney, Angela Jacobs, at 406-863-2444 or ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Bernadette Tarnow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Thank you...

We would like to thank you all for passing the resolution requesting mask-wearing. It shows the city cares about it's residents and listens to their concerns.
It is unfortunate, however, to find so many people still not following guidelines.
Very early Saturday morning, my husband and I went to Super One and found that, including ourselves, the number of people wearing masks could be counted on one hand.

The real disappointment was that no employee of the store was wearing a mask. When I asked the cashier why, she told me that the store did not provide them and the manager told the employees it was their decision to wear them or not. Distressing.

We both feel that a mask-wearing ordinance should be considered for along with rights come responsibilities.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Brent and Bernadette Tarnow

[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ted Valentiner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Opposition to Mask Ordinance

I would like to go on record as opposing, in the strongest possible terms, the imposition of a mandatory mask ordinance in the City of Whitefish. We met one week ago and the City, **without fully considering** all the comments **and petitions** that were made against Resolution 20, unanimously adopted a “strongly encouraged” mask requirement. It was also stated that this issue would be revisited in 60 days. One week later the City Council is ready to impose this requirement. What hubris.

An issue that affects 1% of the population is being imposed on the other 99%. This is tyranny.

What we are seeing is a personal agenda cloaked in a façade of democratic process. This is dishonest, underhanded and manipulative. I will not comply!

Ted D Valentiner

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Voermans [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

The city needs to require masks now. If you look around very few people are wearing them. We are sitting ducks with all these tourists visiting from all parts of the country.

Thank you
Karen Voermans
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Luke Walrath [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Public comment

Hi Michelle,

I would like to voice my support for an ordinance requiring all within city limits to wear masks when in public spaces - at least indoors.

Thank you.

Luke Walrath

--

Stay inspired,
Luke Walrath
Alpine Theatre Project

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Suzanne Wambeke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No Masks

I appreciate that the Mayor of Whitefish has put the decision About wearing masks in the citizens Power and right. A mandate the wear masks would I fri he on our rights especially when I just talked with KRH nurse and there have not been any new cases.

Thank you for not I forcing Masks but letting the people make the decision

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bookworks [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

hi michelle- people are coming in telling us the city is going to meet tues. about mandatory masks - - i want to add to the issue - please do like missoula and require masks at restaurants until people are seated - also require all wait people to wear masks - after watching the line at the buffalo - how about the city spraying 6 foot marks on the sidewalk? - thanks, cheryl watkins EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Andrew C Westlund <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Strongly agree with mask ordinance.

I live at [REDACTED] Kalispell, MT 59901. My family and friends in Kalispell visit Whitefish for dining, and to visit shops weekly. Thank you.

On Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 12:04 PM Andrew C Westlund [REDACTED] wrote:

I just wanted to send my support for the mask ordinance meeting tomorrow. Our state has been relatively lucky up to now with our number of cases and something as simple as covering our face will help keep us that way.

Thanks for all you are doing to protect our citizens.

Andrew Westlund

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Carolanne Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 4:47 PM
Subject: Whitefish Mask Ordinance

Hello.

Face masks are not the answer to protecting our lovely community of Whitefish. But Herd Immunity Threshold (HIT) is.

Before implementing a mandatory mask ordinance, please consider the following:

The data on HIT presented by the Children's Health Defense: <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/lockdown-lunacy-2-0-second-wave-not-even-close/>

Letter to the Editor by John. T. Littell, MD in Orlando Medical News (full letter here: <https://www.orlandomedicalnews.com/article/3545/letter-to-the-editor-why-increasing-number-of-cases-of-covid-19-is-not-bad-news/>):

"So, in essence, any person with an influenza- like illness (ILI) could be considered a "case" of COVID-19, even WITHOUT confirmatory lab testing. The CDC has even advised to consider any deaths from pneumonia or ILI as "Covid-related" deaths – unless the physician or medical examiner establishes another infectious agent as the cause of illness.

"Now perhaps you see why the increasing number of cases, and even deaths, due to COVID-19 is fraught with misinterpretation and is NOT in any way a measure of the ACTUAL morbidity and mortality FROM COVID-19. My patients who insist upon wearing masks, gloves and social distancing are citing these misleading statistics as justification for their decisions (and, of course, that they are following the "CDC guidelines"). I simply advise them, "COVID-19 is NOT in the atmosphere around us; it resides in the respiratory tracts of infected individuals and can only be transmitted to others by sick, infected persons after prolonged contact with others".

Studies show face masks are harmful to health:

In a 2008 study of surgical masks worn by 53 surgeons, researchers found that the mask reduced the blood oxygen levels significantly, creating a condition known as "hypoxia." <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>

A 2015 study indicated that hypoxia inhibits T-lymphocytes (the main immune cells used to fight viral infections) by increasing the level of a compound called hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1). Therefore, wearing a mask may actually set the stage for contracting COVID-19 and make the consequences much worse.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26179900/>

Hypoxia is also a significant factor in atherosclerosis, thus it increases the risk of stroke and heart attack.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17332479/>

Those who wear masks are constantly rebreathing the viruses, raising the concentration of the virus in the lungs and the nasal passages. By wearing a mask, the exhaled viruses will not be able to escape and will concentrate in the nasal passages, enter the olfactory nerves and can travel into the brain.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/2543129/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32240762/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32167747/>

A May 2020 study involving 159 healthcare workers aged 21 to 35 years of age found that 81% developed headaches from wearing a face mask. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32232837/>

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Carolanne Wright



Whitefish MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ruth Ackroyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandating wearing of masks for public safety

To the Whitefish City Council:

We once again urge the city of Whitefish to take action to mandate the wearing of masks in public spaces when social distancing is not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the positive cases continue to increase across Montana and in the Flathead, we believe that science and the medical community support this action TODAY as the socially responsible response to minimize the spread of this coronavirus. We listened to the earlier public hearing on recommending wearing masks in public places and were dismayed by community members lack of information and ignorance of how the coronavirus is spread and a resistance to wearing a mask.

We urge the Whitefish City Council to continue to educate Whitefish residents and visitors as to the importance of wearing a mask in our community in public when social distancing is not possible and we look to you to be leaders in this effort for the public good and for our community's health. We also urge you to consider instituting fines to aid in enforcing your mandate to wear a mask. Persons who do not wear seat belts or drive while using cell phones are fined. We are disappointed our state leadership has not had the courage to mandate wearing masks in public statewide which they should have done weeks ago to protect Montana communities.

Thank you for listening to our concerns for our Whitefish community.

I am 77 yrs. old and my husband 80 yrs. old and we want to feel safe in our community and we recognize our responsibility to do our part to protect one another by wearing our masks and socially distancing, washing hands and using hand sanitizer.

Sincerely,

David & Ruth Ackroyd

[REDACTED] Whitefish, Mt 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

I was deeply disappointed in the weakness of the recent City Council Resolution and am in full support of this ordinance which takes into consideration the welfare of the entire community. COVID-19 cases are spiraling upward in Montana, Whitefish is filling with out of town and out of state visitors who have minimal investment in the health of those of us who live here and want a safe environment. If the City Council does not take a strong stance in the best interests of the community as a whole we are put at a great risk. It is imperative that the Council pass the Ordinance now when it can serve as a preventative measure rather than waiting until it is too late. Please pass this Ordinance and stand by it. I'm sure it will need to be enforced beyond one month. Ending it too soon is as dangerous as not having it at all.

Ann Adams

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sandra Alessi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Michelle Howke

This sort of ordinance is unenforceable against tourists and teenagers and only penalizes the locals who are in compliance anyway. Making another rule will not solve the spread of covid19. Be smart, encourage business owners to enforce the mask requirement.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jessica Anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Ryan Anderson; Jess Anderson
Subject: Extremely supportive of Mask Ordinance

Hi,

We wanted to send an email to say that our family is fully supportive of the mask guidelines and would LOVE if Whitefish passed a mask ordinance.

Wearing masks helps everyone and is a social responsibility.

While we understand that tourism helps Whitefish a lot, it seems a shame to allow travelers from out of state to come and not wear a mask. Additionally, it seems silly to us that many people wear masks to the grocery store, but that very few wear it to restaurants (and many restaurant workers are not wearing masks consistently).

Finally, even if an ordinance is not passed, we would suggest that there is more signage in downtown whitefish and other locations to strongly suggest people follow the guidelines.

Wearing masks will help preserve the economy in Whitefish and allow for more of us to enjoy a more "normal" life. Thanks so much, and please feel free to reach out if you have additional questions.

Jess & Ryan Anderson

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Andy Burbine [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hello, I am a local ER nurse manager. I think it's vital for the city to go ahead and mandate masks. This is a simple step to reducing the risk to the community and the healthcare workers as well as local businesses. We don't have much but we masks can help immensely. The minority of folks who for whatever reasons fall into the "anti-mask" bucket will not have a long-term effect upon Whitefish economy. While a Covid outbreak very well could/will.

I am completely happy testifying or otherwise getting involved to promote this position as a healthcare provider, Mayor Muhlfield has my contact information. Feel free to reach out if there's anything I can do to help.

- Andy Burbine , RN

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chad Arterbury [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mask ordinance for Whitefish

AAPS comes out and gives effectiveness of masks in stopping Covid.

Quick conclusion:

Advice to decision makers on the use of masks for healthy people in community settings

"As described above, the wide use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by current evidence and carries uncertainties and critical risks."

<https://aapsonline.org/mask-facts/>

On Sat, Jul 4, 2020, 3:44 PM Chad Arterbury <carterbury@gmail.com> wrote:

Chad Arterbury

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Wearing masks in public has no scientific evidence that it would lead to lower transmission of the virus. Everything we know about the virus up until now has been completely proven wrong as this pandemic has played out. The push for masks in public is from a new sustained media barrage scaring people and causing panic. We know that they (MSM) are constantly wrong about everything and so following their advice as a City is dubious at best.

Masks in public:

N95: An N-95 mask filters out particulate matter larger than .3 microns. So the question then is how big is a COVID particle. A COVID particle is about .1 micron....this idea of people doing anything particularly useful w...a mask is just LOONEY TUNES." - Sen. Dr. Scott Jenson, M.D.

The "droplet" argument for wearing masks is basically just uninformed. It's a nice idea until you look at the research & how porous masks are. "Surgical masks will NOT block aerosolized particles AS SMALL AS A DROPLET CONTAINING INFLUENZA VIRIONS."

From "Inside Surgery," a premier surgeon's journal, in 2009 during the swine flu outbreak, in an article titled "Standard Surgical Masks Do Not Protect Wearer From Getting Swine Flu." "For the prevention of transmission of swine flu this type of mask is ESSENTIALLY WORTHLESS."

From the US Department of Labor, on surgical masks for COVID: "Will not protect the wearer against airborne transmissible infectious agents due to loose fit and lack of seal or inadequate filtration."

New England Journal of

Health: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372?query=recirc_mostViewed_railB_article

We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.

Another article with Scientific references scrubbed from the internet since last time I read it. Don't we wonder why?

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:UKYiH9A96aYJ:https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/&hl=en&gl=us&strip=1&vwsrc=0>

Purchase any mask off the shelf and you will see it has a disclaimer that it will not prevent the spread of Covid-19. If this is the case, what is the point? Especially if a bandana counts as having a mask on.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Carol Babington [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: re.city council Tuesday , July 14, mandatory mask ordinance

On Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM Carol Babington [REDACTED] wrote:

Dead City of Whitefish council,

I am responding to your request for public comment re mandating face masks in public:

I am 74 yes old, a cancer survivor, and wish you

to think through the purpose of a mandate. If you actually believe the science as your rationale, then , there should be no exemptions. As I read it , everyone and his dog is exempt. I'm exempt.

A person running is exempt. A person whose business doesn't permit a face mask is exempt.

Enforcement would be impossible. For example,

if I am in a store and not wearing a mask due to my pre-existing condition, and a stranger perceives me to be in violation , calls a cop to fine me , or better yet attempts to detain me , an assault occurs, and I am injured , or embarrassed,

what happens next ? I sue the person who attempted to stop me from leaving . By your actions, you are sowing discord and subjecting people like me to harassment and assault. Why?

Because I'm entitled to an exemption and have to wear a sign around my neck to identify myself as a cancer patient.

Where are my rights to privacy? It's either all of nothing to enforce such an ordinance. 😊 A voluntary mask ordinance is best.

Carol Babington

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: m.basta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

I'm all for mandating masks. It's the only way the community at large and visitors will change their behavior...too bad it has to be this way.

Michael Basta

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: a&rbeougher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Up

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Please MANDATE masks. I watched the last council meeting in horror as a group of uninformed "persecuted" group, disregarded normal human protocol and well being. Driving home from work on Friday I witnessed large groups of unmasked tourists crowded at intersections. Shaking my head, WHAT IS IT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND? Playing a game of tennis at awesome Baker St courts on this past Sunday we witnessed the large group of church patrons exiting the building across the street. NOT ONE person or child practiced social distancing or masks. Most of them headed across the street to Kiddie Park to congregate at the Park.

Thank you for your service during this unfortunate and trying time.

Allison Beougher

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: c [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:43 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: To the City Council :Mandatory Masks and fines for noncompliance

I applaud the measures of our Mayor and the City Council for protecting the citizens of Whitefish from the deleterious health and economic effects of the Covid-19 virus. I am concerned that cases of the virus are on the rise in the state and in Flathead county. It appears that widespread voluntary compliance is not happening, therefore wearing masks should be made mandatory and enforced by all.

Please vote yes on a mandatory mask policy in all businesses where social distancing is not possible. A no mask no service policy with a \$500 fine for noncompliance is my suggestion.

This policy would be good for business and good for people and far better than returning to another lockdown.

Thank you,

Vicki Bernstein

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michala Berube <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandate

PLEASE VOTE NO ON MASK MANDATE. Every other coronavirus has run a two year course. This virus is losing its virility. Doctors know how to treat now. People that die from this are Immune compromised and have comorbidities. Do not strip rights away from American citizens. We have the right to breath clean air. Do not overwhelm our justice system making criminals out of free thinking Americans.

Thank you. Please vote no
M. Berube

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michala Berube Kozicky [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please do not mandate masks in whitefish.

People have a right to breath clean fresh air. A God given right, one in which a mandate cannot take away.

By mandating masks you are also telling the people of Whitefish and surrounding communities that they do not have the Intelligence to make health decisions for themselves. It is no one else's is choice but their own.

There is no significant research proving masking the world can prevent infection from virus.

There is however data on toxic levels of co2 being breathed in while wearing masks. Allowing less oxygen into The body, the one main thing the body needs for covid patients.

Please note that while the infection rate and testing may be on the rise, the death rate is not. Masks are being mandated all over, more so than ever. If they truly worked maybe there might not be the spike. But as most know, virus don't die out because we hide from them. They jump from host to host slowly loosing virility if the virus didn't loose Virility it would kill its sell off It wants to live. The data is in. Doctors have figured out how to keep people out of the hospitals and off ventilators. 99% recovery rate. A .26% death rate. If the media hadn't told us there was a pandemic, would we know there was a "pandemic"?

Both the CDC and the WHO have been inconsistent with their data, information and recommendations.

Please let the people choose what they feel is best for them. Do not strip away God given rights.

Thank you for your time.
PLEASE VOTE NO!

Michala Berube Kozicky
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Liz Boucher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke



Super cool! See it all the time! Fxxx your mandate! Until you educate the public not to touch their masks and know how to properly wear gloves. You are not stopping shit! Your all drunk on you own power. God forgive you all!

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chrissy Boysen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In support of mandatory face masks

City Council,

I am a Whitefish city resident who lives and works within city limits. I am writing to voice my support of mandatory masks in public areas, places of business, and places where social distancing is not possible. I have seen how crowded our downtown has become over the past month, and have noticed the surge in tourists from Montana and around the country. I worry that without any interventions, the cases of COVID-19 will steady increase and very negatively affect our community, our residents, and our ability to operate in the months to come.

Without a mandatory mask ordinance, I worry that COVID-19 cases will continue to surge and will negatively effect Whitefish long after tourist season has passed. I do not feel that mandatory masks will hurt businesses as much as they fear, and will in fact allow businesses to stay open. I hope that city council can feel confident that although not all residents may agree, a mandatory mask ordinance would be immeasurably helpful to our community.

Thank you for your time,

Chrissy Boysen
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: matthews bradley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Sue Basta; Michael Basta; Noel Drury; Mark Panicek; lynnebradley1@gmail.com; Claire Bradley
Subject: Vote for masks!

As a health care researcher, I can verify that masks that cover your nose and mouth reduce the transmission of the Sars cov2 virus to both you and others around you. Even your homemade mask will stop 50 to 80 % of the virus. That sure beats 0% without a mask.

Please vote to mandate masks in Whitefish.

Thank you

Regards
Matt Bradley PhD
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sally Broste [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

We have been most disappointed with the voluntary response of our own citizens and shopkeepers, let alone our visitors. We feel that we must avoid downtown and businesses where so few can be bothered to wear a simple mask.

We are hoping that the proposed ordinance will help everyone do the right thing and wear a mask in congested areas. Unfortunately even many of our favorite outdoor recreation sites are also very congested and masks are a rare site.

Thank you for trying to keep our community safe and fun for everyone.

--
Sally & Nels Broste
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Larry Bruce [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:07 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Requiring face masks

To whom it may concern,
I support the required use of face masks in public spaces in the city of Whitefish.
I think this has huge medical importance.
Please vote to require masking.
Larry V Bruce
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Richard Burbine [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask requirement

Please be advised that we are very supportive of a required mask policy for Whitefish. Hopefully that will be the result of tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely

Richard and Laura Burbine
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mr. C Carmichael [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Facemask Feedback

Whitefish City Council,

Thank you for solicitating feedback about the requirement to wear face masks here in Whitefish. The issue is not a political one but rather a health issue. We need to protect the people of Whitefish and our visitors and the mask requirement is necessary for our health and our economy.

Time to mask up Whitefish,

Gary Carmichael

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dana Carmichael [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:37 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: special council meeting public comment

Happy Summer,

Thank you all for considering masks a vital part of our public health. I have been battling breast cancer for six months, and I have only ventured into town once to pick up dinner from a favorite restaurant. Even though I placed my order and paid over the telephone, I was shocked at the line of people out the door. The only masks anywhere from my parking spot to my order were mine and the hostess.

In a few weeks, my husband will be returning to Whitefish Middle School and Muldown Elementary as a teacher. For the sake of getting back to normal I hope you will temporarily require masks in public settings.

Sincerely,
Dana Carmichael

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chris [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hi Michelle,

I wanted to express my support for a mandatory mask ordinance in Whitefish. It is a small thing to do but experts tell us it can save lives and with the spike in Covid-19 cases suddenly in the Flathead and Montana I believe it is the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Chris Crumal

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lori Curtis [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for Face Masks

We whole-heartedly support any efforts by the City to help contain the spread of Covid-19, and feel a face mask mandate would be most appropriate.

We also thank Dana, Mayor Muhlfeld, City Council, and the City staff for their exemplary handling of the pandemic in Whitefish, and for the excellent job of continuously communicating information and facts with Whitefish citizens. Thank you!

Lori & Walt Curtis
[REDACTED]

Lori S. Curtis
Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
Science & Education Today, A Vision for Tomorrow
www.whitefishlake.org
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

Chair, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission
A partnership in managing Aquatic Invasive Species
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/montana-invasive-species-program/uc3>

Vice Chair, Flathead Conservation District
Locally-led conservation since 1945
www.flatheadcd.org

Associate Faculty, Prescott College
For the Liberal Arts, the environment, and social justice
www.prescott.edu

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: david donaldson <ddonaldson13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:56 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandate Masks Today

I am a retired Navy Corpsman and a local educator and I strongly urge the adoption of a mask MANDATE for Whitefish and the entire state.

The concept of prevention is just that -we must all behave in a way to prevent deaths and unnecessary complications from a disease. We have no cure and no vaccine for Covid19.

What we do have are proven public health measures to reduce the risk of spread of this potentially lethal and very morbid virus; **,masks, testing, contact tracing, and physical distancing.** This disease is very contagious and the WHO has confirmed likely airborne. Frighteningly, it spreads from asymptomatic and presymptomatic infected individuals.

It may be too little, too late, but we must do everything we can to save lives. The only way our economy and the education of our children will remain reasonably intact is if we slow the spread of covid19. NOW. Every single day counts.

Please, please, mandate masks today.

Sincerely,

David S. Donaldson Ed.D.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Noel Drury <nthed2@centurytel.net>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:11 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Four months late. But better late than never. Please mandate mask-wearing everywhere, unless where not recommended by Scientists

...Scientists , not Politicians.

Politicians didn't invent things they avail themselves of All of the time without much question, as do we all: surgery, modern agricultural practices, lumber industry technology, ski lifts, skis, snowboards, powerboats, modern brewing technology, mountain bikes, the internet, the printing press, energy distribution, smart phones, antibiotics, jet aircraft, automobile engines, safe drinking water, electricity, polio immunization, & etc.

Science did invent all of the things that we need to help keep our economy moving forward. But ignore the science...at our grave peril.

Science will save us from super bugs, both now and in the future. Politicians will not, but they can make laws that require that all citizens follow scientifically-valid guidelines. So to help save us, politicians might think deeply about staying in their own lanes.

Why does this have to be so complicated? $1+1=2$?

Thanks!

Noel Drury, MD
Kalispell, Montana
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Charles Eichenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for ordinance

Michelle Howke

A mask requirement is common sense as cases rise. Please urge officials to consider this issue not as a political one, but instead with compassion for the health of the community and those visiting.

Thanks,

Charlie Eichenberger

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please no mandatory masks

Hello City of Whitefish,

I'm a resident of Kalispell and I frequently shop in Whitefish. I'm very opposed to any mandatory requirement to wear masks that are just not necessary. Less than 0.1% of the entire population of Flathead County has tested positive for the virus.

Please vote no to mandatory masks.

Thanks,
Tom Finkle
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Margaret Fischer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:47 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask requirement for Whitefish

We strongly believe in instituting an Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan and Margaret Fischer

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Quinn Fitzpatrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:21 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: support for emergency mask ordinance

Hello WF City Council Members,

I write in favor of establishing an emergency mask ordinance in light of the recent growth of COVID-19 in the Flathead Valley.

Seeing the uptick in cases in other parts of the state and the enormous growth in other parts of the country, it's clear that masking is one of the important, proactive steps that we must take to help keep our residents and visitors safe and healthy.

Thank you for all the proactive steps you have taken these past few months.

Kind regards,
Quinn Fitzpatrick, RN
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: John Forster [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:21 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No Face Masks

The only reason we are seeing an increase in cases is because we are doing more testing than ever before. Please look at the death rate. It is and has been on the decline for quite some time.

If people want to wear masks that is their choice. There is absolutely no clear answer coming from Fauci and the rest of the task force. One day they say it helps and the next day they say it makes no difference. Then you have other Doctors saying masks only make it worse. I'm 65 years old and I have no interest in wearing a mask. Not to mention you would be violating my civil rights and the civil rights of all residents of Flathead County. This is and should be everyone's personal choice.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Eric Funk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Plesae make masks mandatory in Whitefish/Eric Funk

Dear City Manager Dana Smith, Mayor Muhlfeld and members of the Whitefish City Council,

Thank you for your timely updates and for the great job you are all doing – keeping us informed and being in touch! I think that's so essential for our Whitefish community.

As you are aware, COVID-19 infections have risen dramatically, especially since mid-June in Montana. Here in the Flathead we just experienced 8 new cases overnight (7/13), including at least two, in Whitefish.

While your resolution requesting people to wear face masks is a step in the right direction, it is insufficient to stem the rate of infections, especially considering the coming wave of tourists entering our community.

Please make mask wearing mandatory immediately, in all places of business in Whitefish.

The wearing of face masks to stem the rate of infection is the easiest and most effective way to combat the spread of COVID-19. But we all need to wear them for this to work. Because it is truly a matter of life and death, both for Whitefish residents and our economy, I submit that you enforce a \$500 fine for those who fail to comply.

This is an unprecedented health crisis. You have no time to waste, and lives to protect.

Here are several widely accepted reputable sources, regarding the effectiveness of face masks, for your reference. They are from the CDC, U San Francisco, Mayo Clinic, Stanford medical and the Cleveland clinic. I hope these are helpful.

[UCSF.edu](https://www.ucsf.edu)

“ . . . the evidence is clear that masks can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and that the more people wearing masks, the better.”

[MayoClinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)

“Face masks combined with other preventive measures, such as frequent hand-washing and social distancing, help slow the spread of the virus.”

[med.stanford.edu](https://www.stanford.edu)

“(The) new guidelines were devised after WHO officials reviewed information from researchers at Stanford and elsewhere about the ability of cloth masks to slow the spread of the disease . . . has recommended cloth masks in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain.”

[health.clevelandclinic.org](https://www.clevelandclinic.org)

“ . . . those homemade masks, often made of material like cotton, won't do much to protect you from inhaling particles that carry the virus. But they *do* protect wearers from possibly spreading the virus to others.”

[CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

“ . . . it is important to wear a cloth face covering: The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced when cloth face coverings are used along with other [preventive measures](#), including [social distancing](#), frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.”

Our community cannot afford a health crisis, and our economy cannot afford another shutdown. Many other cities and states have taken this simple step to help protect their citizens. Is there any reason why we shouldn't make the same effort for the people of Whitefish, and for our local economy? Please make the wearing of face masks mandatory in Whitefish.

Thanks for all you do,

Eric Funk

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Nick Harman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fwd: Sun Valley Logo
Attachments: Gorby.JPG; Black T.PNG; White T .PNG; IMG_8322.jpg

Hi Michelle,

I see that Whitefish is discussing a mask ordinance. I live in Sun Valley Idaho and we just enacted one here.

I started a local Facebook campaign "**Small ask, wear a mask**" before the ordinance came out and it took off - see attached stickers and t-shirts. I immediately I got a call from The Mayor of Sun Valley to use the logo and slogan it and they have adopted it in all their communication. Sun Valley Resort followed suit. Business around town are buying the shirts, mask and stickers for their employees so that we are all sending a consistent message to visitors about our mask policy.

I started to get calls from other places asking if they could use the slogan and customize the logo for their town / needs. As my regular job has been dramatically cut due to Covid, I decided to start a little business to help pay the bills. I registered the slogan with the USPTO and filed the trademark and I am now reaching out to cities and corporations to see if they would be interested in me creating shirts, stickers, window clings, masks, hats for them using their logo or art with the slogan Small ask, wear a mask.

If you had any interest in discussing, please give me a call.

Nick Harman
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Orion Hetman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Hello,

My wife and I own The Wich Haus here in Whitefish, and like everyone else in town, have experienced a very high degree of traffic due to tourism over the past several weeks. We do require our staff to wear masks, and do have signs posted suggesting that our guests should do so as well. Unfortunately, based on my best estimation, far fewer than half of our patrons wear masks inside of our establishment. In light of the recent reporting about new cases of SARS-CoV 2 in Whitefish, we have decided to no longer allow indoor dining at our restaurant, and think that it is deeply irresponsible for the leadership in the City of Whitefish not to require the wearing of masks in public spaces. Anyone who believes that this requirement will dampen economic activity in our town is clearly misguided, just look around town, the tourists are already here, they will spend their money. It is on the city to support the citizens in enforcing measures designed to protect our health. Please give us the ability to safely continue our business before something truly horrific occurs in our town.

Sincerely,
Orion Heyman

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Molly Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes! Require face coverings!

I am writing in support of the emergency ordinance to require face coverings in the public spaces of the city of whitefish. Please, keep our populace safe and the city's economy will remain strong. Thank you! Marilyn Higgins Bruce, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Whitefish, MT. Been a citizen 31 years.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Keo Jamieson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:25 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

We are living in a pivotal moment in world history. In order to emerge on the right side, the City of Whitefish is obligated to pass an emergency mask ordinance to protect its citizens and their livelihoods. [A review of 172 studies](#) from around the world has shown **"Face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection"**

Besides protecting the lives of our neighbors, we are protecting our economy which is dependent on tourism. As the [front page](#) of the Washington Post noted on Saturday, tourists are flocking to Montana, perhaps encouraged by our relatively low Covid cases. In order to keep these numbers low and to keep our restaurants and businesses open safely, we need a mask ordinance.

It is said that leadership about making hard decisions, however, requiring masks in public spaces is not that hard. More than 120 countries [require](#) masks. Let's make the easy choice.

Keola Jamieson
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brad Jarrell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke

No mask mandatory
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jocelyn Johnson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

I am against the mandate. Our courts have better things to do than to deal with fines. I also don't think it's a businesses responsibility to police the people. They have no power to do this and shouldn't be faced with turning away business at this time. Please vote no on this mandate.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Patricia Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In support of Masks

Hello,

I am in favor of mandatory mask usage in Whitefish. I don't think forgetting a mask once in a while is grounds for severe punishment or hefty fines, but I think passing a mandatory usage with reminders to people not wearing them on the street is valuable. I also think masks should be mandatory inside stores. I think it should be optional for when people are actively exercising outside or at the gym due to differing health levels and issues.

Patricia Johnson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Johnson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:50 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I would like to encourage the city council to vote no on mandatory mask As a person with asthma all I need is one more restriction for my air flow. Even when I go to see my doctor they have me remove my mask as it jumps my blood pressure up. Individual and business should be able to make this decision on there own.

Dave Johnson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Todd Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Input in favor of mask ordinance

Hello,

I am an emergency room physician at Kalispell Regional, and my wife is a physician assistant working in primary care at a clinic that is functioning as a “respiratory clinic” in Kalispell. We are in favor of a mask ordinance. Independent of politics, the science currently shows that this will help our community.

Thanks,
Todd Johnson MD
Michelle Johnson PA-C

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dawn Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Mask Requirement

Dear Michelle,

I'd like to express my support for a mandatory face mask requirement in the City of Whitefish.

I noted that at the last public meeting on the subject of face masks, it was reported that by email there was more support for the requirement but in person, there was more opposition. That makes a lot of sense to me. Although I strongly support a face mask requirement, I will not appear in person at the meeting for the very reason that there is no face mask requirement, possibly exposing myself and my family to COVID-19. I suspect others who support the requirement feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kelly
Timbers at Whitefish

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Thomas Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:33 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Michelle,

I would like to express my encouragement for a full mask ordinance for Whitefish. I would like to attend the meeting but fear the unmasked will overwhelm. Having spent the winter on the east coast I see our future if we don't take action. Please do the right thing now.

Tom Kelly
Timbers at Whitefish

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jill Kobrin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:49 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

PLEASE make masks mandatory in Whitefish. People will not comply unless they are mandated. We have kept our city safe, but now with recent increases, we need need to take a more drastic step.

Thank you for keeping our community safe.

Jill Kobrin, Whitefish full time resident

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Joey Kositzky [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Required Masks

I feel strongly that masks should be required in any business that can't observe the 6' distance between customers. Should the City Council decide to pass an ordinance requiring masks I strongly recommend putting sandwich boards on street corners politely reminding people of the requirement. This would help relieve some of the pressure on our local businesses when they are challenged.

I would also like to see that City provide some financial assistance to local businesses if you are requiring masks. I purchase disposable masks for the library and find that we are going through up to 20 a day, at the cost of about \$.80 a mask.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit our opinions when making this difficult decision to protect our beautiful community.

Joey Kositzky,
Director
Whitefish Community Library

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lyn Kuhr [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish

I am against the enforcement of mask wearing in Whitefish or any other city. Even the CDC doesn't mandate mask wearing it recommends wearing masks not mandating. The numbers of deaths from covid do not mandate that you enforce this mask ruling. The death rate isn't as high as cancer or suicides. You are practicing government over reach. I will stop shopping in Whitefish and go to Kalispell or shop online.

I watched your YouTube video from last week and no one on your council cared at all what the people had to say against mandating mask wearing. You had made up your mind before they even spoke and you spoke with clarity that your intention was to mandate mask wearing. One of your council members sited the New York Times as a place he finds his science to defend the mandate of mask wearing, Since when I ask does the New York Times have any scientific expertise? Another says she is an expert because she works at a hospital and then she gossiped about her neighbors who just arrived from out of state who were actually talking to each other less than 6 feet apart. Really!!!??? She is appalling, spying and willing to actually turn in her neighbors, she will be the first to call the police to report someone walking their dog and not wearing a mask. She will be the next one to follow the rioters and defunding the police. This is straight out of Hitlers handbook. Next you will be burning our books.

Even Dr. Brix stated today that in the hot spots across America the death rate is that of 0.2-.03 %. You will break the economy of Whitefish, all you will have left to shop and spend money in Whitefish will the tourist.

The business's will suffer, perhaps that is what you want to break the economy so you and your left leaning council can run another year or two. I promise this will come back to bite you. The businesses and the community and resident of Whitefish will not forget this over reach.

Do not force people to do your bidding. This will not benefit Whitefish it will hurt it.

Lyn J Kuhr

[REDACTED]
Whitefish Montana
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mike Larkey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: facemask

If this is going to be mandatory, it is totally wrong to punish a business for an individual not wearing a mask. This fine needs to be on the individual.

--

Mike Larkey

[REDACTED]
Kalispell, MT 59903

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED] 1

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Nancy LaRocque [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Ordinance requiring use of face coverings

I strongly support the temporary ordinance requiring the use of face coverings and urge the City Council to pass this ordinance. Thank you.

Nancy LaRocque

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Victoria Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes to the mask ordinance!

Dear City Council members,

As a commercial building owner in Whitefish, I am in agreement with most of your business owners, please make everyone wear masks while outside their homes or we will have to shut our businesses down again due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases. That is just not feasible for most people.

Thank you for your time, I appreciate all the effort you are putting into this issue.

Sincerely,

Victoria Lee
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: jon lemburg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:16 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency ordinance

I do not want to see the ordinance voted in, this is an invasion of my rights.

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Gail Leonard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks in public

Please let the council know that I , as a citizen of Whitefish, request that masks be required in public. Thank you. Gail Leonard [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Linda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:25 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please add my name to the list of those in favor of a mask ordinance. In order to protect all of us and still keep businesses open we must all wear masks in public when social distancing is not possible.

Thank you,
Linda

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Love Leigh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: I support Mandatory Masking

Please count my voice in the chorus of folks speaking up in favor of a mask mandate for the summer season. Tourism has brought our economy back from uncertainty, but it's also brought Covid to our little mountain town and I am worried that it will prompt unnecessary illness and unemployment we could very easily avoid by requiring masks in indoor spaces. This keeps both our economy and our workforce alive, which is extremely important to me as a Montanan.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best,
Leigh Lindstrom Clausen
Owner, Love Leigh Yoga LLC
Seasonal Interpretive Ranger
Glacier National Park
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Proposed mask mandate

I oppose the proposed mandate from Whitefish City Council. At a minimum, if there is a mandate, it should be at the county level. A city level mandate is nonsensical.

Further, wearing a face covering is a personal decision. If one is so concerned about contracting Covid they certainly should mask up. Attempting to force others to play along with your anxiety is a disordered impulse that should be checked. I realize this is currently not in vogue, though thought I would cast my meagre opinion into the void nonetheless.

We can't go over it.
We can't go under it.
Oh no!
We have to go through it!
Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch!

David MacLean
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Maren McCabe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Masks

I am visiting from Portland Oregon and went downtown but after seeing all the crowds and no social distancing and no masks I left. I will spend my dollars where masks are mandatory and I feel safe. You really need to have a mandatory mask ordinance and enforce it!

Maren McCabe

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Paul McCann [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: C-19

Hi Michelle,

Please resubmit my request the council members support an ordinance to require all persons to wear face masks inside all licensed establishments.

Thank you,
Paul McCann

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 29, 2020, at 7:56 AM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>

> Paul,

>

> Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be included in the packet and placed on the agenda under Communications from Mayor and City Councilors. The Council may or may not address your letter. You are welcome to speak towards your letter at the beginning of the meeting under Communications from the Public. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

>

> Please let me know if you have any questions.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Michelle Howke

> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd

> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

> 406-863-2402

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Paul McCann <paulmccann1@me.com>

> Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 6:43 PM

> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

> Subject: C-19

>

> Dear Council Members,

> Please require face masks to be worn when someone is inside of a public place. Naturally, there should be some reasonable exceptions.

> This will cause some some burdens for businesses and enforcement officers, however the health and safety of our citizens needs to be protected during this time of rapidly increasing infections.

> Thank you for your considerations.

> Paul McCann

> 340 Somers Ave.

Michelle Howke

From: Megan McFadden <swiftcreekmcfadden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask oridance .

Please , please, please pass .the mandatory mask oridance .Keep Whitefish safe .

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kathy McGrath <kathymcgrath01@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: City-wide mask requirement

Good Evening Michelle,

I am one of the owners of the Great Northern Bar & Grill. I am around customers all throughout the day. We have tried our best to follow safe practices, cleaning protocols and having our staff wear masks. It is of great concern for me when I am out and about viewing all of the people, local and tourists, that don't take this pandemic seriously. I would highly encourage and support the City of Whitefish in approving an ordinance requiring the use of masks at all times in public places. I feel your suggestions could be easily attained and we would support enforcing the ordinance in our establishment. I would appreciate the help of the City Council to make this mandatory.

Thank you for your time.

-Kathy McGrath
Great Northern Bar & Grill
Personal address: [REDACTED] in Whitefish
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sherry Lynn McIntyre [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No mandatory masks in whitefish

I am against masks to be worn. I feel it is my choice and my right to make that decision. I am claustrophobic and it causes me to cough when I have the mask on. If you make this mandatory and I get sick I Have an attorney that will be representing me. I believe this is between me and my client to make that decision not you! I am a local 95% of my clientele are locals and you are hindering my business I had two people today cancel and told me they'll be back after the mask BS is over.

Sent from my iPhone Sherry
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Alice Mckenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:36 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

I am in support of the mandate for masks in Whitefish..I have seen many businesses and individuals who in no way take the earlier suggestion to wear masks seriously..I have even been told by several business owners that they would not ask their employees or patrons to wear masks until it is mandated..Have been told the same by individuals..With the rising numbers of infection in Mt. and now the Flathead and the influx of tourists I greatly fear that not only will many more in our community get ill..But, also our struggling businesses will have to face another shut down..The time to act is NOW before this virus gets too far out of hand and we cannot control it..
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jerry Meislik [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:36 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Special session of city council

Dear Mayor and City Council Members

We know there is a special meeting of the city council to consider a mandate for local business to require masks of their employees and customers in the stores.

We are strongly in favor of this mandate. The number of reported cases is climbing daily and already one local establishment had to close. If the city doesn't want to go back to a complete shutdown and even more economic hardship the government must act. Many tourists came here from areas that require masks and probably wouldn't think it is that difficult to wear a mask. We think tourism would be more adversely affected if the numbers continue to skyrocket and people do not think it safe to come here.

As we learned from the last council meeting, the individuals who attend the meetings are those who don't wear masks and are opposed to the wearing of masks. Unfortunately most of those who favor a mask ordinance cannot come as they are unwilling to risk their health to show up a meeting.

It would also be beneficial to limit the size of gatherings to 10 or less.

We sincerely hope this measure passes.

Jerry & Rhona Meislik

Sent from [Outlook](#)
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jen Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hello,

I am writing in support of a mandatory mask ordinance. I have seen many people, including employees at many stores continuing to not wear a mask. The number of cases being reported daily for Montana has gone up. Furthermore, the number of tourists traveling from areas where Covid 19 is more prevalent is a concern. Please take this request under consideration at your special meeting.

Respectfully,

Jen Metcalfe
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: tina meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please make masks mandatory

Dear Whitefish City Council,

I implore you to mandate masks for the safety of our small community. As a retail store manager we have required masks in our store after learning of the Great Northern closing due to an employee's positive test results. Prior to requiring masks we have been happy to see the rise in mask wearers coming into the store over the last 2 weeks, about 70%. Customers have commented their home states have required masks for months and they are grateful to breathe fresh air and that we are open. Let's do our best to stay open!

We knew we were going to be vulnerable with our out of town guests and we should have been proactive to keep our numbers down and our neighbors safe. I have had one negative comment about masks out of almost 1000 customers in the last week. Let's be smart and mask up and hopefully not have to completely shutdown again.

Sincerely,
Tina Meyer
Store Manager/Out West Trading Co

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brenda Moen <b[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory mask ordinance

I support a mandatory mask ordinance for the city of Whitefish. In the midst of growing numbers and the rapidly increasing rate of growth, it is the only responsible course of action in my opinion as well as a significant number of scientists and health officials, including Dr. Fauci. We need to protect our citizens and visitors for as long as it takes to reverse these trend lines. Masks, social distancing, and washing hands frequently is all we have in the fight against Covid 19. Let's do what we can to protect each other. Thank you.

Brenda

Moen [REDACTED] Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sharon M. Morrison [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:16 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

This was a timely message from Dana Smith respecting the special meeting tomorrow. I just stopped by Super 1 and was disappointed that the checkers did not have on masks and many of the shoppers (who appeared to be visitors) did not have on masks. It is very concerning with the numbers of COVID cases drastically increasing. I support a mandatory mask emergency ordinance with signs to be posted on all places of business that there is no admission to those without masks.

Only in that way can we exercise any control over the pandemic.

I would also support closing down bars.

Sharon Morrison
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Patrick Nagle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Patrick Nagle
Subject: Face Mask Ordinance Feedback.

Mayor and Council Members,

As a resident and independent business owner, I remain ardently against any mandatory face covering ordinance.

Sincerely,

Patrick Nagle
Broker/Owner
Nagle Realty- Whitefish MT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.NagleRealty.com

Montana Broker License:
RRE-BRO-LIC-74603
California License #01964442



PATRICK NAGLE
NAGLE REALTY
[REDACTED]
NAGLEREALTY.COM
[REDACTED]

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jill Nelson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Proposed Mask Ordinance

To Whom it May Concern--

I support the proposed mask ordinance. Thank you for working quickly to help keep our community stay as safe as possible.

Jillian R. Nail

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Terry Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FAcе coverings

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I would support guidelines for people to wear face coverings while indoors and in public spaces. In outdoor areas that do not require close proximity it would be very difficult to manage the demand for wearing masks.

Terry Nelson



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: John Noyes [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

Thank you for calling this emergency meeting. Covid IS an emergency, and it's time the city of Whitefish responded in a manner supporting the science. Covid is here, masks will keep the number of infections down. Merchants must insist on mask wearing , and citizens need to respond similarly. It's up to all of us, and requires local government to issue the ordinance.

Thank you
Hope C. Noyes
[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kim Ordway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face covering ordinance

Hello, I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself in support of the ordinance to require face coverings in public places in the city of Whitefish. We are both over 65 and are so disappointed when we go into town and see no one wearing masks. The only way to bring this virus under some control is for people to comply to wearing face coverings. Thank you for this ordinance.

Kim and David Ordway

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: kyle ortman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:15 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask ordinance

please enact mandatory masks, covid19 is real. the sooner we take action, real quantifiable action the sooner we can start control the virus, the sooner we go to work, then we can begin to assess the damage to our economy, society and world. please. thank you for your service to our community.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Osborne [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

My family is always careful for the safety of our town these last 30 years. We will continue to support good health as thinking independent Americans. We will be about our own health safety and practice good health, but we don't support the over-step of Whitefish to monitor mask wearing.

Steve and Karen Osborne

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Alice Padgham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masking in Whitefish

I completely support requirements to wear masks especially when entering any indoor space. This virus is out of control and nothing is going to change that until we change our behavior. There will still be some who don't comply but increasing numbers of folks will comply when there are stricter rules. Thanks for a chance to weigh in on this.

Alice Padgham
[REDACTED]

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rebecca Palmquist [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Requirement

To whom it concerns,

I am absolutely IN FAVOR of a mandatory mask requirement for the City of Whitefish. Please, help our community lead the way to a safer environment for all families to enjoy. The childish "No mask attitude" is irresponsible and a public health hazard! Just like drunk drivers, people without masks demonstrate reckless disregard for the lives of innocent others. Waiting until it's too late for a mandate to make a difference would be irresponsible. Please, protect the health, safety and livelihoods of this community by thwarting the spread of Covid-19.

Thank you,

Rebecca Palmquist
Whitefish, Montana

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mark Panicek [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

I support a mask mandate in Whitefish. We need to protect our vulnerable citizens and masks are proven to do that.

Mark Panicek

[REDACTED] Rd

WF, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kathy Panicek [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask mandate

As a retired health care professional, I adamantly support a mandatory mask use policy for the city of Whitefish. The Whitefish community needs to be proactive in the fight to keep members of the community and our visitors as safe as possible. Facial mask use has been proven to reduce aerosol transmission of the Corona virus. A mandatory mask use policy will show community support for our local healthcare system. Not enacting such a simple policy would truly be disrespectful!

The Whitefish City Council members need to enact a mandatory mask use policy and in so doing, become a positive role model for other Montana communities!

Be strong... do it, NOW!

Kathryn Panicek
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Montana

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Scott Pinckney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

I like the encouraged masks but mandatory masks for those of us who live in the city oppose the issue. I should be able to walk, boat, bike and work in my yard without a mask!

Scott Pinckney

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Susan Prilliman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

It is obvious that the majority of our citizens will not wear a mask to protect themselves and others unless required to do so! Please, for the sake of our city and all of us, make mask wearing in public mandatory!

Thank you,
Susan Prilliman

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Donald Rees [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:31 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask

All the responsible people already do wear their masks so it's not any imposition if you mandate it for the ones that decide they wanna put others at risk. Plus it would take the pressure off the store and business owners from irate customers.

--

Donald C. Rees

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Desirai Renee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:02 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I, Desirai Van Ekelenburg, am standing resident in the city of Whitefish.

I am against mask wearing has a mandate.

I believe if someone wants to wear a mask due to their own health concerns, they absolutely have the right to do so.

However, those that do not wish to wear a mask must not be forced to do so.

Wearing a mask should be a choice, not a mandate for the city of Whitefish.

Thank you
Desirai Van Ekelenburg

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Janice Richards <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Meeting re masks

I am in favor of making the wearing of masks in public, including in businesses, mandatory. I of course will not be at the meeting since I'm sure those opposed will be in attendance without masks.

Thank you,
Jan

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:59 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No masks

People should not be forced to wear masks especially when outdoors. We should be able to choose if we want to wear them - NOT be forced.

Joe and Michelle Riley

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: s [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: I would like to see everyone to wear masks in Whitefish

Please make sure my voice is heard.

Thank you.

Susan Robison

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rodgers, Gary <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:11 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: McIntosh, Danny; Baker, Karen
Subject: City of Whitefish - Emergency Mask Ordinance

Mayor Muhlfeld and Councilors,

On behalf of the owners and operators of "Grouse Mountain Lodge" in Whitefish, I would like to express our support for the "Emergency Mask Ordinance" being considered by Whitefish City Council.

Our company, Pursuit, is in the hospitality business and operates many properties in NW Montana, including "Grouse Mountain Lodge". In a normal summer, we employ 700-800 people at our various properties in the region. This summer has been anything but normal and we, like the hospitality industry around the globe, have struggled to weather the storm. During these challenging times, our team has worked extremely hard to ensure our properties that have re-opened are operated as safely possible. This includes mandatory use of masks by employees in all guest facing services and public spaces, rigorous cleaning protocols, signage and numerous guest communications including our "Safety Promise".

Despite our best efforts we fear these operational changes will be in vain if we are forced to close as a result of increased spread of Covid-19. While many guests are heeding the recommendation to wear a mask in public, it is clear, mandating the use of masks is required. We want visitors to enjoy all NW Montana has to offer and have a memorable experience for the right reasons. Requiring all visitors and residents in public areas to wear a mask, is not only the right thing to do for our business, it is the right thing to do for our employees, guests and community.

We recognize that this is a very politically charged situation and you are likely receiving vocal opposition. Taking this step will be controversial; however, from our perspective this is a small price to pay for the health and wellbeing (economic and social) of our people, their families and our communities. I am sure most residents and business owners/operators within Whitefish share this view.

Respectfully,

Gary Rodgers

Vice President & General Manager / GLACIER PARK COLLECTION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PURSUITSM

PURSUITCOLLECTION.COM

Michelle Howke

From: Katie Rommereim <k[REDACTED]m>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: City-wide mask requirement

Good Evening Michelle,

I am the office manager at the Great Northern Bar & Grill. I also bartend and am around customers all throughout the day. We have tried our best to follow safe practices, cleaning protocols and having our staff wear masks. It is of great concern for me when I am out and about viewing all of the people, local and tourists, that don't take this pandemic seriously. I would highly encourage and support the City of Whitefish in approving an ordinance requiring the use of masks at all times in public places. I feel your suggestions could be easily attained and we would support enforcing the ordinance in our establishment. I would appreciate the help of the City Council to make this mandatory.

Thank you for your time.

-Katie Rommereim
Great Northern Bar & Grill
Personal address: 5019 Portage Way in Whitefish
4 [REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Doug Rommereim [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:30 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks.

Please consider a mandatory mask enforcement. I believe it's essential. Doug Rommereim. Great northern bar.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Susie Ruffatto [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:38 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

I would love for Whitefish to implement a mask mandate at this time. It's a simple thing to require. Everyone wearing masks will reduce the virus transmission; fewer of us will get sick; it will likely save a life or several lives. It could reduce the possibility of having to shut down again.

Requiring masks at this time is no more a violation of civil liberties than requiring everyone to wear shirts and shoes in establishments, not smoke in public places, not drink outside of establishments downtown.

Requiring masks at this time is an indication that our town cares about its people and the people who are here visiting.

Seeing others wearing masks helps me feel safer. I'm 65, so am doing all I can to avoid being exposed to the virus. The people I know feel the same. I will feel better about going downtown if a mandate is in place.

I hope the city makes a decision in the interest of public health, backed by science. I imagine you're going to hear a lot of opposition to a mandate. It will take courage to implement this mandate. I hope you make the decision in the interest of my health, my children's health, my grandchildren's health, the health of all of us.

Thank you,

Susie Ruffatto
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brandy Sammon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:25 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Requiring mask in whitefish

I vote No to requiring mask in whitefish.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kim Sands <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Covid-19 mask emergency ordinance

Yes to masks being mandated! Please!!
Let's be smart and stay as far ahead of this virus as we can.

Kim Sands
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Pam Sbar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Ordinance

Mayor and Council Members,

I support the emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While it is important that our vibrant town open for business and remain open while welcoming visitors, it is likewise important that it be done in a safe manner. We want everyone, residents, businesses and visitors, to remain healthy. Evidence indicates that wearing a mask is a simple and effective method of doing so.

Thank you for continuing to be proactive during this pandemic.

Pam Sbar
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Maryjane Seefeldt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Mask Ordinance

I am in favor of the emergency mask ordinance. I've been working from home since March and upset that since restrictions were lifted and we went in to phase 2 COVID transmission has increased I would like all residents and out of state visitors to have to wear a mask if they come to whitefish to try to reduce the spread of the virus. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Heidi Shors [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke; Andy Shors
Subject: Mask mandate

I second Dr Michelle Spring. Unless we want to be shut down and have further terrible increases in cases and deaths, we must respond to this continued increase in Covid. Please mandate masks. There is no other acceptable choice at this point. Thank you. Dr. Heidi Shors

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Small [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I am in favor of a mandatory mask policy. Too many people are opting not to wear masks, including employees of business establishments. The increasing number of cases in other states should be a cautionary tale. We don't want Montana to be in the same situation and masks help to stop the spread. I prefer not to attend the meeting because I do not want to be in a crowded environment inside a building.

Michelle Small

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Resolution

Michelle,
I am in favor of requiring masking inside public businesses etc. But requiring masks outside on the Trail/sidewalks/parks etc is a bridge too far and essentially unenforceable anyway.

Regards
Greg Strong

Greg Strong

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Mt 59937

[REDACTED]
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Alanna Strong [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

To the Mayor, City Councilpeople and City Manager of The City of Whitefish, Montana:

Again, I would like to reiterate my support for the City of Whitefish to impose mandatory wearing of masks in public. Not only do I support this, I beg you to impose fines for those ignoring the mandatory mask regulations you put in place. Further, you ought to reimpose a 14 day quarantine for any people coming to the city.

Thank you.

Alanna Strong

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Cutthroat Tattoo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask input

I understand my last email had suggested that it was up to “us” to be responsible for our own lives. But traveling to Denver this weekend has really opened my eyes.

Having to wear a mask around in and out of public businesses for the protection of others has NOT killed me!

I may be a conservative republican, but I am not stubborn or so ill minded I can't recognize my mistakes.

With that being said I am 1000% for the mask mandate. Why not? Better safe than sorry. This is beyond politics.

Please do not make my comment public... Thanks.

-Aspen Degenhardt

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

--
All of our best,

Cutthroat Tattoo

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

<https://www.cutthroatmontana.com/>

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dana Smith
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fw: Masks

Please include as public comment.

Thank you,
Dana

From: Robert Tedrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:27 PM
To: Dana Smith <dsmith@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks

We tallied masks worn last Wednesday and Thursday at the Whitefish Liquor Store and the 2 day average was 58%. Employees are not required to wear masks.

I was tested at the Whitefish high school location June 25 and received results 15 days later. 15 days!

Please consider this input in deciding whether to make masks mandatory.

Rob Tedrow
Concerned Whitefish Liquor Store employee
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sharon Tuttle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask ordinance

Hi Michele,

I am totally in favor of the city adopting an ordinance that mandates the use of masks in public places & applies penalties to those who don't comply.

Sincerely, Sharon Tuttle

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Robert Walters [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Special meeting

I respectfully ask that the council votes No on mandating masks being worn. Let the business decide if they want to mandate masks. Individual business should be the ones making the choice. This way people can decide on their own if they want to support a business that requires masks or a business that does not. Nobody is stopping people from wearing masks if they choose. A mandate will take that choice a way. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Blessings

Robert

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: CHERYL WHEELER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks in public places

As part of the "high risk" group my husband and I strongly encourage wearing masks in public places. We hiked part of the Danny On trail on Saturday and it was packed with people and only one wore a mask. Made us very uncomfortable and we cut our hike short.

We wear masks and gloves whenever we are out shopping or in the general public. We wear bandannas around our necks when cycling and pull them up when we encounter anyone. We are trying to stay healthy and protect others. I wish everyone would do the same.

Please pass mandatory mask wearing.

Thank you
Cheryl Wheeler

[REDACTED]
Whitefish
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Whitby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:23 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Dear Council,

We are in favor of the proposed mask requirement.

Hoping tourists and residents would voluntarily act is obviously not working and the quick increase in cases is alarming.

We have to plan for schools reopening and this is a proven strategy to curb the cases.

Thank you for all your efforts in keeping our city safe.

William & Karen Whitby

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT [REDACTED]
802.343.5405

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wally Wilkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask comment

I would like to voice my opposition to the mandatory mask policy.
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Judith Yates <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please please please vote for everyone who is out in whitefish to wear a mask. It's for everyone's protection. How many people do you think got infected with the virus from the bartender at the northern. Now it's closed. Again the cart is before the horse. I was in town approximately week and a half ago and no one had on a mask. I am on a walker at the moment and had a bunch of masks in my hand. I asked each group if they had masks and all said yes but they were in the car. I offered each group face masks. They declined. So I said while you're in my town wear a mask so you don't infect me or get out of my town. Locals are just as guilty. Cases are happening right here in whitefish so please make it mandatory and hit them with a fine. That will get their attention when they have to pay. Good luck..Judith Yates..been here 36 years

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Randall Zuckerman, MD [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate.

Hello,

As a physician I urge you to mandate mask use in town.
Additionally, I would give strong consideration to closing bars, and reinstating a quarantine for visitors.

Thanks.

Randy

Randall Zuckerman, MD, FACS
Physician Director, Surgical Service Line
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Kalispell Regional Healthcare
[REDACTED]

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Doug Adams [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:21 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: requiring masks

Michelle,

I imagine this email will do as much good as the last one, but I have to write. Please pass it along.

Throughout this virus paranoia, I think the illogical rules made by various governments at different levels has caused many governments and scientists to lose credibility (and deservedly so). And I think Whitefish is no exception. For instance, disallowing someone to play in an open air park and shutting down tennis courts where participants are probably 50 feet apart are illogical, inane, pointless, and ineffective rules. If you don't have the common sense to apply effective rules, why should I choose to adhere to them? I haven't heard of any scientific evidence or any anecdotal evidence that masks, effective as they may be, have reduced outbreaks anywhere that they're required. Furthermore, I'd like to know exactly how many cases currently exist in Whitefish. Stomping on peoples' rights and freedoms is a serious matter. With the very few cases we've seen, it's not justified. You're overstepping your authority and causing ill feelings. It would be different if wearing masks would cause things to "get back to normal", but we all know it won't. So please, let us get on with our lives and leave us alone. I respectfully decline to participate in mask wearing, unless I'm in a business that requires it or I'm attending an outdoor event (farmer's market, etc). Sadly, I don't think you care what I think because you'll rule over us using your ideology, and I think you'll gladly treat me like any criminal just for minding my own business. It's a sad day in Whitefish. I've always defended Whitefish when people ridiculed it for various laws. I've always said the reputation is undeserved. Unfortunately, you're now earning the reputation that we've always been accused of, and in the end, you'll have nothing to show for it except a bunch of innocent citizens who have been turned into criminals.

Sincerely,

Doug Adams, Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Katherine Bachrach [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:25 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Supports mandatory masks

The Bachrach household supports mandatory masks, especially in essential businesses, including the grocery stores.
Thank you,
Katherine and Ron Bachrach

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ledjie Ballard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Covid mask concerns

Please require masks. Too few people seem to care enough to wear them despite the councils recommendations.

Thank you

~Ledjie and Phil Ballard

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bear Barinowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:31 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

i would like to encourage the city to have a mandatory mask ordinance.
thank you
andrew barinowski
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Whitney Beckham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:25 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Letter supporting emergency ordinance mandating masks

Dear City of Whitefish Officials:

I am writing in total support of a much-needed city mandate for face masks. While the July 6th resolution was a positive step, it is not posted or publicized widely enough to have informed tourists nor have some businesses seemed to increase employee protections.

Business owners who do not prioritize community or staff safety will no longer be able to jeopardize everyone's health by allowing patrons and staff to interact without masks. I applaud the idea that this new ordinance will allow officials to enforce and penalize those who do not prioritize the health of others; we will ALL be working to stop the spread of this virus.

Whitefish is a small community and while the tourism industry usually provides a stream of income, unfortunately during this pandemic we must put the health and safety of residents above seasonal income and personal freedom. In fact, wearing masks could allow seasonal tourism to continue but in a safer manner. If we wish to avoid business closures and stay-home orders, small steps such as masks and social distancing are key.

Thank you for holding this emergency meeting and thank you in advance for protecting those of us who are doing all we can on our own, but sadly realizing some in our community must be forced into caring for others and realizing the gravity of this situation.

In good health,

Whitney Beckham
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Beckley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:13 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

I am in favor of the City Council passing a mandatory mask ordinance. I had great hopes of the resolution making people stop and do the right thing. Unfortunately not everyone did. Thank you Mayor and Council for trying to keep our special town safe.

Karen Beckley
[REDACTED]

Whitefish
[REDACTED]

5

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sandra Bickish <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:09 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask

Mask are to stop the coughing and sneezing of sick individuals, it's not for the healthy, but can make the healthy sick with constant breathing in of your own carbon dioxide, creating upper respiratory issues and a weakened immune. Vote no on a mask

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lynne Bradley [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory wearing of masks in Whitefish

Dear Mr. Howke,

I live in the outskirts of the city of Kalispell but I go to Whitefish very often. I commend you for taking up this issue of wearing masks in your community. I wear a mask all the time I am out in public and know that it is helping to slow down the epidemic. If you make wearing masks mandatory, I think I would be more likely to shop there than the surrounding area. Thankyou, Lynne Elizabeth Bradley

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ron Brandt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:39 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Coverings Emergency Ordinance

Dear Council,

Please pass this ordinance. There are far too many people about town to not require face coverings. I currently don't feel safe in my own town.

The science is there, this will save lives.

On a related note I have noticed a lot of used masks being littered, is there a way to address this within the ordinance? I saw some floating down the river the other day...

Thank you,

Ron Brandt

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Steven Briceland [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:06 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Regarding Masks in Whitefish.

I vote no.

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020, 12:04 AM Steven Briceland [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

My name is Steven Briceland, and I work in the service industry, and as a server wearing a mask is causing me quite a few health issues. When I run around and serve the tourists, I breathe heavily, and when you wear a mask, that CO2 emission in my eyes have cause some serious vision issues. My eyes are infected and bright red. Definitely something the guests notice.

I have also almost passed out at table with a mask on, because I can quite catch my breath. It sounds like I'm almost crying trying to answer questions about our menu.

Restrict travel not my lungs...I've counted 40 different states license plates over the 4th of July weekend, so we'll over 3/4 of the US has been through Whitefish.

Food for thought. Thanks for your time.

Steven Briceland

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sabine Brigette <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support mandatory masks in WF public spaces

Dear city council,

My family and I are lifelong residents, own our home in Whitefish, and support an emergency ordinance for mandatory masks in Whitefish public spaces until such a time as the curve flattens again. Our economy can remain more viable this way as it will help prevent a return to sheltering in place, empty streets, and closed businesses. This will help protect our community members' and workers' health and viability in coming months of the pandemic.

Please put in place fines as they have in Germany for non-compliance. It is an act of good will toward one's fellow man during a pandemic to wear a mask and not a revocation of rights or freedoms.

Thank you,
Sabine, Naya, and Edel Brigette
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Casey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:15 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: WF Masks

Sent from my iPhone

For the health, safety, and wellness of Whitefish, please make masks mandatory.
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Joel Christiansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks need to be required.

Please make masks mandatory.

Joel Christiansen
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Todd Clear [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:46 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Ms. Howke:

I strongly support a city ordinance requiring masks.

In places like Miami and Houston, where they now are trying to make public mask wearing required, nobody is saying, "Glad we waited a while to do this." My daughter lives in Japan, where there is little testing and little social distancing. However, mask wearing is ubiquitous. And their public and economic lives are nearly normal.

This is not about "freedom." This is about acting on what we know regarding this disease, and pitching in together so we can have a closer-to-normal life together.

The key to having a normal economy, and the key to safely returning to school, is widespread mask-wearing indoors in public places. I hope the city will tailor the ordinance to reflect the fact that when out-of-doors and not in a crowd, mask wearing is far less important. But people in Whitefish should wear masks whenever they are inside or in an outside crowded area.

Todd Clear
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bryna Closson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask mandate

Dear Whitefish City Council,

I am writing because I oppose a mandate that would require masks to be worn in Whitefish. Such a mandate oversteps the bounds of a city government and infringes on the personal freedoms that make this country great. It should not be up to the government to make mandates about its citizen's health, this should be each individual's responsibility, especially when there has not been enough research to prove any effectiveness of homemade masks against Covid-19. Additionally, the negative economic impact of a "mask mandate" on the businesses of downtown Whitefish must be considered. There are many residents who will do their shopping and dining elsewhere if a mask mandate is put into place. This has already been a very difficult year for most small businesses, and as the city council, you should be doing everything in your power to help these businesses succeed, not enacting a mandate which will most certainly take business away from them. These small businesses, run by hard-working Montanans, are what make Whitefish the quaint and charming paradise we all love. If these businesses can't make ends meet because their patrons take their business elsewhere, our town will not be what it is today.

In summary, homemade masks have not been proven effective against Covid, and mandating their wearing only creates a wave of fear, and takes business away from our local businesses. Each individual should have the freedom to make their own decisions regarding their health, and this freedom should not be taken away from the residents of Whitefish by its city council.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bryna [REDACTED]
813 Park Ave.
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brittney Crest [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:31 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Requiring masks

Hello,

I am a Whitefish resident and **support** the mandate for requiring masks for both locals and tourists, as well as employees.

I believe this comes down to simple human decency and common sense. We know COVID-19 is spread through close contact and will enter mainly through your nose and mouth and a mask is a quick way to stop extensive amounts of spreading. Tourism, while of course affected by this virus, should not be more adversely effected by the mandated wearing of a mask. The majority of these people have most likely come from a place where masks have been a way of life for them already. (Whitefish is the small town getaway for the large city people.)

With this mandate in place, we would also be able to re-evaluate in 30 days, with the ability to set any new or adapted guidelines before school is in session.

Thank you for your diligence in protecting our community.

Brittney Crest
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Dunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:43 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

Don't you think businesses have suffered enough? Why doesn't the city provide the masks they deem necessary to require?

--
†

David W Dunn
406 212 3479

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Larry Eggers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:38 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks

To Whom it may concern:

Please accept this email as my official vote against any decision for a mandatory mask ruling. I appreciate and agree with public safety and concern over the increased cases in the Valley and the country but there is still evidence that social distancing and good hygiene are the most effective tools against its spread. There are many scientific reports as to the health issues of oxygen depletion while wearing a mask! I spoke to a local retired nurse of 35 years and she was animate about the negative health risks of wearing masks for any extended period of time. I respectfully ask that greater emphasis be placed on social distancing and hand washing as the criteria to practice good health etiquette.

Thank you for your service to Whitefish and it's people.

Sincerely,

Larry Eggers

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: RANDY-LEE EMMERT RANDY-LEE EMMERT [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:38 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comment on masks

People have the right to choose on their own health...NO to masks!
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sarah Farley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No mask mandate please!!

We will take 100% of our shopping and spending to Kalispell and CF if masks are mandated.

Sarah Farley
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lauren Freeman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: We support a Mask mandate

We strongly encourage local officials to mandate masks in Flathead county ASAP. This is essential in order to to protect locals & significantly reduce risks to our economy and healthcare system.

Masks are a small price to pay in order to maintain relatively low transmission rates here and prevent outbreaks from summer visitors who are currently pouring in from all across the country.

PLEASE mandate masks & protect your citizens.

Lauren
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Giesy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Masks

The discussion of mandatory face masks has to stop. We are all responsible for ourselves, therefore we have the freedom to choose whether or not to mask up!!!! There have only been 75 people diagnosed in the Flathead valley with a population of 104,000. That is proof that the residents of the valley and Whitefish have been responsible to avoid spreading the virus! Do not treat us like children and require masks. Kalispell and Columbia Falls will all like us taking our business to their cities!!!! Vote NO to mandatory masks!!!!

Karen Giesy

[REDACTED]

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Roger Giesy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masking

The Mayor is pushing the panic button way to early and has added himself to the minority that is trying to cram masking down the throats of the majority of Whitefish citizens who think this effort is way out of line. Flathead Valley has a population of around 104,000, of this population there was a total of 75 cases of COVID-19. Out of the 75, 48 were listed as recoveries with 25 cases being considered as active, leaving 2 that has passed on. Now do the math. That is less than 1% of Flathead County residents affected by the COVID-19 virus. Let's all take a deep breathe and let the adult citizens of Whitefish make their own decision as to wear or not to wear a mask. We don't need the government to tell us how conduct ourselves now do we?

Roger Giesy

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Mt.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes to face coverings!!!

Covid is here and there is absolutly no reasion why this should not already be wearing masks. Everyone visiting is already used to wearing coverings.

--

Good Medicine Lodge

Bed & Breakfast

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Hament, Matthew [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support of requiring masks

Hello,

As someone part of the medical profession who works in Whitefish I strongly support the mandatory use of masks in public. Wearing a mask protects the vulnerable and unknowingly sick population of people in our community. What if tomorrow you or your mother, brother, or son/daughter was diagnosed with an illness? The fact is that this is a dangerous virus and more people will die if our community is not taking every precaution.

Sincerely,
Matthew Hament

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: helen harold [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hello. I work in a restaurant in Whitefish. Every day that I go to work, I am scared. We wear masks and hopefully we are protecting our customers, but there is nothing protecting us, you clearly can not eat with a mask on. What Whitefish can do is pass this emergency mask ordinance. By limiting the possible transmissions in general we will be more protected. I also believe it would deter visitors who refuse and those who just don't care. Please, mandate masks.

Helen Harold
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Tana Hartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No masks

I disagree with the requirement to wear masks in the city of whitefish as a local that lives here. I'm reaching out in the hopes that my vote counts for something! No to mask requirements.

Tana
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Richard Hildner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:03 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Ordinance

Mayor and Council,

I have read the complete text of the Emergency Ordinance in regards to face coverings as a means of protecting Whitefish residents and visitors from Covid-19. I support and applaud your prompt and courageous action and leadership. We must all work together to stop the Virus' spread. Please pass the Emergency Ordinance without further delay. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "My right to swing my fist ends where you're nose begins." Right now a person's reach is about six feet.

Sincerely,
Richard Hildner
[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: infmush [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please consider making wearing a mask mandatory in Whitefish. I am a property owner and feel very strongly that this should be mandatory for the health of our community.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bill k [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comment on Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 regarding an emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Dear Ms. Howke,

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to comment on the proposal for an emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I would like to thank the city council for proposing this ordinance and wholeheartedly **support** the adoption of it.

Of course, any rule, ordinance or law is only effective if there is commensurate enforcement.

In my opinion this is the key.

We need to support those charged with the responsibility for enforcing this ordinance, be they shop owners or managers, front door greeters, those working in hospitality-hotels, bars, restaurants (yes, I am aware there will be exceptions), and most importantly, public officials.

Law enforcement are understandably concerned about being accused of heavy handedness. They need to be given clear orders on when and how to engage those who are perceived to be violating the ordinance, and assuming they follow those orders, they need to be supported by the entire city council.

To conclude, I hope that you will proceed with adopting this ordinance and thank you for your continued vigilance.

Kind regards,
Bill Kantor
Whitefish resident

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michala Berube Kozicky [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:07 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Vote NO

Please vote NO on mask mandates.

Mandate proper health, nutrition, exercise if you hope to save lives.

Don't strip people of their right to bodily autonomy

From a friend , Just wanted to pass information that may be helpful. I have certifications in trauma scene/blood borne pathogen cleanup, microbial remediation, OSHA, and hazardous waste. My business handles cleaning and disinfection of medical facilities, post-mortem cleanup, emerging pathogens, etc. and have been doing this type of work for the last 15 years.

When it comes to masks, they are important. Each type of mask has a different purpose and should be understood.

- N95 masks: are designed for CONTAMINATED environments. That means when you exhale through N95 the design is that you are exhaling into contamination. The exhale from N95 masks are vented to breath straight out without filtration. They don't filter the air on the way out. They don't need to.

Conclusion: if you're in Target and the guy with Covid has a N95 mask, his covid breath is unfiltered being exhaled into Target (because it was designed for already contaminated environments, it's not filtering your air on the way out).

- Surgical Mask: these masks were designed and approved for STERILE environments. The amount of particles and contaminants in the outside and indoor environments where people are CLOGGING these masks very quickly. The moisture from your breath combined with the clogged mask will render it "useless" IF you come in contact with Covid and your mask traps it. Everytime you put your mask on you are breathing the germs from EVERYWHERE you went. They should be changed or thrown out every "20-30 minutes in a non sterile environment."

- Cloth Masks: These may be the equivalent of using a chain link fence to keep out mosquitoes. I'm joking a little. They have shown to filter a very minimal percentage and work similarly to a surgical mask where they carry the germs that come from each place you would wear it but are not fitted tight to the face and can allow particulate to flow in and out freely that are the micron size of viruses.

- Respirators: They act much like an N95 mask where they are designed for contaminated environments. They fit much better with a seal around the face and have a better filtration for breathing in but have no filtration when breathing out. Each type of mask can help but have limitations. When people have to wear masks for performing work that requires it, it is the law that they must be fit-tested. Not everyone can wear a mask because of breathing issues. It is not a good idea for people that can't wear masks to be out in public anyway because they are more susceptible. Masks are helpful to contain bodily fluids from talking, coughing, sneezing, laughing, etc. but need to be understood that they are not 100% and in many cases only contain a fraction.

OSHA: "Will not protect the wearer against airborne transmissible infectious agents due to loose fit and lack of seal or inadequate filtration."

In regards to cloth and surgical masks. However, there are other preventative measures that work much better in conjunction with or without masks.

Distancing! This is the best preventative measure. 6' is a good distance for people that do not show symptoms. It does not matter if you are wearing gloves. *I'll add my own note to the member's comments". Who gets closer to 6' from a stranger anyway!? But I do believe people NEED personal contact and that should never be done away with in the name of "health."

Gloves do not prevent spreading. It may protect the person wearing them, ONLY if they do not touch eyes/nose/mouth and know how to doff (take off) the gloves properly.

Hygiene! Wash your hands, like every time you cough, sneeze, eat, bathroom, handle something that belongs to someone else, etc. Hand sanitizer is not a substitute. The biofilm that is on your hands remains. Whether it be yourself or a surface that you are cleaning/disinfecting, one must clean off the biofilm prior to applying a sanitizer or disinfectant. Cleaning with a soap or detergent and rinsing properly is much more effective than applying a disinfectant or sanitizer by itself.

[<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fprevention.html%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0zOnZpNTGhX74wjjb8ovlwFAkt8m9IB1ew16Zei4Ti2qfZ1VBOBQnK1JQ&h=AT0dl8fCVXQ2JkyEli2TGZ5Gu6HQ1I8V0-IRb3caYVReoGMLy1_edNbmT-WPx0-L0ZZ_VaspNQZ-I6CMziTW-7VOLDyoac9ZRWMKiRhyGSc_YKfErt08xPTfcTNIep1DzAo)

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[<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/covid-19-faq.html>](<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/covid-19-faq.html?fbclid=IwAR0pdNYwv1crwbbI5NTa1kwV5Il6NaJX8nQqoKqVy7bWyoXKUuUWRpYXdq0>) “

Michala Berube Kozicky
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Verity Kreamer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: emergency ordinance

I'm a resident in Whitefish, MT. I strongly disagree that mask should be mandated. I responsibly wear mine at work and into businesses that recommend it. however, I strongly believe that it is our right to have the choice. I respect whatever people choose to do. I stand by the people who choose not to, as I do not feel it is healthy to be breathing in CO2. I personally have almost passed out while wearing a mask. Thank you

Best,
Verity
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Mask Mandate



Betty Kuffel <[REDACTED]>
To:  Michelle Howke

 Reply 

to: Whitefish City Council

Please vote in favor of this very important health mandate to wear masks in the City of Whitefish.
Thank you for your actions.
Betty Kuffel

Betty Kuffel, MD FACP
Whitefish, MT
<https://www.bettykuffel.com>

[Amazon Author](#)



EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: matm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:56 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Use of face coverings

I support the proposed Whitefish city council emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in all public places to prevent the spread of covid 19. I also support the other public health measures including social/physical distancing, handwashing, and limited gathering sizes.

Marianne Madler
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Denise Manning [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

Dear City Council,

I urge you to enact a mandate for masks to protect our community and visitors. Keeping the spread of Covid-19 suppressed is important for the health of citizens and our economy.

Today I did some shopping downtown and was surprised at how many people were still without masks. This includes the Whitefish Post Office which has a huge volume of people in and out. Businesses that don't comply, could be warned and if they don't come into compliance, their licenses could be revoked.

I'm sure this controversial topic is getting a lot of input from both sides.
I hope Whitefish will be a leader for our state and mandate masks.

Respectfully,
Denise Manning

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Joel Larsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:35 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency mask ordinance

Hello Michelle

I am writing regarding the emergency meeting for the mandatory mask ordinance. I am in agreement for mandatory masks. I have been working in restaurants for 20+ years in Whitefish and love my job and this community. The restaurant and hotel workers are at great risk during this pandemic in a resort community and I feel we should do all we can to protect them. The hospitality industry workers are the gateway into infecting the rest of the community. Please protect Whitefish with mandatory masks. I have read the proposed ordinance and agree with everything but the fines are a bit high. I suggest \$100.00 for the first offense and raise \$100.00 for each multiple infraction.

Thank you
Joel Maxwell
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wilson maxwell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency Meeting

Hello Michelle,

Regarding the emergency city council meeting addressing mandatory facial masks in public, I completely agree with the city council on all points with one exception. I feel that the fines for being out of compliance are too severe. A \$ 300/first offense & \$ 500/second offense fine are completely out of line, given the service industry employment of the majority of Whitefish residents that this ordinance would affect.

Personally, I've been a professional chef here in Whitefish since 1995 and it's always been a struggle to make a living wage here. Those kind of fines would be crippling to service industry employees. I would suggest a more moderate approach with a \$ 100/first offense and \$ 250/second offense fine for being out of compliance. We are the front line employees during this crisis and I don't feel that it is fair to place the burden on us, as we are going to be the ones that face this first in the community, to pay for it financially. We are already struggling enough as it is without having to worry about further economic penalties from the City.

Thank you,

Wilson Maxwell

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED] 0

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Justin McKerrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:17 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask issue - don't mandate

I don't support a mandate to wear masks in public.

Justin McKerrow
Kalispell, MT

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michael Morton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:10 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I strongly support the mandatory requirement of face masks in public in Whitefish.

Michael Morton
Whitefish Resident
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Leif Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support the Mask Ordinance

Hi Michelle,

I would like to express my support of the mask ordinance in Whitefish. I feel all people should be wearing masks at this time. It is the easiest, least invasive thing we can do as a community to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you,
Leif Nelson

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rick Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:07 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In support of mask ordinance

Dear Mayor Muhlfeld and Council,

I support the ordinance requiring face masks. Thank you,

Rick Nelson, Retired
Nelson's Ace Hardware
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kayla Annie Ost [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

Please do not pass the mask ordinance.

If this passes, I will unfortunately be doing all of my shopping and only supporting restaurants located in Kalispell.

Kayla

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: d pier [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:24 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Covid 19 masks

I would like to go on record as opposing the Legal Requirement to wear masks in public. As a Columbia Falls resident I am in Whitefish almost daily to exercise at the Wave. I have no issues with the local business owners requiring a mask to access their properties, but am not in favor of Government intervention requiring it.

D.E. Pier
Columbia Falls

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Katrina Cherry Platt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:17 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandated Masks

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I want to thank you for all you are working through and balancing during these unprecedented times. We have no handbook for things like this and I am grateful that you have an open mind to the concerns of your citizens.

I write you tonight deeply concerned about the possibility of mandating face masks in Whitefish. I understand the concerns you must be weighing as well as the pressure you experience to keep this community safe. Without the evidence to prove efficacy of face masks, it is troubling to think you could ask us to give up our bodily sovereignty.

In May 2020, the CDC did a worldwide study review and found that face masks produced “no reduction of viral transmission.” In another recent study from 2020, which itself was a review of other randomized controlled trials, the researchers found masks simply do not work. There have been extensive randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies, and meta-analysis review of RCT studies, which all show that masks and respirators do not work to prevent respiratory influenza-like illnesses, or respiratory illnesses believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosol particles. Similarly, another 2020 study showed: Surgical masks are unlikely to effectively filter this [COVID] virus. Yet worse, cloth masks can actually INCREASE infection and transmission: a British Medical Journal study from 2015 found healthcare workers caught viruses from their patients 13 times more often if they wore a cloth mask than when they wore a medical mask. And a Chinese study found similarly that a medical mask was no more protective against viruses than wearing no mask at all.

However, masks are harmful to the wearer. COVID-19 kills by causing severe hypoxia (low levels of oxygen in the blood). Ironically, mask wearing also causes low levels of oxygen and hypoxia – because people wearing masks re-breathe some of their exhaled air, lowering the amount of oxygen they are breathing, and putting them at greater risk for the disease should they contract it. As you think through the pros and cons of mask wearing, I encourage you to think about the 3+ year olds that will be asked to wear masks. Lack of oxygen to a developing brain can cause severe brain injury and developmental delays.

As a local business owner, I would like the right to choose whether or not people can enter my establishment with or without a mask. As a mental health counselor, I would like the right to recognize facial expression in clients as well as convey emotion through the use of my own face (a critical tool in my profession). As a citizen of Whitefish, I am more than willing to abide by the personal mask requests of local business and have been doing so at the places I frequent by choice. I urge you to not allow fear to overrule truth. Let us move through this pandemic with respect for personal choice and freedom.

With respect,

Katrina Platt
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: lonniep [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Are we at a point where we in Whitefish need to demand that all wear masks in public institutions. Seems we are.

Look at the license plates of visitors to our area. The number of infections are rising.

Please give serious consideration to a mandate to help detour this ongoing increase of infections.

Lonnie Porro....long time resident of Whitefish.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Rae [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:00 AM
To: Michelle Howke

Please make mask wearing a requirement for all people in public spaces.

Thank you.

Karen Rae
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jeff Rimmel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:44 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Carolyn Rimmel; Ian Rimmel; Vincent Rimmel
Subject: emergency-mask-ordinance

Attention: Michelle Howke,
City Clerk of Whitefish

From: Rimmel family, 104 Abbey Road, Whitefish

Our family of four feel very strongly and are in support for Whitefish to put in place an ordinance for mandatory wearing of mask while in public places during these trouble time with Coved 19!

Jeff Rimmel
Carolyn Rimmel
Ian Rimmel
Vincent Rimmel

Thank you, for this important action for our community to take at this time, until there is a vaccination or proper treatments.

Jeff Rimmel
Whitefish, Montana 59937

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Helene Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:38 AM
To: John Muhlfeld; Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask or no mask/ Part 2

Hello again,

I understand that there's an emergency meeting about masks.

Please be aware that:

1- Our governor has not mandated wearing of masks full-time

2- One week ago you said it would be revisited in 60 days. Making a change now will kill the credibility of the city council? You will lose trust within your community and Whitefish will be known as a place that can't be trusted.

3 - I ask that you compare real numbers and NOT percentages when you look at MT versus other places. Gov. Cuomo in NYS seems to relish in the case increases in FL, TX and CA yet his state has had **TEN TIMES more DEATHS** than those states! **Increase in cases does not compare to thousands dying.** It's a diversion. Please don't get caught up in cases. MT still has had very few deaths.

4 - Outdoors is the safest place to be. We need the fresh air for our health. Only 6 ft apart is necessary.

5 - I understand that Rebecca was checking businesses for mask wearing. Besides being totally out of line, the question should be, "Are people keeping their distance?" Masks are only needed for close contact conversations of more than 10 min. Shopping in stores does not create those conversations which is why family spread seems to be greater than from tourists locally.

6 - Keep in mind that since the lockdown, Walmart, Walgreens, Safeway, Super1, Lowe's, UPS, the Post Office, etc. did not require masks. People kept their distance and we had few cases.

7- Please treat us like adults. We are not children. **No one wants to get sick. We KNOW what to do!!**

8- My safety info comes from a friend who's husband is advising big companies from meat processing companies to TV shows in Hollywood on COVID safety for employees. When indoors and close contact, speaking for 10 min or longer, masks should be worn. Casually walking past someone in a store is not a danger. There must be talking, singing, shouting in close contact, even outdoors, for **at least 10 min or more** for a chance spread.

9. Lastly, this is a must read as masks lower the intake of oxygen which weakens immunity making you susceptible to diseases.

Assumption 10: Mask Wearing for Healthy People is Backed by Solid Scientific Evidence
The penultimate assumption for today is the wonderful topic of masks, or face diapers and face nappies as many have started calling them. One of the COVID assumptions that many are still clinging to is that it is 'respectful' to wear masks because masks protect healthy individuals from getting sick from viruses. This is patently false. As covered in the previous article [*Unmasking the Truth: Studies Show Dehumanizing Masks Weaken You and Don't Protect You*](#), masks are designed for surgeons or people who are

already sick, not for healthy people. They stop sick people spreading a disease through large respiratory droplets; they do nothing to protect well people. In fact, they restrict oxygen flow leading to under-oxygenation (hypoxia), which in turns leads to fatigue, weakness and a lower immunity.

With a lower immunity comes ... more susceptibility to disease. As I previously wrote, the masks many people are wearing – homemade from cloth – are a joke if you think they will stop a virus which is measured in nanometers (nanometer = 10⁻⁹ meters, or 0.000000001 meters). They won't stop a virus but they will assuredly become a hotbed for microbes to develop due to the warm and humid conditions.

For the scientifically minded, here's what Dr. Russell Blaylock had to say: *“The importance of these findings is that a drop in oxygen levels (hypoxia) is associated with an impairment in immunity. Studies have shown that hypoxia can inhibit the type of main immune cells used to fight viral infections called the CD4+ T-lymphocyte. This occurs because the hypoxia increases the level of a compound called hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1), which inhibits T-lymphocytes and stimulates a powerful immune inhibitor cell called the Tregs. This sets the stage for contracting any infection, including COVID-19 and making the consequences of that infection much graver. In essence, your mask may very well put you at an increased risk of infections and if so, having a much worse outcome.”**

*From: "11 COVID Assumptions Based on Fear not Fact" by Makia Freeman, July 7, 2020
<https://thefreedomarticles.com/unmasking-the-truth-masks-weaken-dont-protect-you/>

I implore the Council to be sensible and let people control their own lives. Wait the 60 days as put in your resolution just ONE WEEK ago! So far there have not been any serious illness or deaths. There has never been a mask mandate during a bad flu season. People know how to take care of themselves, especially if they are vulnerable.

Respectively,

Helene T. Robinson

[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jessica Rosier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:14 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Writing tonight in SUPPORT OF A MANDATORY MASK ORDINANCE. Our small town is currently FLOODED with out-of-state tourists, many of whom erroneously believe that Montana is "safe" from covid, that we don't "have covid in Montana". (I've heard people actually say this). Most tourists are not taking this seriously and are thereby putting our local community and economy at great risk. What happens to local businesses if we have to revert to full lock down?? The time to act is NOW. How hard is it to wear a mask? Protect one's self and each other! MANDATE MASKS IN PUBLIC! People's lives are at stake! #notrocketscience #standupforthefish #flattenthecurve#getoverit
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Matthew Rottenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Letter regarding face mask mandate

Dear City of Whitefish Officials:

I am writing in total support of a much-needed city mandate for face masks. While the July 6th resolution was a positive step, it is not posted or publicized widely enough to have informed tourists nor have some businesses seemed to increase employee protections.

Business owners who do not prioritize community or staff safety will no longer be able to jeopardize everyone's health by allowing patrons and staff to interact without masks. I applaud the idea that this new ordinance will allow officials to enforce and penalize those who do not prioritize the health of others; we will ALL be working to stop the spread of this virus.

Whitefish is a small community and while the tourism industry usually provides a stream of income, unfortunately during this pandemic we must put the health and safety of residents above seasonal income and personal freedom. In fact, wearing masks could allow seasonal tourism to continue but in a safer manner. If we wish to avoid business closures and stay-home orders, small steps such as masks and social distancing are key.

Thank you for holding this emergency meeting and thank you in advance for protecting those of us who are doing all we can on our own, but sadly realizing some in our community must be forced into caring for others and realizing the gravity of this situation.

In good health,
Matt Rottenberg
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Cindy Ruth [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:09 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory mask ordinance

Hello Michelle,

I would like to submit this comment in favor of the mandatory mask ordinance:

My husband and I are Realtors and we are very much in favor of requiring masks. During the past months, we and many of our fellow Realtors have interacted with buyers from all over the United States. Rarely do any of these buyers wear masks OR social distance without being reminded when viewing property or meeting with us in our offices. Most seem totally unconcerned about the pandemic. We wear our masks and social distance, but we are definitely in the minority. Many of these buyers are coming from Covid19 "hot spots" in densely populated areas of the country and have not made any efforts to keep themselves or anyone else safe during their travels or in the course of their daily lives.

PLEASE enact the mandatory mask ordinance and set an example for the rest of Montana and the United States. We HAVE to get a handle on this pandemic. Instead of a physical wall, Trump and the members of the GOP who refuse to stand up to him have caused a virtual wall to built around the United States: we have been banned from the EU countries and Canada because the virus is completely out of control in this country. Northwest Montana's economy benefits significantly when our Canadian neighbors come here to play; it sickens me to think of all the small businesses we are losing because of the economic losses we are seeing as a result of the closed borders. Those borders aren't likely to open any time soon unless we DO something to control the raging pandemic here in the U.S.

Please vote to take this one small step of requiring masks, and enact penalties that can be enforced. Let's set an example for our fellow citizens and show the rest of the world that Whitefish, Montana cares about its fellow humans. Thank you!

Cindy Ruth

PureWest Real Estate

Licensed in MT

<https://johnandcindy.purewestrealestate.com/>



PureWest

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Michelle Howke

From: Jennifer Sato [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:26 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

I support Mandatory mask wearing. It's an easy simple thing to do. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Roger Sherman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

Council

As I visit super markets post office and stores downtown my rough survey is about 50 % of shoppers use a mask. This is not acceptable and businesses will not suffer if there is a mandate. Let's be responsible and shut the virus down. We all see it growing each day.

Roger Sherman

Whitefish
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Martha Stadler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:45 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Hair Salons

Good morning,

I am sending this email to express my concerns about excluding haircuts from the proposed masking mandate. I have been to a local hair salon twice since the restrictions were lifted, and I saw virtually no masking by the employees. I wore a mask and the stylist asked me if I would like her to wear one and I said yes.

Both appointments involved both of us masked and there was absolutely no problem obtaining a good result.

I would politely ask for a reason for the exclusion.

Thank you,
Martha Stadler
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sarah Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:46 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hi Michelle,

Please put me down as someone in favor of passing the proposed mask ordinance. I live outside the city limits but work in town.

What happened at the Great Northern should be a wake up call for all of us, the virus is here and it does shut down businesses. I found it curious that some commenters at last week's council meeting stated that they wouldn't go into a store that required masks. I'm just the opposite. I stopped going into stores that don't protect their employees with plexiglass and don't accommodate for social distancing (I'm looking at you Markus Foods). I appreciate stores where masks are worn and that have taken other social distancing precautions as it indicates that they care about their employees and customers.

Sincerely,
Sarah Stewart
Whitefish, MT
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Thorley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:51 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory

I am in favor of mandatory masks in Whitefish for our health..WF home owner, Karen Thorley

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Joan Vetter Ehrenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support Mandatory Masks

Greetings Honorable Mayor Muhlfeld and City Councilors,

While some may think you have a difficult decision to make, I believe that the data is clear. We are a gateway to Glacier Natl Park with 3 million~ visitors from all over the world. This influx of varied exposure puts us at a higher risk.

Please, if you mandate mask wearing, people will do it and we will all be a bit safer. This is a deadly virus that none of us want to get or be responsible for spreading.

I just came back from Oregon, everyone wears a mask as the Governor mandates it. There is no griping, people go back to their car to get it if they forget it. Locally at Costco, they mandate masks, people still shop there, they abide by the directive.

For the sake of our community and those on the front lines, please mandate mask wearing in Whitefish and urge Governor Bullock to do the same.

The data and the science prove that mask wearing saves lives. The only way people will do it is if you mandate it.

Thank you for re-visiting this ruling and I appreciate your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Joan Vetter Ehrenberg
[REDACTED], Whitefish, MT 59937

--
JoanE
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Shalae Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

I'm writing this email in support of mandatory masks. I work in the service industry & I'm concerned with the large number of tourists coming here. My coworker recently tested positive for Covid & I'm worried about the health of my husband & myself.

I've turned family & friends away from staying with me in Whitefish to try to protect our community. Wearing a mask in public seems the least we can do.

There was no change in mask wearing after the mandate encouraging people to mask up, please make it mandatory.

Thank you,

Shalae

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:06 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

Today we drove through downtown and were disappointed to see a lot of tourists walking around without masks. Perhaps only about 25% were wearing masks.

We wrote to you last week about our support of the proposed mask requirements. We would like to let you know that we strongly support the proposal to make the wearing of a mask required by law.

We would really like to again be able to feel safe patronizing the Whitefish businesses.

Tom and Noel Watkins

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Bruce Aronson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comments - proposed emergency ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces

To wear a face covering, at times as described in the draft ordinance, is a simple requirement we can all easily follow. It would slow the spread of Covid-19, thus reducing the public health harm and the destruction of local businesses and related jobs. Vote yes.

Bruce Aronson

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rebecca Bauder [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:14 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mandatory masks

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE...make masks in public places mandatory! According to the science, it is SOMETHING we can all do to slow the spread of the virus. Thank you. Rebecca Bauder EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rebecca Bauder [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:26 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mandatory masks

PLEASE institute the emergency mask order! The science clearly indicates it is SOMETHING we can do to mitigate the spread of the virus. We are all in this together. Thank you for your leadership. Rebecca Bauder, [REDACTED], Bigfork MT 59911.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michael Bone [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:08 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Mask Proposal

This mail is in response to the proposed Mandatory Mask Proclamation.

I am the local distributor for a national coffee brand. I deliver to two supermarkets in Whitefish.

I am contemplating my response if this proposal is adopted.

If the proposal is passed, and I'm assuming it will, I will simply refuse to enter Whitefish and the supermarkets will be denied another product to keep their business going. The local customers of my product will be forced to drive out of Whitefish to procure my brand, and they will, and Whitefish will lose the accompanying sales. Governments generally don't care about these factors as much as political correctness, but I hope to marginally sway their decision.

The mask ordinance is unnecessary and as much evidence shows, more damaging to the healthy wearers than the chances of their contracting any disease.

Those that are compromised need to shield and protect themselves as necessary, just as always.

Michael R Bone
[REDACTED]

Columbia Falls, MT 59912
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Karen Darrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:43 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish Mask Ordinance

I am in favor of Whitefish passing a mandatory mask ordinance. I feel this will help curb the coronavirus, helping the safety of our residents and tourists. If we can limit the number of cases locally by taking such a measure, it seems a small inconvenience to pay compared to more extreme measures that should be taken if we continue to see cases rise, locally, regionally, and nationwide.

Karen Darrow
Whitefish, MT
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jim Farley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO SCIENCE TO BACK MASK MANDATE- STOP GOVERNMENT OVER REACH!!!

M Howke,
My wife Sarah and I are 100 percent AGAINST a MANDATORY mask ordinance.

We are all adults and have the RIGHT to make our own decisions. Do NOT succumb to MOB RULE. I heard about the possibility of this ordinance last week, so I started counting people that wear a mask versus those that do not. Only about 25% of people in Whitefish have chosen to wear a mask. Their choice should NOT be forced on the rest of us. This is NOT COMMUNIST CHINA!!

Reasons;

- Mask wearers that also practice social distancing are NOT going to gain any extra protection by mandating others wear a mask.
- People that are THAT COVID PHOBIC should self-quarantine.
- Large cities like New York or Houston etc., where 5 to 8 million people are stacked on top of each other and crammed into mass transit cannot properly social distance, therefore mask mandates are reasonable. Whitefish has ample space for the small population.
- Whitefish businesses have already been illogically subjected to the lockdown a few months ago. Many are teetering on insolvency. A mandated mask rule will unnecessarily disrupt their business again. People like me, who REFUSE to wear a mask will go to Columbia Falls or Kalispell and shop instead.
- Whitefish will lose the resort tax revenue associated with the lost sales.

The CDC said that as little as 24 minutes per day of sunlight will start killing the virus. Whitefish residents are healthy outdoor people. This is totally opposite of those that are forced to live in large cities. Outdoor activities like bike riding, hiking, running/walking, paddle boarding, kayaking etc. will be SERIOUSLY HINDERED by forcing participants to breathe through a mask while exerting the energy these activities demand.

In closing, just because you have received MORE emails about WANTING a mask mandate than not wanting one, DOES NOT mean that is the will of Whitefish citizens. Consider who has time to write emails. It's those that aren't as healthy or active, so aren't outside enjoying the summer activities. If THE MAJORITY of Whitefish residents WANTED a mask mandate then a MAJORITY of Whitefish residents would already be wearing one!! If a majority of residents were ALREADY wearing a mask then a mandate would be unnecessary.

This should tell you all you need to know about the will of the people. No one is stopping people from wearing a mask if they want to and as a non mask wearer I guarantee you I respect mask wearer's social distance.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration,

Jim Farley

[REDACTED] Whitefish Mt
[REDACTED]

Thank you,

Jim Farley

Principal-C.F.O.

Secure Collateral Management, LLC

Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: www.secure-cm.com

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rita Fitzsimmons <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory face mask-wearing

I support a decision by the Whitefish City Council in favor of making wearing face masks in all public areas mandatory.

Thank you,
Rita Fitzsimmons

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Barb G <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:00 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: MANDATORY MASKS

Please make masks mandatory!! "Strongly encouraging" DID NOT work. I don't live in Whitefish but work in town. By mandating masks you can help make our community safer from this virus!! Thank you Barbara Gallagher
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Melody Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:11 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comment on mask vote

Good Morning,

I am asking you to vote a resounding no on the mask legislation. Whitefish's businesses are already suffering at the loss of income with the border being closed. If this mask legislation is passed they will lose additional income as I will not be shopping in Whitefish until it is over.

Our bodies have immunities and we are meant to use our immunity and grow stronger as new things come out. This is a virus that 99%+ of people survive, do not fall for the media hype.

This is Montana "Do not vote for the Mask legislation"

Melody Green

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Patti Harmon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:00 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks in Whitefish

Thank you for hearing the community concerns regarding covid-19.

I am a year round resident and native of Whitefish. I am also a member of the at-risk population due to my age.

I was exposed to Covid 19 and did have a nasal swab test on July 2nd thru the Flathead County Health Dept. Those results still have not come back.

I contacted the county health department who say they are required to send their tests to the state lab and the results have still not come back. Clearly we do not know how many cases are in Whitefish let alone Flathead Valley as the state lab results are taking more than 12 days.

With that amount of lag time in results community spread is highly likely to occur.

I called Governor Bullock's office regarding the state lab issue. The person answering his phone stated the governor was "aware" of this issue and was "working" on it.

Masks are a known deterrent for the spread of Covid. My request of the city council is a definite mandatory mask rule in Whitefish and surrounding areas at all times. Plus strict adherence to the distancing requirement.

Thank-you.

Patti Harmon

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Veronica Hutcheson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: SHIELDS INSTEAD OF MASKS!!!!!!!!!!

I am for the rights of citizens to choose....! Here is an opinion from the top pandemic expert at John Hopkins Center for Health Security! ALSO.....WEARING A MASKS DOES NOTHING IF IT IS NOT WORN PROPERLY.! Are you really going to enforce that the public and places of business "wear a mask" if it is not done properly!!!???? All that you will accomplish is chaos. IF YOU TRULY want to prevent a spread...THEN PLEASE READ THE SCIENCE BELOW! It is much more effective AND even COSTCO except Face Shields as an option over masks if desired by a customer. BE WISE WHILE TRYING TO BE EFFECTIVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Amesh Adalja, M.D., a pandemic preparedness expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, says, "There's a lot of at least biological possibility to suspect that [shields] are definitely better than homemade face masks, and maybe even better than other types of masks as well, because they not only prevent you from spreading it ... [and] because it also covers your eyes, it provides more protection to the mucus membranes of your face where you might be getting infected."

James Cherry, M.D., a distinguished research professor and infectious disease expert at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, says that while experts aren't yet sure about how vulnerable our [eyes are to infection from this coronavirus](#), "With many viruses, the eyes are important." He points to measles and adenoviruses as examples of viruses that are known to infect people through their eyes.

DIY face shield tips

There are many online videos showing how to make your own shield in a few minutes, with different variations: a Canadian DIYer uses plastic binding covers you find at office supply stores; others use plastic bottles. (Note that these are not medical-grade or approved by any official health agency.)

This is one how to make a shield from an empty soda bottle.

You'll need:

- A 2-liter clear plastic bottle
- Cutting tool or scissors
- Small piece of weather stripping (others use packaging foam)
- Hole puncher
- String or ribbon

Directions:

1. Cut off the end of the bottle a few inches from the bottom
2. Cut off the top of the bottle, keeping a bit of the curvature, which will go under the chin
3. Cut up the middle, so it becomes a somewhat flat piece of plastic
4. Trim off sharp edges, and narrow a bit if necessary to fit the width of your face
5. Peel off the backing of a piece of weather stripping and stick it to the top edge, which will go against your forehead

6. Punch a hole at the top on either side, and thread a string or ribbon through
7. Tie it around your head

Another benefit, says Adalja: With a mask, you may find yourself constantly adjusting it and therefore touching your face and possibly transferring the virus from your hands, but wearing a shield “doesn't really put you in a position where you're touching your face so much, because it's not as cumbersome to wear.”

And finally, Adalja adds, “If you walk down the sidewalk, you can find lots of masks that are just discarded there, which are an infection control risk for other people. Whereas a face shield is something that people can just clean themselves and reuse.”

A [recent opinion piece in JAMA](#) by Eli Perencevich, M.D., a professor of internal medicine and epidemiology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, and two of his colleagues pointed to such benefits of shields for infection prevention, and noted that “face shields appear to significantly reduce the amount of inhalation exposure to influenza virus, another droplet-spread respiratory virus. In a simulation study, face shields were shown to reduce immediate viral exposure by 96 percent when worn by a simulated health care worker within 18 inches of a cough.” In an April 19 tweet Perencevich wrote, “Biggest benefit of face shields would be inside crowded office situations where air exchanges aren't ideal.”

Another benefit? With warmer weather, many may also find a face shield attached to a headband or cap cooler to wear than a cloth mask.

Some members of the public are taking such arguments to heart — choosing shields especially for their ability to keep the entire face visible.

Lauren Lek, head of school at Academy of Our Lady of Peace, in San Diego, plans to have her 750 returning faculty and students wear face shields at school rather than masks this August. “Safety and health for our community is a priority for us in reopening,” she says. “As soon as we saw from the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and our local public health office that face shields would be an acceptable alternative to face masks, we knew this was a direction we wanted to move in.”

Noting that face-to-face interaction is key to the education her school provides, Lek adds that face shields are better than masks for students with learning differences, including autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), because they allow for full visibility of facial expressions that can help them read and understand social cues.

The school has purchased more than 10 different types of face shields to test before classes restart, Lek says, with each posing challenges in terms of clarity, fogging, ease of cleaning and reuse. They also shouldn't cause headaches when worn 10 hours a day. “With each product we try, we are getting closer to the best option for the start of school in August.”

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Christian johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:17 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please require the use of Face Masks!

If a single person doesn't wear a mask, it still puts people wearing a mask at risk.

At a minimum, Please require mask for all indoor spaces.

Thanks,
Christian & Joanna Johnson
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Belinda Kreitman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mask

As a business owner in Whitefish I must weigh both sides of the mask issue. My business was closed for 2 months @ a loss of \$40,000.00 we are a small mom & pop business and we are still feeling the impact of the closure. My business relies on day to day traffic and of course tourism - our slow time is the summer months so between being closed during our most profitable time and now a possible mandate for masks we may go out of business. I take no pleasure in anyone becoming sick but people should stay home if they feel unsafe and let us save what little economic stability we have left. If you bankrupt Whitefish businesses over a MASK MANDATE I do hope the city is ready for incoming lawsuits - civil liberties will have been violated and many of us are willing to move forward with lawsuits. We all know 15000 more testing per week will lead to more A symptomatic cases but as we have seen most recover. Montana is a state with over 1 million with 29 deaths most elderly with underlying conditions - we can't shut down our economy in Montana with the fear mongering and liberal agendas.

B.Krietman

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: christina larsen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: support for mask ordinance

Dear City Council,

I urge you to pass an ordinance requiring mask wearing in indoor public places and in outdoor places where distancing is impossible.

In addition, I urge you to restrict travel from out of state or to make travel here less appealing by restricting dining and shopping in town. The New York Times published an opinion piece yesterday entitled "America Drank Away Its Children's Future" and that is exactly what we have done in Whitefish: poured out our children's school year in the hopes of gaining tourist dollars this summer. The thought that schools will likely remain closed in the fall because we have allowed the virus to surge again is incredibly discouraging.

Working parents will face tremendous difficulty if we are forced to resume remote learning in the fall. It makes me so angry because it was avoidable. We had the virus under control here in Montana, but now we have lost all of our gains and everyone will suffer. This represents an unspeakable failure in leadership starting at the federal level and it is up to local governments to address the problem. I support you in taking even more restrictive measures than you currently propose, but the mask ordinance is a good start.

Sincerely,
Christina Larsen

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Courtney Lyle [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:40 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask mandate

I am writing this letter in support of the mask mandate for Whitefish, MT. I am a local physician and am incredibly concerned about the health and safety of our community. We can look to our fellow communities across the country to see what happens when proper mitigation steps are not taken. With the rising case numbers across Montana, including Flathead Valley, it is critical to take steps to prevent an overwhelming burden of COVID-19.

I appreciate all your time and effort in trying to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Courtney Lyle, MD, MAS

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:04 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Mask

How much of this Covid-19 is political? The numbers have been all over the map. Montana had no cases until Trump started talking money. First we where not to wear mask now we should wear mask. The media used a picture from the hospital of another country to represent the epic center in NY. Only one funeral home is shown to be over ran by deceased in NY. Sick people are placed with healthy people. Test are/where contaminated. The 4th of July celabration was cancelled but the Fair goes on. The list goes on. If this is/was a true pandemic how can we take our leaders seriously with all the wishie washie information the public has received. Mandating mask is not going to make people take a pandemic seriously. It will only make people angry. Honesty and consistent information is how you get people to listen. I do not want to be made to wear a mask outside where I get fresh air. My lungs are meant to breath fresh air. If stores want to mandate mask then those who don't want to wear mask can avoid those stores.

On July 6, 2020 the city council had Rebecca Norton address the public in regards to face mask. She is a certified hand therapist/occupational therapist. Not a Medical Doctor.

Thanks
Mary
Whitefish, MT 59937

Things are only as good as the person performing them.

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android device
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Clare Menzel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Mask Emergency Ordinance in Whitefish

Hello,

My name is Clare Menzel and I am a Whitefish resident living at 138 Karrow Ave. I emphatically support an emergency mask ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public settings, and especially public indoor places. We cannot jeopardize the health and wellness of our community amid a statewide surge this summer, and for those who are able to wear a mask, it is an easy and effective public safety measure. This is simply the world we live in now.

Thank you very much for your strong action on community safety and Covid-19 thus far!

Best,

Clare Menzel

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Susie Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO to mask mandate

I am 100% opposed to mandating masks be worn in Whitefish....or anywhere for that matter. This should be a choice for all people. Masks have not proven to be effective.

They have proven to be harmful if worn for any length of time because of reduced Oxygen and increase in breathing CO2. The idea of forcing this on citizens is wrong!!

NO to any mask mandate.

Susie Moore

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Montana 59937. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jim Morrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:36 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Meeting

Go ahead and make it mandatory to wear facemasks in public venues and enforce it.

Jim and Karen Morrell

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Scott & Beth Patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:33 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fwd: Mandatory Masks Please

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott & Beth Patterson [REDACTED]
Date: July 14, 2020 at 7:30:39 AM MDT
To: mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
Subject: **Mandatory Masks Please**

Our adult household of 3 absolutely supports mandatory mask wearing in Whitefish.

The large tourist population and deniers will never do it on their own.

Please make it mandatory. We are all over 60.

Thanks,
Beth Patterson
Scott Patterson
Pauline Murray

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Andy Shors [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Heidi Shors
Cc: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mask mandate

I am also supportive of a mandate for mask use. We can learn from countries that have been successful in controlling this pandemic. We must protect the health of our community, as well as the health of our local businesses. This is the best way to avoid another shutdown.

Dr. Andrew Shors

On Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 8:28 PM Heidi Shors [REDACTED] wrote:

I second Dr Michelle Spring. Unless we want to be shut down and have further terrible increases in cases and deaths, we must respond to this continued increase in Covid. Please mandate masks. There is no other acceptable choice at this point. Thank you. Dr. Heidi Shors

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: george shryock [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:59 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: mask resolution

We support required mask wearing in public when social distancing cannot be maintained.

George and Jane Shryock
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

On Monday, July 6, 2020, 08:52:00 AM MDT, george shryock [REDACTED] > wrote:

As long time citizens of Whitefish, we support wearing masks when social distance cannot be maintained in our town. Visitors coming from all over increase the possibility of bringing covid-19 to our community, and it is important to keep all of us safe. Masks have been shown to reduce the rate of transmission. All customers and staff in enclosed spaces should be required to wear masks, with reasonable exceptions such as eating at a restaurant table.

George and Jane Shryock
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dondwani Baines [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

To whom it may concern,

I, a resident of Whitefish, absolutely DO NOT support mandating masks. Those who wish to wear them should do so freely, and those who wish to go without should also do so freely.

I would like to request a list of those voting members today who are elected by the people, so that I may hold them accountable with my vote next term.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Cassie Baines <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

To whom it may concern,

I, a resident of Whitefish, absolutely DO NOT support mandating masks. Those who wish to wear them should do so freely, and those who wish to go without should also do so freely. A mask mandate is a gross government overreach.

I would like to request a list of those voting members today who are elected by the people, so that I may hold them accountable with my vote next term.

Respectfully,

Cassie Baines
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: c bec [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: the mask

I wish you people would see that it is on a rise because there is more testing going on. People just go to be tested to see if they have it weather they are sick or not and now that we have more test to do the testing it shows that it is out there but the people are not sick it is like a common upper respiratory cold. Why if you wear a mask all the time and then you go get tested and it shows you have it but you are not sick how did you get it if you wore a mask all the time. Emm that is a question. I have been reading up on this and I do wish you would go to OSHA and see what they say about the mask. Everyone thinks hey it is protecting me really it only gives them the feeling that they can walk right next to you because they have a mask on. Cloth masks have to be washed everyday cause once you wear it will turn your spit from when you talk to people into mold and then you are breathing that into your lungs. Sorry but nope not going to wear mask to make my lungs not work right. The mask that the doctors use is only good for a certain amount of time plus you do know it cuts your breathing that your brain needs and body needs to work right. I know this email won't even matter I do wish you would just go to OSHA and see what they say Plus seeing how the CDC changes their minds on things I have more faith in OSHA. I am 73 years old and I will not wear a mask and I don't need someone to babysit me since I am still out there working in the public if you cared about the elderly you would of had us collect unemployment and I sure wouldn't of mind the extra 600 dollars a week. If you are so worry about this then get rid of the tourist. Oh, right we need the money because that is the most important thing. Well Montana could have opened up to just us and we would be fine but nope it is tourist time. Thank you for listening and no I am not wearing a mask.

Cynthia Becker
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lyn Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

How do you plan to monitor business owners to enforce this mandatory mask mandate? I think this is an unfair burden on business owners. I think it is also an unfair burden to those who cannot wear a mask and feel the need to explain to angry citizens or business owners?
Can you provide any studies that show wearing a mask for 8-12 hours a day for 3-6 months has no detrimental effects to someone with heart and lung disorders?
Is there a plan to provide more hand washing facilities in the downtown area?

Thank you,

Lyn Bennett
Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Janet Blackaby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

I implore you to follow the State of Montana covid tracking website. It is updated daily around 10 am with important information. Montana has a current hospitalization rate of 1% for covid (7% from the beginning of tracking covid), "recovered and recovering but still isolated" rate of 97%. This is important information to acknowledge when considering a measure that will impact individuals and businesses within our beautiful city.

Please use your power with discretion. In addition, the masks on such young children around our city is beyond disturbing.

Thank you for the work,

Janet Blackaby
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: JoBeth Blair [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

City Council Members-

We need to implement a mask requirement inside Whitefish businesses and downtown public sidewalks/areas. Our town is very crowded with people from all over the country. Wearing a mask is an easy and effective way to tamp down the spread of COVID19. Please, help us keep ourselves and our town safe.

JoBeth Blair

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Mt 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Boye #theblackdiamondeffect [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Michelle Howke; John Muhlfeld; jmuhlfeld@riverdesigngroup.net
Subject: PLEASE- Exclude professional offices from mask requirement

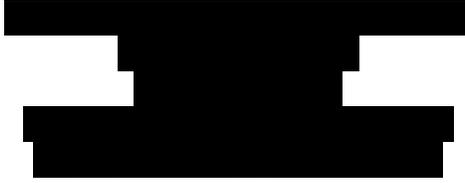
Sorry, I know the public comment expired yesterday via email, but I am busy running my business.

I surveyed my staff, and we do not want to be required to wear masks inside our office. We have only a few clients entering per day, and generally it's just the same group of us working together all day. Please do not legally mandate a mask inside a professional office.

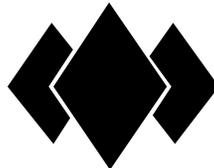
Thank you

Do you want to feel #theblackdiamondeffect ?
<https://youtu.be/ANpZ37yyBGU>

David Boye
Black Diamond Mortgage Corporation



NMLS #235086LO, #209137CORP



BLACK DIAMOND

MORTGAGE CORPORATION

"EXPERTS IN REAL ESTATE FINANCE"

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Janet Bristol [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comments for 1000 14 July COVID-19 Whitefish Mask Meeting

I reject the mandatory use of masks in Whitefish.

- there are only 75 confirmed COVID-19 cases in all of Flathead County
- businesses are free to require masks for entry (or not)
- I am not a lawyer but I don't think it's legal to dictate what people wear. I request you check with your lawyers.
- trust citizens to make the best decisions for themselves and their families

Thank you for considering my comments.

Janet Bristol
Whitefish, MT

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jessica Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO Mask Mandates for Whitefish, Montana

Dear City Clerk and City Council,

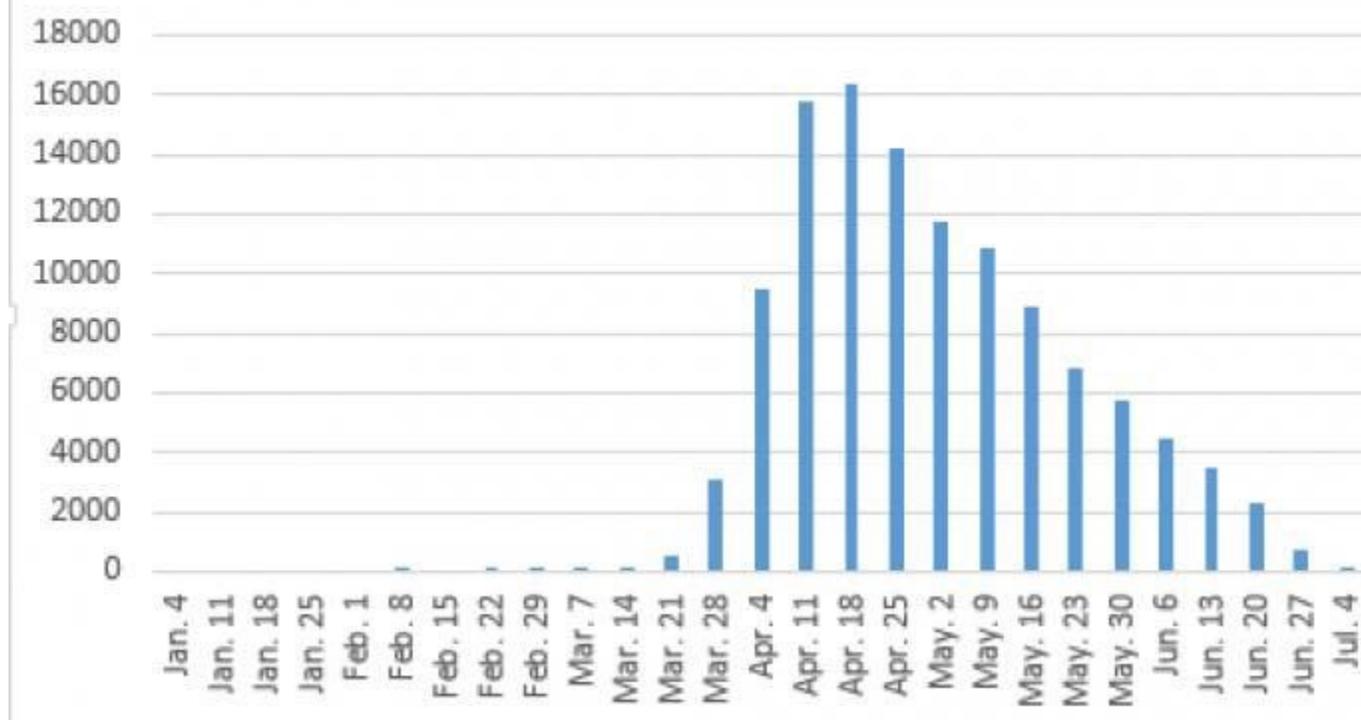
We are an active, healthy, community involved family raising our children and working for over two decades in research and engineering in the medical field analyzing clinical data and releasing new products to save patients lives.

As the governor has stated many times, Montanans are a smart, highly responsible groups of citizens who take health and community seriously. It would be such a slap in the face to have local government decide that we can no longer enter restaurants, shop at stores, or walk down the sidewalk without masking our faces and our young children (which has been recently found to be very dangerous to child health). We constantly strive toward health as a high priority in our family.

In addition, the nationwide fatality rates have declined for 11 weeks. Montana's fatality rate didn't have a curve at all....it was very sparse. The sole reason for new alarm is due to inaccurate media reporting and excessive testing (even of healthy people, pre-surgery, etc, etc) to simply gather more data to track the virus.

Nationwide:

COVID-19 Deaths Peaked in Mid-April



I go out to dinner downtown almost every evening and what I've noticed is that the masked people often do not wash their hands and constantly touch their faces after touching door handles etc. in addition, the masks are starting to show up all over the sidewalks and gutters. When business owners give them out for free, there will be litter all over the streets. Most metro states that have mandated masks have fewer people wearing them and mask litter all over the streets.

I have done a bit of research using studies, RCT trials, and scientific literature reviews on mask efficacy, linked below.

Unfortunately it is not protective to wear masks and actually subverts the stated health goal of protecting yourself or those around you.

When I read the research I discovered that masks don't work for this because they do not block viral particles (97% viral particle penetration in a RCT), they increase risk of self contamination from pathogens on the outside and inside of the mask, they increase risk of community spread due to pathogens on outside of mask/touching surfaces, and they decrease Oxygen intake and increase CO2 consumption.

Everyone should be making their own informed decisions about how to stay healthy, but the literature doesn't support masking in the community setting. See a few sources listed below:

"Increased risk of infection"...

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/#_ffn_sectitle

RCT trial cloth masks allowed 97% of viral particles to pass and INCREASED infection from self contamination
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/pdf/bmjopen-2014-006577.pdf>

Decreased o2 n95

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00173017>

Decreased blood oxygen levels in surgeons in surgical masks

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>

COVID found on outside of cloth masks, risking community spread when touching/readjusting

<https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2764367/effectiveness-surgical-cotton-masks-blocking-sars-cov-2-controlled-comparison>

[https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-](https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q)

[healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q](https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q)

Scientific literature review masks ineffective

[https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-](https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0)

[review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0](https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0)

Who guidance that there is no evidence in literature of effectiveness of community masking

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)

Harmful to health literature review

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/?print=pdf>

New England Journal of Medicine:

"We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection." <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>

CAL-OSHA Regulations: "Cloth face coverings do not protect against COVID -19"

<https://dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Logistics.pdf>

California Department of Health:

"Face coverings may increase risk if users reduce their use of strong defenses."

"There is limited evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission." <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>

FDA - "Even a properly fitted N95 mask does not prevent illness or

death" <https://web.archive.org/web/20200516235249/https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

Neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock :

"There is no scientific evidence that masks are effective. If you are not sick, you should not wear a face mask." <https://technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/>

Columbia University: Psychological Harms of Face Masks:

"Many young children burst into tears or recoil when someone wearing a mask approaches. By putting on masks, we take away information that makes it especially difficult for children to recognize others and read emotional signals, which is unsettling and disconcerting." https://www.cugmhp.org/five-on-friday/why-a-mask-is-not-just-a-mask/?fbclid=IwAR1_hkyuIOzQ9WqA_u_muupA8D8UwOgvnhlwcjOlw_CReHuKSPpMy2wC4

US Surgeon General Jerome Adams:

"Masks are not effective in preventing the general public from catching coronavirus."

https://twitter.com/Surgeon_General/status/1233725785283932160

WHO, Dr. Mike Ryan:

"There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there's some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/world/coronavirus-who-masks-recommendation-trnd/index.html>

US Department of Labor — OSHA:

"Oxygen deficient is any atmosphere that contains less than 19.5%." This happens when the oxygen is displaced by inert gas such as CARBON DIOXIDE and is the leading cause of

FATALITIES." <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/shipyard/shiprepair/confinedspace/oxygendeficient.html>

Another article that is basically a literature review

<https://www.professorhinkley.com/blog/sorry-oregon-your-mask-is-useless-according-to-the-science>

https://www.cNBC.com/2020/06/08/asymptomatic-coronavirus-patients-arent-spreading-new-infections-who-says.html?_source=sharebar%7Cfacebook&par=sharebar

Asymptomatic carriers not a risk for illness spread...

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32405162>

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing these links and considering the actual data that shows that Montana is doing very very well in surviving the virus that has drastically weakened across the nation in cities and more populated areas. In fact, according to the CDC data, our chances of surviving covid by staying healthy (including breathing fresh air) are now 99.8% as a worse case.

Let's keep Montana safe and healthy the right way - NO political mandates / strive toward optimal health.

Thank you,

Jessica Brown

Whitefish, MT Resident - [REDACTED]

R&D Medical Device Engineer
[REDACTED]

Montana State University Alumni

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jessica Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO Mask Mandates for Whitefish, Montana

Dear City Clerk and City Council,

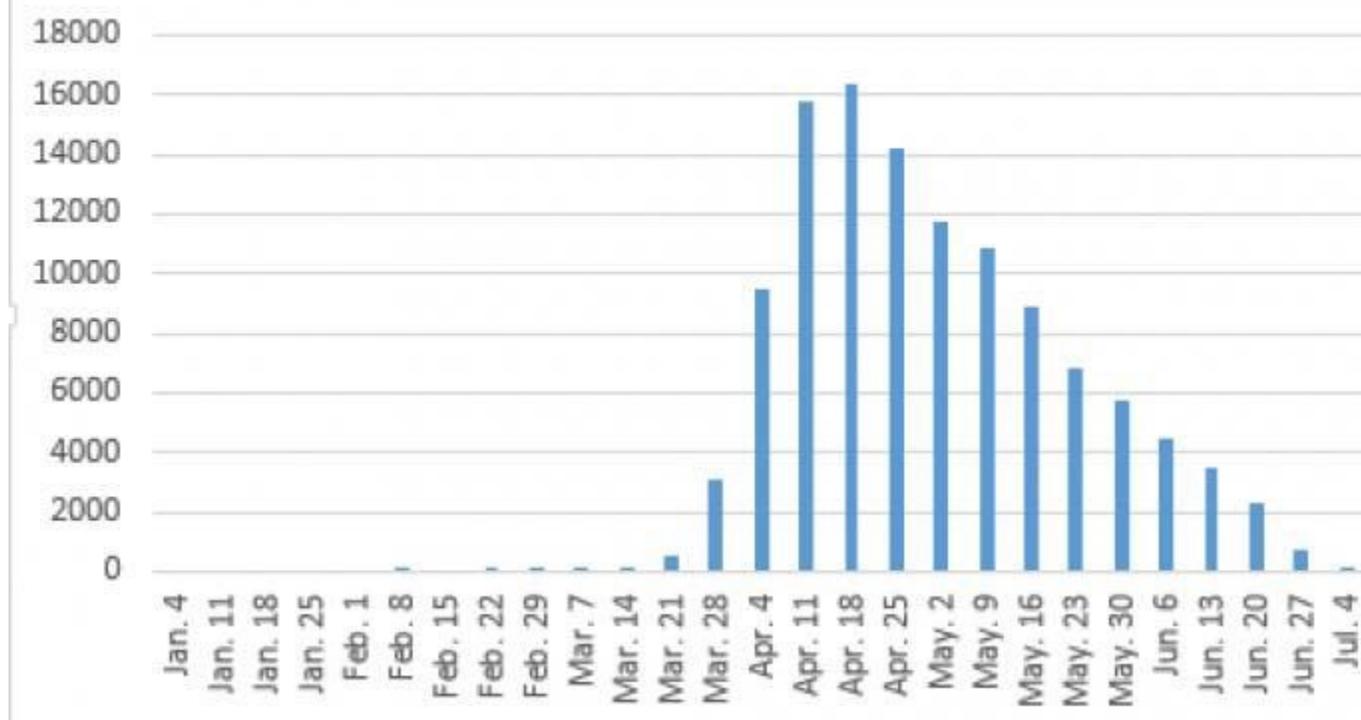
We are an active, healthy, community involved family raising our children and working for over two decades in research and engineering in the medical field analyzing clinical data and releasing new products to save patients lives.

As the governor has stated many times, Montanans are a smart, highly responsible groups of citizens who take health and community seriously. It would be such a slap in the face to have local government decide that we can no longer enter restaurants, shop at stores, or walk down the sidewalk without masking our faces and our young children (which has been recently found to be very dangerous to child health). We constantly strive toward health as a high priority in our family.

In addition, the nationwide fatality rates have declined for 11 weeks. Montana's fatality rate didn't have a curve at all....it was very sparse. The sole reason for new alarm is due to inaccurate media reporting and excessive testing (even of healthy people, pre-surgery, etc, etc) to simply gather more data to track the virus.

Nationwide:

COVID-19 Deaths Peaked in Mid-April



I go out to dinner downtown almost every evening and what I've noticed is that the masked people often do not wash their hands and constantly touch their faces after touching door handles etc. in addition, the masks are starting to show up all over the sidewalks and gutters. When business owners give them out for free, there will be litter all over the streets. Most metro states that have mandated masks have fewer people wearing them and mask litter all over the streets.

I have done a bit of research using studies, RCT trials, and scientific literature reviews on mask efficacy, linked below.

Unfortunately it is not protective to wear masks and actually subverts the stated health goal of protecting yourself or those around you.

When I read the research I discovered that masks don't work for this because they do not block viral particles (97% viral particle penetration in a RCT), they increase risk of self contamination from pathogens on the outside and inside of the mask, they increase risk of community spread due to pathogens on outside of mask/touching surfaces, and they decrease Oxygen intake and increase CO2 consumption.

Everyone should be making their own informed decisions about how to stay healthy, but the literature doesn't support masking in the community setting. See a few sources listed below:

"Increased risk of infection"...

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/#_ffn_sectitle

RCT trial cloth masks allowed 97% of viral particles to pass and INCREASED infection from self contamination
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/pdf/bmjopen-2014-006577.pdf>

Decreased o2 n95

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00173017>

Decreased blood oxygen levels in surgeons in surgical masks

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>

COVID found on outside of cloth masks, risking community spread when touching/readjusting

<https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2764367/effectiveness-surgical-cotton-masks-blocking-sars-cov-2-controlled-comparison>

[https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-](https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q)

[healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q](https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR3BoG63U1zqB2Qt55onauB26hw3l5VCjk7Zy4l-nNli5UyRz2L9JIYM9Q)

Scientific Literature review masks ineffective

[https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-](https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0)

[review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0](https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0)

Who guidance that there is no evidence in literature of effectiveness of community masking

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)

Harmful to health literature review

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/?print=pdf>

New England Journal of Medicine:

"We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection." <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>

CAL-OSHA Regulations: "Cloth face coverings do not protect against COVID -19"

<https://dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Logistics.pdf>

California Department of Health:

"Face coverings may increase risk if users reduce their use of strong defenses."

"There is limited evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission." <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>

FDA - "Even a properly fitted N95 mask does not prevent illness or

death" <https://web.archive.org/web/20200516235249/https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

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Let's keep Montana safe and healthy the right way - NO political mandates / strive toward optimal health.

Thank you,

Jessica Brown

Whitefish, MT Resident - [REDACTED]

R&D Medical Device Engineer

[REDACTED]

Montana State University Alumni

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: amy chisholm [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comments in support of local mask ordinance

Hello, Council Members --

I was just informed that you are again taking comments regarding a potential ordinance to require masks in Whitefish. I ask you to PLEASE pass such an ordinance, being sure to give the specific directive that masks need to cover both the mouth and nose. They should certainly be worn in situations such as the Farmer's Market -- the last few times I went (and I am only there briefly to pick up my Farm Share), proper distancing was truly impossible and a large percentage of attendees were maskless, putting the rest of us in jeopardy. Truly, wearing a mask is such a small inconvenience to bear in order to keep the community safe -- please pass an ordinance mandating their use!

Thank you --
ABC

Amy Beth Chisholm, BA, BM, MM
Performance & Teaching
[REDACTED]

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

From: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:14 PM
To: amy chisholm [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Comments in support of local mask ordinance

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. Those emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php>, you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: amy chisholm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Comments in support of local mask ordinance

Hello, City Council Members --

I recently heard that the City is contemplating the institution of a local mask-wearing ordinance. Please know that I, like many other community members, am strongly IN FAVOR of such a step. We are no way near getting this pandemic under control, and we have people coming in from all parts of the country, many of whom are likely bringing the virus with them. PLEASE institute this directive in order to keep our community safe and allow us to all the sooner get back to life as we once knew it!

Thank you so much for your service!

Best,
ABC

Amy Beth Chisholm, BA, BM, MM
Performance & Teaching
[REDACTED]

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: craig clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask

i am a long time whitefish resident now with cancer. mandatory mask wearing protects people like myself and others like the elderly who are immunocompromised. i think most people would accept wearing a mask when they realized that's what we do in whitefish. it's considerate. it's like wearing a seatbelt. not that hard. could save a life. like mine.
craig clark

[REDACTED]
whitefish, mt. 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Cris C [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes to Mandatory Masks!

I fully support your Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thanks for all you do,

Cris Coughlin

Whitefish resident

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Marknaddie Dahlquist <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Opposed to masks

We will not do any business in Whitefish if masks are mandated. If masks worked those who choose to wear them would not be worried.

Sent from my Huawei Mobile
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: mask

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: dane dawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: mask

I hope this proposed agenda you will re-think. it is unconstitutional to do this. we are americans that can make our own choice. please, do not deny that right. we can wear a mask at our own discesion. shall so many rights be removed from America? let us make our own choice. this virus, after all, has been hyped up by the media. it is not the issue as they contend. let us live free. please consider this----- EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Margo DeLapp [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

As a resident of Whitefish I oppose the mandate of wearing mask. I feel that each person has a right to make his or choice. I will not support any council person who votes for this mandate!

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: Mask

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org



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From: Rick Delapp [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask

I DO NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY MASK. As a resident of Whitefish I strongly urge you not to pass this. My body my choice, kiss my ass.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: Comments for this morning's meeting - vehemently against mandatory masking

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org



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From: Elisabeth Donati [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Comments for this morning's meeting - vehemently against mandatory masking

Firstly, what a shame you throw up an emergency meeting and don't let people have adequate time to learn about it or prepare for it. Shame on you.

Second, there are statistics galore about the death rate being at an all time low and that it's incredibly rare for an asymptomatic person to pass on the virus. Here is a video FROM THE WHO about just this. You are remiss if you ignore information like this and take action that isn't well founded and because people are so scared. This little town depends on the tourists to thrive and now you want to make it miserable for everyone because a few people are afraid? This isn't the brave Montana I thought I was moving to. Here is the video...it's all of 3 minutes: <https://www.cnn.com/video/2020/06/08/who-coronavirus-patients-who-dont-show-symptoms-arent-spreading-new-infections.html?fbclid=IwAR03r7Va2H-XrEp7ULLVZ8IOfsX4YNce7I79AFWt1THdv7pZ2cDeBhrLZxE>

Lastly, what you're wanting to do isn't legal and you know it. You can not enforce this type of action as it goes against all civil liberties, like having the right to breath fresh air.

Here is a summary of information from a well-researched article this morning. Please note it and take the FACTS into consideration, not what people full of fear are demanding. Be the council...do the accurate thing based on real information.

STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- Even though the COVID-19 curve has been flattened, mainstream media outlets continue to push doomsday predictions of an impending explosion of deaths
- According to Stanford University's disease prevention chairman Dr. John Ioannidis, the COVID-19 fatality rate for those under the age of 45 is "almost zero," and between the ages of 45 and 70, it's somewhere between 0.05% and 0.3%
- So, the fact that young and middle-aged adults are testing positive in droves is not a warning sign of an impending onslaught of deaths, as the risk of death in these age groups is minuscule
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 mortality — which had declined for the last 10 weeks straight — "is currently at the epidemic threshold," meaning if it declines just a little more, COVID-19 will no longer be considered an epidemic
- The sharp increases in "cases" are not proof of disease spread but, rather, the spread of testing

Elisabeth

And remember...Pay Yourself First!

Note: I am not spending a lot of time at the computer these days. If you need an answer to something quickly, please call me at 805-957-1024. I love talking the old fashioned way:-).

Elisabeth Donati
The Financial Literacy Lady
2010 Financial Educator of the Year Award

Coach • Author • Entrepreneur • Presenter
Creative Wealth International



EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Produce TSM [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masking

--

Third Street Market

Produce Department

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

To Whom This May Concern,

As an employee of a downtown business in Whitefish I encourage the city counsel to pass the ordinance requiring everyone to wear face masks. This should be done out of respect and health concerns for all residents of our community.

Respectfully,
Susan Drake

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kara Dudley <k[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

To whom it may concern,

I want my voice to be heard that I am strongly opposed to the mandatory use of masks in the city of Whitefish. While the number of cases may be going up, overall the hospitalization and death rate in this country is going down. People die every day of many preventable things, and singling this issue out and requiring facemasks violates our rights as human beings to express ourselves, to breathe fresh air, and to communicate freely. It's also completely ridiculous considering the scientists are still trying to figure out how Covid spreads. There is no proof that wearing a mask does anything to prevent the spread of especially among people who are healthy or asymptomatic. Wearing a mask if you are ill or treating someone who is ill, is another story but that is by and large a very very small percentage of people.

Please do not violate our rights in this way.

Kara Dudley

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sarah Ehlen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Good morning,

I am writing today to voice my support for a mandatory mask ordinance in Whitefish.

There are still way too many people not wearing masks and I'm concerned that this could lead to more drastic measures being necessary if the virus continues to spread.

I very much support wearing masks in public. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ehlen
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lisa Follett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

My name is Lisa Follett and I live at [REDACTED] but I work in Whitefish.

I am requesting that masks be mandatory when inside and social distancing can not be maintained. Due to the current surge in local cases and the number of tourists at this time, I think that it is prudent that we protect ourselves and our community. When entering a building all people can easily put on a mask. We are required to wear shoes and shirts, it is not an infringement of our rights. Please do not wait any longer, mandate this ordinance. I work at Third Street Market in Whitefish and have appreciated more and more consumers wearing masks.

Thank you,
Lisa

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: MASK RESOLUTION

Dear Sirs,

I just want to say that I fully support a resolution requiring the use of masks in Whitefish. We have done such a good job in this town thus far and this is yet another critical juncture where we must take proper steps to keep our community safe.

Thank You,

Lisa Ford

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mindi Gawe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hello,

I'd like to speak up again in favor of making masks a required in public places. I would also stress that masks should be worn outside whenever you encounter or spend time with anyone who lives outside your household and are not able to achieve the six foot distance rule. I would encourage the city council to consider this wording as it is the recommendation by the CDC. The current wording of the current resolution to only require masks outside when you are within a group of 20 or less. That could be the scenario in an outdoor courtyard of a bar. One positive persons inside with a mask walks to the outside area of the same establishment and removes their mask and mingles with the crowd or maybe out onto a busy sidewalk is all it takes. That leaves a lot of room to spread this virus. It's like one step forward but still two steps back. If you are going to do this, do it all the way now. To keep having emergency meetings to make rules more stringent is time consuming and keeps the community in a position to be constantly trying to catchup and get ahead of this virus. Please consider changing the requirement to match that of the CDC. To be in line from federal to local government would be the strongest approach and the most effective.

I was sad to hear that one of our town's businesses closed again because of an employee who tested positive. I was also very proud and appreciative of their honesty and safe approach.

Thank you for all your hard work and concern for our community.

Please pass a mask mandate.

Mindi Gawe
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

Whitefish Motel & Studios
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sarah Hanson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to having a mandate passed making us wear mask. It is my personal responsibility to choose to wear a mask. If businesses make their employees wear masks and the people who are concerned of getting covid wear masks then theoretically if the masks actually work then they should be safe but that does not mean the rest of us should be forced to wear masks and receive a lofty fine if we don't wear one. Please do not pass this!

Sincerely,

Sarah Hanson
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Erin Harding <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Wearing Masks

To the city council: Please require the wearing of masks in all shops, grocery stores and on downtown sidewalks. Erin Harding Sent from my iPhone EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dennis Haverlandt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Fwd: FW: Mask Ordinance

Good Afternoon, Michelle,

Please forward my opinion to the City Council for its Tuesday special meeting regarding wearing of masks in light of the Coronavirus 19 pandemic.

I am unsurprisingly shocked when I view the numbers of people roaming the streets and businesses of Whitefish without the protection (for the other person) of face masks. I have tried not to put myself in harm's way when it comes to Covid 19. I wear a mask when I absolutely need to enter any business, whether in Whitefish or any other city. When others do not respect my health by not wearing masks, I have to make decisions on when and where to shop for essentials. What this means is, I have not been supporting our local business the way I have in the past or would like to. I am saddened by this effect on my personal life resulting from others being opposed to wearing masks. If Costco can require the wearing of face coverings, then any other establishment has the ability to do the same. I still frequent Costco because of their policy. I would do the same for businesses in Whitefish as well if a required face mask ordinance was adopted and enforced.

The local businesses should look at this ordinance as a method of staying open during this pandemic period and tourist season. All they have to do is look south toward California and Texas regarding the **RE**-closing of the bars, restaurants, movie theaters, hair salons, etc. This is a real possibility for Whitefish and/or Montana as the numbers are spiking faster than anyone had anticipated.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote **FOR** the emergency ordinance requiring face masks to be worn in public places.

Dennis & Kelly West Haverlandt

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Shannon Hoge [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Mask Ordinance

To the City and Council,

I am strongly IN FAVOR of an ordinance (with enforcement and penalty) requiring the wearing of masks in public to prevent the spread of coronavirus. As our cases continue to rise, I believe we should heed the advice of public health experts who conclude that wearing masks can cut down on virus transmission. I encourage the City to take responsible steps to protect the health of our community and approve the emergency mandatory mask ordinance.

Thank you,
Shannon Hoge

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ervin Ingraham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask

In favor of the city implementing mandatory mask ordinance. Thanks for helping protect us!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: Thank you

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org



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From: Becca Christ [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:40 PM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Thank you

I want you and the council to know I appreciate all your hard work in uncertain times. I know you have done your very best to take into consideration many view points and perspectives that impact our community. I imagine tomorrow might be heated. I am praying for wisdom for the council, emotional support and understanding for you and for all who attend. I pray that people will be respectful, and empathetic. I recognize your hard work and trust your team 's leadership.

Thank you for serving our city!

Becca Christ

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michael Javorka [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: input: yes. please MANDATE masks

Sending my citizens feedback for this morning's meeting. I support fully requiring math and other precautionary steps in Whitefish. Thank you for your efforts.

Michael Javorka

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jocelyn Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandate

I am against mandating anything that has to do with medical choices. Especially for something that the CDC has said the estimate of the survival rate is 99.35%. This info was just updated on the 10th of July. Source is linked below the chart. Please vote no.

| Parameter | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 | Scenario 4 | Scenario 5: Current Best Estimate |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| R_0^* | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.5 |
| Infection Fatality Ratio, Overall† | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.0065 |
| Percent of infections that are | 10% | 70% | 10% | 70% | 40% |

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mariah Joos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Letter in support of Requiring Facemasks

To Mayor Muhlfeld and the Whitefish City Council:

I write to you today to express my support in requiring masks for both employees and visitors in the City of Whitefish.

Nelson's Ace Hardware was designated as an essential business at the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis. As a result, we have been in contact with portions of our community throughout the pandemic. Early on, with the low number of cases in our community and the 14-day quarantine in place, we felt confident we could operate our business in a safe way.

Since Phase 2 has come into effect, the biggest change to our operation is the number of people we see in the store. Our staff is wearing masks; we ask that our customers do as well. But, should one of our staff become infected with Covid-19, the ripple effect of that diagnosis is unclear. Not only would it potentially require us to close down for a period of time, but the personal effect on our staff AND their families could be deadly. In the face of that, our employees STILL come to work. It is not too much to ask that the visitors to our store and community do their part as well.

The reality for our business, and our local economy, is: the longer we stay open, the better off we all are. When Governor Bullock issued the initial "Stay-At-Home," our local economy clearly suffered. Finding a way to stay open during our busiest months is an economic requirement for many local businesses. But, the exponentially increasing rates of Covid-19 cases requires we take action. The simplest way is to require masks for all.

I appreciate the City Council's leadership in this difficult time.

Thank you

Mariah Joos

--

Mariah Joos
Owner
Nelson's Ace Hardware
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED] verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Paul Juchmes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Favor of mandatory masks

Dear Ms. Howke,

My name is Dr. Paul Juchmes, I have a doctorate in psychology and I am a college professor for University of Phoenix. I lived here year around for seven years and I am **strongly in favor of mandatory masks** in public. Our priorities should easily be lives and health over inconvenience and minor feelings. People who are here and want to shop will shop with masks instead of denying themselves something they want to do.

Thank you.

Dr. Paul Juchmes
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: comment concerning Emergency Ordinance 20
Attachments: city council letter masks.docx

To Whom It May Concern:

I request a public hearing outside of normal business hours to allow for commentary from citizens who cannot attend during regular work hours. I was made aware of this meeting 18 hours before it was set to begin. I would guess that the vast majority of Whitefish citizens won't find out about it until after the meeting has started. If citizens do find out the meeting is at 10 AM, the majority of Whitefish citizens won't be able to attend because they will be working or did not have enough notice. For something that affects every single citizen, it seems unfair that they will not be given ample opportunity to voice their opinion. I understand this is considered urgent, but 18 hours or less is not enough notice.

I request more time for businesses and individuals to make this change. Fewer than 14 hours for businesses and individuals to acquire proper masks and change their personal habits is not enough time. We have ordered 500 masks for Don 'K' since the resolution was passed last week. They haven't arrived/been completed yet. We have enough masks for most employees because we are prepared, but not all businesses have the resources that we do.

Monitoring 120 employees and numerous clients daily will present a unique challenge, as it isn't easy to make sure that each employee and customer changes their daily habits instantly. We have encouraged employees to wear masks when unable to socially distance. We have installed plexiglass and other barriers. We have implemented dozens of other safety precautions including hand and surface sanitizers. Most employees aren't used to wearing a mask for most of the day and I am confident that many of our customers are not as well. When I started wearing a mask, it took time for me to learn this new habit. It wasn't instant, and it certainly took more than 14 hours to remember to wear it every time this ordinance is saying that I should. Who will be fined if employees or customers forget? This is a new way of life for all of us, and I strongly urge you to give people in Whitefish a minimum of a weeks notice before the city begins issuing fines.

I am very much opposed to being required to police my customers on the wearing of face masks. Is the city providing masks for my customers or the personnel to make sure that every customer wears a mask? If a customer doesn't have a mask and I don't have one for them because we run out, am I supposed to turn away that customer? If a customer refuses to wear a mask, am I supposed to turn them away? It is unreasonable for the city to place this burden upon businesses so quickly. If a customer doesn't wear a mask, I shouldn't be fined or lose my business license.

This ordinance doesn't take into account the differences of each type of business. A dozen vendors visit our campus every day. I have 11 entrances through which customers can enter our buildings. We have additional entrances for our vendors. We have about 45,000 square feet through out multiple buildings. We have over 8 acres on our main campus. It is unfair to require us to police all of the customers and vendors who enter our campus. If I only had 3 employees with 20 customers per day, and a 1,000 square foot building, this would be a much more reasonable ordinance. However, this is not the case at our establishment. I have over 100 customers a day, many of whom will not be aware of this ordinance until after they have already arrived at our store. I am concerned about having to ask them to come back when they have a mask and losing their business.

We are not against the wearing of masks. We have encouraged our employees to do so. However, Whitefish City Council needs to make some changes to this ordinance. Please don't enact fines so quickly. Please don't require businesses to police customers. Please give us more time to prepare.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaltschmidt
General Manager, Don "K" Whitefish

[REDACTED]
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Vickie Kelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

City council,

I am highly against wearing masks, it has been proven by many authorities that this is highly undesirable to ones own health. It makes no sense to me to wear them for ones safety of health. It makes the lungs toxic to breathe through these often bacteria ridden cloths. One should have the right as a free citizen to wear them or enforce their own children(but personally I think it's it's own form of abuse).

It is taking our own personal freedoms away of governing ones own health, and is declaring we no longer have any power to self govern by those who deem themselves as ones who know better. This is America, Montana. I love being able to breathe in the fresh air, it's why I moved here 30 years ago. Please do not enforce something that so many believe goes against their own personal health.

This will create a very undesirable attraction for those wanting to visit or live here.

Please do not allow a few people who are fearful to declare what I have to do.

These personal rights that are quickly slipping away will not stop here and you know it.

Vickie Kelson
Whitefish, Montana

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Tom Kennelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for Emergency Mandatory Mask Ordinance

Dear Council Members and Mayor Muhlged:

Please accept this email as our indication that we support the passage of an Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of face masks while in public. As a Community, during the Spring quarantine, we all came together to help flatten and minimize the spread of Covid-19. However, now with the phases of reopening implemented over the past several months, we are experiencing an increase in reported Covid cases throughout Montana. Our streets and stores are rampant with individuals, both local and visiting, who are complacent in utilizing the basic recommended safety measures of social distancing and wearing a mask. These individuals are exhibiting a total disregard for their safety, their families, and our communities health! My wife and I are tired of being judged at local stores for wearing a mask by these individuals who choose to play russian roulette with their lives and our community's lives. We are all aware that confirmed cases of Covid-19 are on the rise in Montana. However, let us remind you that a case discovered here from an out of state visitor is not reported as a Montana case but a case in their home state! So what is the real exposure to our community that worked and sacrificed so diligently during the Spring to minimize our Community's exposure.

We need proactive action to protect the health of our Community! So as you consider this Ordinance, please remember that a basic tenet of government and a primary fiduciary duty is to provide for the public safety of its citizens.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Kennelly (retired City of Whitefish Fire Chief/Fire Marshal)

Mary Kennelly

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: Masks

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org



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From: ryan kirack [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:56 PM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks

Hi,
I'm a resident here. As part of the USA, and MT in particular the idea of liberty, freedom and self preservation is what makes us different. No one has to leave their home except by choice and we are not a dense community by population. Let the businesses thrive if they want to. And let the customers patronize if they want to. The mask in itself is not an issue...it's the government mandate it; that's the wrong approach. Make it "suggested" but not mandatory in my humble opinion. Did this just get voted on? Are the hospitals full? Deaths don't seem high compared to rest of country...

Thanks
Ryan

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: KIRKENDALL, MATTHEW [VISUS] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO Mask Mandate for Whitefish, MT

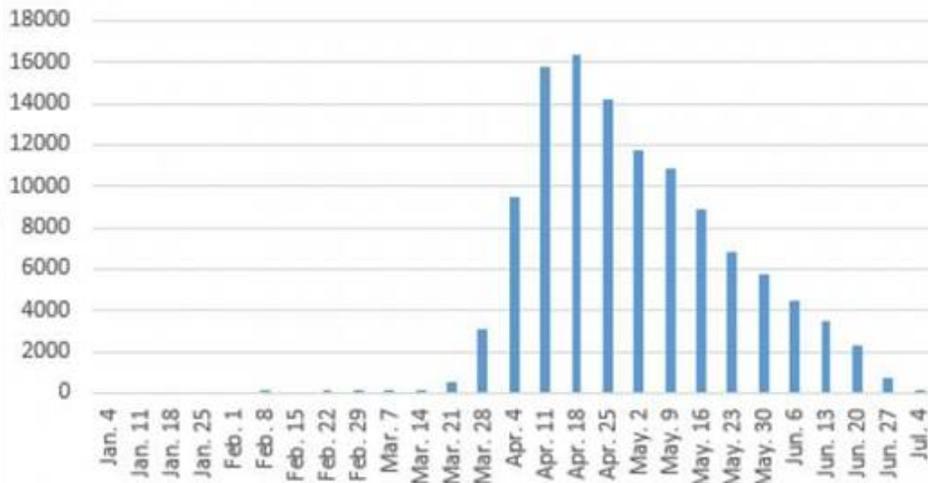
Dear City Clerk and City Council,

I am asking you to NOT add a mask mandate to the city of Whitefish, MT for the following reasons:

- The council just voted on this issue last week resulting in the verbiage that the city “Should” wear mask – the data has not changed since this decision that would warrant the need for citywide mandate.
- Whitefish, MT is a beautiful place with many open sidewalks and parks that can be enjoyed through social distancing. Whitefish by design does not have crowded streets/public transportation (buses/subways) and we are not LA or New York.
- New cases as reported in the news is simply the result of increased testing. If you look at the deaths in the US (since there are concerns about the out-of-state visitors) the numbers are way down – so much so that the CDC has stated the data no longer supports the term “Pandemic”
- Whitefish economic impact – mask mandates are going to force many restaurant/shop owners to provide masks and will ultimately cause them to lose revenue through lost sales.
- Pollution – every time I go to dinner in Whitefish I am disturbed to see the masks littered on the streets and trash bins that will ultimately end up in our rivers, lakes, and nature.

Montana has always been a FREE state and the current mask recommendations that the City Council decided on last week is more than sufficient.

COVID-19 Deaths Peaked in Mid-April



Thanks,
Matt

Matt Kirkendall
Whitefish, Montana Resident (Ice House Terrace)
Global Engineering Director Medical Device

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: michael klippert [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

During the start of the pandemic the Major asked out of towners to not visit WF. Now during a time when cases are rising faster than before WF is welcoming everyone. Why risk our community now? Is it the 3% the city will miss? Maybe if more central ave businesses close due to infected employees the tourists will leave? This town can support itself with locals only as we get through this. How about mandating a quarantine for those arriving from major hotspots. WF is overwhelmed with tourists. I don't even try to enjoy downtown. What's the point of masks while our town is taken over. It's not like we can disinfect everything they touch. If masks become mandatory I'd like to see everyone at the Tiki Bar sporting one. But how would that work while they drink and socialize? How will everyone know it is required? I'm opposed to the mask mandate and would like to see less tourists during a pandemic.

Michael Klippert
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Yuri Kozicky [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish mask requirement

I firmly believe it is my choice whether or not to wear a mask in public. No one else's.

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Christine Lazorishak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Support for mask ordinance

Good morning,
I'm writing to express support for a mask ordinance in the same way I supported the resolution.

The only thing I think should be factored in is how our youth will be approached if not wearing one.

Many families do not encourage using masks. So many of our youth are used to roaming freely in our community without supervision and aren't the best at assessing 6ft of social distancing.

We do not want to create more anxiety for the youth in our community, so I feel it's important to have a plan for how businesses and those enforcing the ordinance will address our youth.

Thank you,
Christine Lazorishak
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

consider this as

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lynnette Ludviksen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face mask ordinance

Hello Michelle,

I would like to comment on the proposed ordinance requiring face masks in Whitefish.

I am totally in favor of this ordinance. I work at a retail shop in Whitefish where our entire team agreed that we should require that our guests wear masks. For the most part, they comply and we thank them for their consideration. We always wear masks when guests are in the store and we offer hand sanitizer as well. We have had no confrontations with guests over our requirement.

An ordinance will make it easier for all merchants to keep their employees and guests safe by removing the option of going maskless. Science has determined that masks are the best defense against Covid 19. At this time, they are our only defense. But they will only work well if we all wear them.

The Great Northern situation clearly illustrates the fallout of having even one employee test positive. We cannot afford to shut Whitefish down!

I encourage the city council to take action and require that masks be worn by everyone when in public places where social distancing cannot be effectively practiced.

Thank you,

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Charley Lyman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please require masks

I work at the front door of a major resort on Whitefish Lake. Over the past month, we have seen license plates in our parking lots from over 40 states. Just last week, I spoke to people places like Texas, Florida, California, Washington state, Illinois, Georgia and Tennessee. These places are in trouble. I have to say, it is unnerving to talk to a family of four from Tampa, none of them wearing masks.

As a person who has contact with hundreds of such people, I wear a mask at work to protect myself. However, when I am away from work I still wear it. That way, I protect others.

Please pass this ordinance.

Charley Lyman
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jim MacAllister [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Hello,

I would ask as a resident of WF that you all please institute a mandatory mask requirement when indoors.

Thank you!!

Jim MacAllister

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wendy McFadden [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please Mandate Masks

This is the letter I wrote to respond to the recent mask resolution passed in Whitefish. I wish to resubmit my letter in response to the request for public comment on the proposed emergency ordinance. In addition, I'd like to comment in response to community concerns about negative impacts on local businesses. While, There may be a handful of patrons who would make decisions about patronizing businesses where they are required to where masks, it is hard for me to imagine the vast majority of people will stop engaging in the social and economic activities they want to pursue because they have to where masks. I am currently working as a counselor, which is a highly interactive field, and 95% of the time wearing a mask has zero impact on my ability to engage naturally and effectively with clients. While it takes some getting used to, I don't believe It imposes a significant hardship on most individuals, while the benefits of controlling spread of the virus have a profound public impact on public health. Finally, in response to concerns about The individual Liberty to make health care choices, I would like to point out that individuals who refuse to where masks might be said to be Imposing on the individual liberty of other individuals to make health care choices because they are creating a risk of exposure In public places which others would not choose. I can not control my risk of exposure to the extent that there is no risk. I have no choice about that. Every time someone refuses to wear a mask they further restrict my ability to limit My own exposure in an exponential fashion.

My original letter follows...

Dear City Leaders,

I am writing to request that you require people within the city limits of Whitefish to wear a mask when they are in public. This seems an obvious and simple solution which will allow us to control the spread of COVID-19 with out shutting down our economy. Indeed, left unchecked, spread of the virus itself could shut down the economy. It is a very small burden to carry in order to continue engaging freely in social And economic activity. I don't believe that we will achieve the level of compliance with mask wearing that will be needed to control the spread of COVID-19 unless it is made mandatory. I don't believe stringent enforcement will be necessary. Police were surprisingly effective at enforcement of limitations on fireworks this year, and it seems they would likely have similar success with enforcing mask wearing. Police might be authorized to use as much discretion as they like, fines could be minimal, or law-enforcement could simply provide verbal warnings when enforcement iS required Once everybody else is wearing a mask, people's discomfort will probably dissipate and they will realize that it isn't such a big hardship. Governments that have been proactive about controlling the spread of the virus have garnered passionate public support. Please do not allow a small number of overly vocal naysayers to control city policy, adversely impacting the communitie's health and its economy. Please pass a mandate to require that masks be worn In public within city limits.

Thank you,
Wendy McFadden

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT
59937
[REDACTED]

Michelle Howke

From: Kenmontana Mcfadden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masking ordinance

As a long time resident of whitefish, a physician with considerable knowledge of epidemiology and the covid pandemic I support the masking ordinance. Masking seems to be the only viable tool we have to mitigate and try and control the virus. Unfortunately masking works by preventing asymptomatic but infective people from spreading the virus. If it were a matter of protecting the wearer, then we could all make our own decisions. As it is what some one else doesn't know hurts all of us. The recommendation of last week seems to have had only limited success. The flathead had 9 new cases yesterday, I personally know of whitefish cases, and yet at store this morning none of the employees were masked and perhaps 1/3 of the shoppers. A total shut down is not economically feasible. Let us try this proven tool now.
Sincerely dr ken mcfadden

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Kenmontana Mcfadden [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: This mornings meeting

I already sent an email supporting masking. I would point out masking works by preventing infected but asymptomatic or symptomatic but irresponsible people from spreading Covid. They don't work so well at protecting the wearer. Hence a meeting where a number of people who adamantly are opposed to masks and will be loudly sharing their opinions and viruses with all in attendance seems a bad place for a vulnerable concerned resident such as myself to attend. I point this out to remind the council that the representation at the meeting today will not reflect the concern of residents over the age of 60 or with other "at risk" conditions.

Thanks Dr. ken Mcfadden

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Meg [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

Yes!

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Robert Merriott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

I am a front line worker and a resident of Whitefish. Please put out a mask requirement. People are starting to get sick here. Don't listen to these right wing crazies
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Melinda Morison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Members of the City Council

I am writing to urge you to adopt a mandatory mask regulation for the City of Whitefish. Watching the numbers of COVID 19 cases rise in Flathead County in the last month has been frightening and it doesn't look like it is going to get better. Yesterday when I was downtown with my daughter I was amazed at how many people were walking around without masks after you had issued the "recommendation" to wear them. Obviously that is not working. Honestly I don't even feel comfortable going downtown to support my local businesses in this environment. Please vote in favor of a mandatory mask ordinance with consequences for violating said ordinance. We are depending on you to help people make the right decisions to protect each other in this public health emergency.

Thank you.

Melinda C Morison

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: jeff Mow [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask ordinance

Dear Ms. Howke:

As a resident of Whitefish and a parent, **I wholeheartedly support the proposed emergency ordinance making the use of masks mandatory in the city.**

It has become clear that mask-wearing is one of the simplest and most effective tools we have available to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Since many citizens have shown that they are not capable of taking this simple step on their own, then it's time our local government step up and take the lead. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Amy Mow

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: neaomie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No mandatory mask mandate

Absoloutely voting no on this issue

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ron And Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

We definitely support the mask mandate proposed by the city. The influx of visitors along with the rise in virus numbers is definitely an indication this would be a necessary requirement. Thank you for your diligence.

Ron & Linda Olson

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Randy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face masks in Whitefish

Greetings,

I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the upcoming discussion regarding the unfortunate consideration of requiring face masks in Whitefish.

It is obvious that the decision by the city council of last week, that people within Whitefish 'should' wear face masks, seems to be mostly ignored. It's no surprise, after all aren't we responsible for our own decisions about our own health?

By the way, there are no measures that will prevent each one of us getting the coronavirus! It will happen.

My greater concern are the implications that come with a mandated requirement to wear face masks in all environments - which I'm certain will be extended to churches and houses of worship, but not to bars, restaurants, casinos, etc, etc.

An infringement upon constitutional rights to worship in a manner consistent with our beliefs is dangerous ground to tread - we've been there once and it would be unwise to go there again. Other states are currently facing legal opposition because similar mandates Whitefish is considering now that will likely extend to greater restrictions upon us.

I would strongly encourage our city council to consider earning some respect by making wise choices that educate the public about health risks instead of dictating unconstitutional requirements upon the public. Where will it end?

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Randy Olson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Ordway [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face Masks

Hello

Please encourage the board to vote in favor of requiring face masks in all public places.

Thank you,

David Ordway

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT. 59937

Sent from my iPad

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: william.c.paone [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Facemasks

Mayor, thank you for opening this urgent topic for discussion. Being a resort town, Whitefish sees visitors from across the nation. With GNP now open further this week, even more visitors from hot spot states will come to our great city. This circumstance could be creating a Covid19 outbreak in Whitefish. Without proper policies and resources to contact trace we could not quell an exponential increase. This is now happening in countless other cities across the nation. Also Montana is now seeing the expected spike in cases with our opening.

At a bare minimum, facemasks should be mandatory for all, but especially for all service industry workers to protect the citizens of Whitefish and the Flathead Valley.

Bill and Robin Paone
[REDACTED]
Whitefish.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: rebecca patchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Face coverings

Greetings,

I live in Whitefish and when I go out in public places, i.e. grocery store, have noticed most people are not wearing masks, even some of the employees in grocery stores, in the area, are without masks.

The amount of out of state visitors not wearing masks are higher than those that are choosing to wear masks. All out of state visitors, and Montanans as well, should all go home or stay home or wear masks. The spread of covid has risen considerably with the influx of out of state tourists. I wish they would all go home, but if they do not then they should wear masks, which in my opinion shows concern for their fellow humans.

At this time we should all be wearing masks in public to protect ourselves and each other.

It is my feeling that all restaurants and bars should go back to take out/curb side pick up orders only.

Rebecca Patchell

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: hannah plumb [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks in the city of Whitefish

Dear city leaders,

I am writing to voice my unequivocal supports for mandatory mask wearing within any business or facility open to the public. During this critical time that could determine the length and breadth of the COVID-19 virus on our community and world, I feel it is the one responsible response we can have in not being spreaders of this disease. With the overwhelming influx of tourists, this year more than ever it seems, we are vulnerable to people bringing Covid into our community from the places they vacation from.

It also feels imperative that we act responsibly now before we can even consider opening our schools in just a few short weeks.

All of my family lives out east and they have had mandatory mask wearing in all of their communities since Covid was first understood to be passed on through the moisture from our breathing. They are, frankly, in disbelief that we have not followed suit. We have had the luxury of very few covered cases so perhaps we do not feel the impact of it in a way that would navigate our actions. Within the last week, these same communities out east and stated a mandatory mask wearing any time someone walks out of their home. That means in parks, on trails, on the street. I hope we do not have to get to that place because we were proactive now in keeping each other safe in confined places where Covid it is more prevalent.

Thank you for opening up this discussion again and making the right decision to mandate masks.

Sincerely,

Hannah Plumb.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Chris Prew [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Emergency ordinance comment - in support of it

Hello- I support the emergency face mask ordinance for the city of whitefish. I am a resident of WF and my family and I wear masks to protect ourselves and others.

Thanks for you hard work on this!

Chris prew

[REDACTED]
59937

--

Chris Prew

Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ellen Rands [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: In support of a mask mandate

I'm writing on behalf of my entire family to voice support for a city-wide mask mandate. We are a young family in the area, but my husband has underlying health issues that make him part of the group that is most vulnerable to COVID-19. We have been very careful about social distancing, mask wearing and staying home as much as possible to protect him, and have been dismayed by the varied reactions of our fellow townspeople toward these protective measures.

If the virus is going to be with us for some time still, as the experts are all predicting, we are all going to have to adjust to wearing a mask at some point. Social distancing and mask wearing are proving to be the most effective means of controlling the spread of the virus, and controlling the spread of the virus is the only way we will be able to safely reopen businesses and schools on a relatively large scale. If people can't realize that on their own, then I think the city needs to step in and enforce the measures for the good of the larger community.

I have really appreciated the mask mandate instituted by our Whitefish Community Library. For me, with a vulnerable person at home, the library has felt like one of the few safe places for us in Whitefish. I have avoided all other "discretionary" businesses and organizations, and I avoid going into the grocery stores as much as possible because I see so many people not wearing a mask. I believe a mask mandate would actually help local businesses return to normal as people feel more safe in them. I've also appreciated that Costco instituted it's own mask mandate early on. It just makes the right choice simple. When I go to Costco, I don't feel like people are looking at me like one of the "crazy ones", and everyone just knows they have to put on a mask.

We have an opportunity to set aside selfish concerns and come together as a community to protect those who are vulnerable. I will gladly give up my right to go maskless to protect others around me and my own family, just as I gladly embrace speed limits, stoplights and drunk driving laws for the same reasons. This is an extremely minor infringement on personal rights for the overwhelming greater good of our community.

Thank you to the City Council for the work you are doing in leading us through this uncertain time. I appreciate the steps you have taken thus far, and fully support the proposal to institute a mask mandate in Whitefish.

Best regards,
Ellen Rands
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Erin Rankin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask ordinance

Dear Councilors:

I applaud and appreciate your quick reconsideration of leaving mask usage and social distancing as an encouraged option in place of a more resolute ordinance in our community. I argued my point of view in the below email a week ago prior to the last council meeting, so I'll refrain from reiterating the same points at length, but I believe, based on both the most current factual information available from the legitimate scientific community, as well as the successes that other countries have realized in containing the spread, that this is the best course of action to protect our town.

We would all like to safely return to work and school, and wearing masks and social distancing are the simplest tools available to us to make that happen. For those who protest this action as an infringement of their rights, I would counter with the saying, "Your liberty to swing your fist ends just where my nose begins." You are free to do as you like provided your actions do not cause harm to others, and clearly a willful disregard for health recommendations during a pandemic qualifies.

I support the mask/social distancing ordinance, and encourage great clarity when defining what medical conditions warrant exemption, as dissenters will certainly abuse this loophole.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Erin Rankin
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

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From: Erin Rankin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask Requirements

Dear Councilors:

I am a fourth generation Montanan, born and raised in Livingston, Montana, and I have lived in Whitefish for nearly 13 years. I am writing to voice my concerns regarding mask usage, or lack thereof, in our community.

I am requesting the implementation of a mask ordinance or mandate in all public indoor areas, as well as outdoors where social distancing is not possible. While, due to the divisiveness of this issue, it appears that a mandate will not be issued at the statewide level (I've both called and written Governor Bullock's office this week to express my support), that does not preclude Whitefish from extending such measures in our town. We

need not wait for the country or our state to do the right thing - we can set the bar for what is safe and acceptable in our community, and possibly be an example for others to follow.

It is regrettably clear that many, both locals and tourists alike, cannot be trusted to take the responsible path to protect our community of their own volition. Politely encouraging action will undoubtedly fall short. A clear line in the sand rather than an ambiguous ask will better set the tone for the expectations of residents and visitors in our town.

As I was raised in and currently inhabit areas that are both popular gateways to two national parks, I am all too familiar with the importance of tourism on our economy and am concerned about the ramifications a health crisis may have on numerous counts.

The tourists may be here spending for the moment, but I know I am not alone in having significantly curbed my typical local spending/activity due to the prevalence of behavior in our community that is counter to acknowledged safety guidelines. For every individual petulantly refusing to do business where masks are required, I believe there are numerous people like me silently protesting businesses that do not uphold such health standards.

I am concerned for the safety of frontline/essential workers who are entitled to a healthy work environment, but also do not wish for them to manage unwieldy customers. My hope is that a clear and concise directive from our city will protect them from altercations – they will not be alone because Whitefish has their back. This move will not be popular with everyone and, as we've seen across the country, there will be blowback. But, the citizens of Whitefish have shown time and again that we know how to come together, and I think we will rise to the occasion now more than ever.

If cases are permitted to escalate unchecked all summer, how will we fare as the year progresses? Businesses, including the ski resort which is vital to our winter tourism, along with schools were shut down already this spring. We cannot afford to let that happen again, but may not have a choice if we do not take decisive action now. And, then where will our economy be?

Those who protest mask usage have yet to pose a solid counter-argument to wearing one – scientific or constitutional. They embrace a hedonistic and uninformed view that freedom represents their right to do as they please unencumbered when, in reality, freedom tethers us to the burden of being responsible for our conduct with consideration for the well-being of others. Their rights are not more important than yours or mine. Their inconvenience or minor discomfort should not threaten the safety of others who also wish to go about their lives. Their maskless trips to the nail salon, bar, concert, or beach should not rob my children of the right to attend school without risk to their health.

We no longer permit smoking in establishments because it poses a health risk to the public. We require seatbelts and hands-free device usage while driving because not doing so poses a health risk to the public. How is wearing a face covering to protect one another from a viral pandemic any different? We must take the very simple, and hopefully temporary, step to require masks to avoid a health risk to the public.

There is no need for this virus to reach crisis level in Montana before we act. We have the benefit of modeling after the many countries worldwide that are successfully managing, or even halting outbreaks. We should follow the science and be both proactive and responsible in our response.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Erin Rankin

"Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect." – Eleanor Roosevelt

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom." – Bob Dylan

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Produce TSM [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mask ordinance

To Whom This May Concern,

As an employee of a downtown business in Whitefish I encourage the city counsel to pass the ordinance requiring everyone to wear face masks. This should be done out of respect and health concerns for all residents of our community. Thanks for taking the time to deal with this matter. I truly appreciate it.

Respectfully,
-- Vincent Rannazzisi - Grocery Manager

Third Street Market

Produce Department

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED]
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Helene Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:13 AM
To: John Muhlfeld; Michelle Howke
Subject: A mask mandate will lead to fights like this

Is this what you want for Whitefish? People will turn on each other and i dare say businesses will suffer.

<https://youtu.be/RucOliClzhk>

Sent from Helene T. Robinson's iPhone
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Helene Robinson [REDACTED]
Date: July 14, 2020 at 12:38:11 AM MDT
To: jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org, Mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
Subject: Mask or no mask/ Part 2

Hello again,

I understand that there's an emergency meeting about masks.

Please be aware that:

1- Our governor has not mandated wearing of masks full-time

2- One week ago you said it would be revisited in 60 days. Making a change now will kill the credibility of the city council? You will lose trust within your community and Whitefish will be known as a place that can't be trusted.

3 - I ask that you compare real numbers and NOT percentages when you look at MT versus other places. Gov. Cuomo in NYS seems to relish in the case increases in FL, TX and CA yet his state has had **TEN TIMES more DEATHS** than those states! **Increase in cases does not compare to thousands dying.** It's a diversion. Please don't get caught up in cases. MT still has had very few deaths.

4 - Outdoors is the safest place to be. We need the fresh air for our health. Only 6 ft apart is necessary.

5 - I understand that Rebecca was checking businesses for mask wearing. Besides being totally out of line, the question should be, "Are people keeping their distance?" Masks are only needed for close contact conversations of more than 10 min. Shopping in stores does not create those conversations which is why family spread seems to be greater than from tourists locally.

6 - Keep in mind that since the lockdown, Walmart, Walgreens, Safeway, Super1, Lowe's, UPS, the Post Office, etc. did not require masks. People kept their distance and we had few cases.

7- Please treat us like adults. We are not children. **No one wants to get sick. We KNOW what to do!!**

8- My safety info comes from a friend who's husband is advising big companies from meat processing

companies to TV shows in Hollywood on COVID safety for employees. When indoors and close contact, speaking for 10 min or longer, masks should be worn. Casually walking past someone in a store is not a danger. There must be talking, singing, shouting in close contact, even outdoors, for **at least 10 min or more** for a chance spread.

9. Lastly, this is a must read as masks lower the intake of oxygen which weakens immunity making you susceptible to diseases.

Assumption 10: Mask Wearing for Healthy People is Backed by Solid Scientific Evidence

The penultimate assumption for today is the wonderful topic of masks, or face diapers and face nappies as many have started calling them. One of the COVID assumptions that many are still clinging to is that it is 'respectful' to wear masks because masks protect healthy individuals from getting sick from viruses. This is patently false. As covered in the previous article [Unmasking the Truth: Studies Show Dehumanizing Masks Weaken You and Don't Protect You](#), masks are designed for surgeons or people who are already sick, not for healthy people. They stop sick people spreading a disease through large respiratory droplets; they do nothing to protect well people. In fact, they restrict oxygen flow leading to under-oxygenation (hypoxia), which in turns leads to fatigue, weakness and a lower immunity.

With a lower immunity comes ... more susceptibility to disease. As I previously wrote, the masks many people are wearing – homemade from cloth – are a joke if you think they will stop a virus which is measured in nanometers (nanometer = 10^{-9} meters, or 0.000000001 meters). They won't stop a virus but they will assuredly become a hotbed for microbes to develop due to the warm and humid conditions.

For the scientifically minded, here's what Dr. Russell Blaylock had to say: *"The importance of these findings is that a drop in oxygen levels (hypoxia) is associated with an impairment in immunity. Studies have shown that hypoxia can inhibit the type of main immune cells used to fight viral infections called the CD4+ T-lymphocyte. This occurs because the hypoxia increases the level of a compound called hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1), which inhibits T-lymphocytes and stimulates a powerful immune inhibitor cell called the Tregs. This sets the stage for contracting any infection, including COVID-19 and making the consequences of that infection much graver. In essence, your mask may very well put you at an increased risk of infections and if so, having a much worse outcome."**

*From: "11 COVID Assumptions Based on Fear not Fact" by Makia Freeman, July 7, 2020
<https://thefreedomarticles.com/unmasking-the-truth-masks-weaken-dont-protect-you/>

I implore the Council to be sensible and let people control their own lives. Wait the 60 days as put in your resolution just ONE WEEK ago! So far there have not been any serious illness or deaths. There has never been a mask mandate during a bad flu season. People know how to take care of themselves, especially if they are vulnerable.

Respectively,

Helene T. Robinson

[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wayne Saurey Marisa van Lawick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Public comment regarding the use of face coverings in public spaces in Whitefish, Montana

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

To:

Whitefish City Council

From:

Marisa van Lawick
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

RE: Public Comment regarding the use of face coverings in public spaces

I agree with the proposed Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana requiring the use of face coverings in public settings to help prevent the spread of CoVid-19.

In the past several weeks, the City has become inundated with visitors from out of state and area. I would like to see this ordinance passed and a city wide campaign implemented whereas all residents and visitors know exactly what is required and expected when in public spaces in Whitefish. Perhaps the creation of a simple, uniform, accessible "brand" stating the requirement of face coverings can be widely promoted and displayed in such places as the entry to town highway banner, websites such as the Chamber of Commerce, Whitefish Visitor's Bureau, and others, and a template for businesses to print directly from the City's website to post on business and storefront doorways and buildings. A campaign that is plain, simple, direct with minimal verbiage is suggested to help promote, educate, implement, and enforce this ordinance.

Thank you,

Marisa van Lawick

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Emma [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask ordinance

We are living in a pivotal moment in world history. In order to emerge on the right side, the City of Whitefish is obligated to pass an emergency mask ordinance to protect its citizens and their livelihoods. [A review of 172 studies](#) from around the world has shown **"Face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection."**

Besides protecting the lives of our neighbors, we are protecting our economy which is dependent on tourism. As the [front page](#) of the Washington Post noted on Saturday, tourists are flocking to Montana, perhaps encouraged by our relatively low Covid cases. In order to keep these numbers low and to keep our restaurants and businesses open safely, we need a mask ordinance.

As someone who works in a restaurant in Whitefish, I have been experiencing first hand the number of tourists from around the country. Very few patrons wear masks and many of my coworkers and I feel unsafe at work. We wear masks to protect our customers, but nobody is protecting us.

It is said that leadership is about making hard decisions but requiring masks in public spaces is not that hard. More than 120 countries [require](#) masks. Let's make the easy choice.

Emma Sauve
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Niki Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Oppose Mandate

I am writing to express my opposition to the "mask mandate" being considered by the City of Whitefish.

Does the City of Whitefish have access to information that they are not releasing to the public? This proposal would indicate that the level of COVID cases (or risk thereof) in our town is extraordinarily high. Is the Council being motivated by facts or fear? Or is it being bullied into bullying others?

This proposal places an undue burden on local businesses that are already struggling after our extended quarantine. According to this mandate, businesses are now required to "police" customers. Is City Council also willing to provide necessary funding to businesses so that they can complete the requirements of the mandate without losing their business license?

Niki MacLean
[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Patti Scruggs [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please make masks mandatory.
Thank you.
Patti Scruggs

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sara Seed [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comment regarding proposed emergency mask ordinance

Dear City Council,

Thank you for your swift and ongoing attention to this important matter. In the absence of a coherent national strategy to navigate the covid-19 crisis, sound local decision-making is of the utmost importance. I support voluntary wearing of masks in indoor public spaces in Whitefish, and I believe the city's ordinance passed just last week has already resulted positive changes in behavior within city limits. Changing people's behavior and attitude will not happen overnight.

As currently drafted, the emergency ordinance presents a high level of legal/compliance risk for my business. I have obviously not yet had the time to fully assess it, but I would have to strongly consider closing our dining room or reducing service hours for some period of time in order to find a way to be compliant through staffing and operational changes. Given that we are in the height of the summer season, this would be financially detrimental and further threaten the viability of the business.

Specifically, Section 3.c. under exemptions is unclear and would be difficult for staff to enforce. While seated at a table in a restaurant, patrons are not always necessarily consuming food the entire time. In addition, there is potential that wearing masks while cooking in a fast paced environment such as ours presents a safety risk. While wearing masks at our restaurant, staff have reported that depth perception is altered - which is dangerous while using knives, and staff have reported difficulty breathing and/or overheating while working over hot cooking surfaces. It seems like Section 3.e. under the exemptions perhaps seeks to provide some leeway on this, but I'm not sure how insurers or courts would view it.

Again, I appreciate all of your attention to this matter. I support your continued consideration of the mask mandate as conditions change. You all have access to more information than I do, and I trust your judgement. However, at this time, please accept my reservations against the emergency ordinance as written.

Kind regards,

Sara

Sara Seed
Owner
[Amazing Crepes & Catering](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Terri Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Michelle, I'd like to add my voice to others who support a requirement for masks in Whitefish. Same as last week!

Thank you.

Terri Smith
Whitefish, MT
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Suzi Stagg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes! Masks please!

Hello.

I just saw news of the emergency meeting. I hope I'm not too late to have my email counted in support of the ordinance. This is about keeping people safe, not politics. I'm hoping that wearing masks now will help flatten the curve enough so that kids can return full time to school in the fall.

Thank you.

Suzi Stagg

[REDACTED]
Whitefish
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Steve Sutherland [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Yes to requiring masks

I fully support the City Council passing the emergency ordinance requiring people to wear masks in public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Steve Sutherland
Whitefish resident
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angela Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: FW: Mandatory Mask? NO WAY

Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
418 East Second Street/PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
Ph: 406-863-2444
ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org



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From: Brian D Szady [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Angela Jacobs <ajacobs@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mandatory Mask? NO WAY

Local government gone bad - do NOT require masks - you people are getting power hungry, self important, and frankly a bunch of sad managers

Provide information to residents...we ARE smart and can make our own decisions

brian szady
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: triweilerc [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Please share with the city council members

To our council members,

I, too, have watched with dismay this last week has many many people in town continue to refuse the simple courtesy of wearing a mask while in our town.

I have seen bars and restaurants filled to overflowing last weekend. My children have shown me pictures on social media of young people in our downtown ignoring all CDC guidelines.

Before we have an outbreak like California or the South I hope you will consider severely curtailing bars and restaurants from packing people in without protective mask or defined social distancing.

My husband and I were not able to attend last week's meeting. I want to applaud you for your efforts. You have a very difficult job, and the mayor and each of you handled the situation professionally and with grace. Good luck as you try to keep our town safe for those of us who live here.

CarolTrieweiler

[REDACTED]
WHITEFISH

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Madison [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: I do not support Mandatory masks

Hi,

I have lived in whitefish for 20 years. I think you guys have done a great job managing a difficult situation in the midst of COVID-19. But if you were to decide to make masks mandatory now it would deplete your good will.

Madison Wambeke

Sent from my iPhone

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Tom Wambeke [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: I do not support mandatory masks

To whom it may concern,
I have lived in whitefish for 20 years. I think you guys have done a great job managing a difficult situation in the midst of COVID-19. But if you were to decide to make masks mandatory now it would deplete your good will.

Tom Wambeke

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rachel Wambeke [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No Mandatory Masks

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for meeting this morning to consider the health of the citizens of Whitefish. As a private music teacher, I believe a mandate for masks would squelch the development of my local students. With masks on, it will be extremely difficult to work effectively with my vocal students. Also, I believe a mandate infringes on my right to choose my own health care. Please consider our freedom as you vote today. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachel Wambeke

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Dan Weinberg [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

It's easy: Don't be selfish and stupid. Wear a damn mask.

Dan Weinberg
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jean Weiskotten [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: masks

Dear City Manager Dana Smith, Mayor Muhlfeld and members of the Whitefish City Council,

Thank you for your timely updates and for the great job you are all doing.

COVID-19 infections have risen dramatically, especially since mid-June in Montana. Here in the Flathead we just experienced 8 new cases overnight (7/13), including at least two, in Whitefish.

While your resolution requesting people to wear face masks is a step in the right direction, it is insufficient to stem the rate of infections, especially considering the coming wave of tourists entering our community.

Please make mask wearing mandatory immediately, in all places of business in Whitefish. With the possibility of a fine or community service as enforcement.

Sincerely

Jean Weiskotten

[REDACTED], Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Marjorie Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: mandatory mask

Yes, I think Whitefish should enforce mandatory masks until Covid-19 is under control. Let's once again set a good example of doing the right thing.

Thank you,
Marjorie Wilson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Brian Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory Masks

I urge the council to require masks in WF. I thank them in advance for caring.
No shoes, no service; no shirt, no service; and now, hopefully, no mask no service.

Brian Wood
WF
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wright, Vita <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: emergency mask ordinance

Good Morning,

I'm writing in support of the emergency mask ordinance in Whitefish. I laid out much of my reasoning in my statements during the July 6th public hearing on the mask resolution. I have felt, since then, that the resolution isn't strong enough and I haven't noticed a difference in town since it was passed.

In the ordinance, please define what a mask is, as Missoula did in their ordinance/order. This included that masks with valves do not count because they don't prevent airflow from the person wearing the mask. It also includes that a mask must cover the nose.

I urge you to consider stronger wording about masks being mandatory on the sidewalks downtown, especially during busy times of day/night. The sidewalks downtown are very crowded and it can be difficult to impossible to avoid people.

Farmers market in particular needs a mask ordinance, as well as any other markets or shows (e.g. the recent art show) in Depot Park.

Thanks very much for taking action with the rising number of cases in the county and in the state, including those from out of state who have tested positive but are not included in the county counts. As I'm sure you're aware, the cities and states that have not acted early are suffering from covid-19.

I feel safer knowing that the city council is being so diligent.

Sincerely,

/s/ Vita Wright

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: 406 Stefan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No Masks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

A man should not be forced to wear a mask in his own town.
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ruth Ackroyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:45 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Wearing Masks for the common good

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Michelle,

We watched the meeting last evening which was most disturbing and want to share our gratitude with members of the Whitefish City Council for their decision on wearing masks for the common welfare. Having lived and worked in the Flathead Valley since 1994, I am 77 yrs. old and my husband 80 yrs. old and we too care about our community and the public health and well being of every Whitefish resident and visitors to our community and that is why we will wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, use disinfectant wipes and socially distance in public places to protect one another during this very real global pandemic. We have been in the epicenter of COVID-19 in New Jersey and it is our sincere hope that Montana will not experience the spread of the coronavirus we have witnessed.

Please be safe and healthy.

David and Ruth Ackroyd

[REDACTED] Whitefish MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Angie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: No mask!!!

I am a resident of the Flathead valley and I do not agree with mandating the wearing of masks! Please vote against such measures as it would deny personal freedoms and stop me from visiting Whitefish businesses.

Angie Pickering

[REDACTED]
Kalispell, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:08 PM
To: 'Richard Atkinson'
Subject: RE: Masks!

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Atkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks!

To the City Council and our Honorable Mayor,

Please consider an emergency ordinance to require people in public spaces to wear masks. We as long term Whitefish residents have worked too long and too hard to be healthy and safe during this pandemic. We want to stay that way. Thank you,

Carol & Richard Atkinson
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Amy Atwood [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Requiring masks in Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I feel it is very important to express my views on this subject. I am strongly against making mask wearing mandatory at all times in Whitefish under threats of penalties if you don't comply. It should be everyone's personal decision whether or not to wear a mask while being present in Whitefish.

While private businesses should be allowed to decide for themselves how to handle this issue with their customers entering confined areas, an entire city should not! As residents of this area, we should be free to make our own decision and not be told by the large out of state number of people moving here to tell us what to do! They move to our states because they don't like the way their own state is being run, just to come here to complain and tell us what we need to do! We have individual rights not to be told that we are required to put something on our face at all times.

By the way, good luck trying to enforce this issue. The city can't even deal with all the people driving around on their cell phones.

Thank you for your time,
Amy

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rc Beall [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: To mask or not to mask ..

Hi to you all :
from Rc & Beth Beall

You need to take responsibility and establish a mandatory Mask mandate for Whitefish.

The health of our staff, family & our community is of the highest priority..

Coffee Traders & other local businesses can not afford a business shutdown..

The few upset people about mandatory masks doesn't begin to compare with the economic impact of a community quarantine business shut down.

People are coming from everywhere and when the virus comes to the valley this summer season .. it's better to be safe than being really sorry,

We are in our 2nd spike of the virus here in Austin .. it is due to people gathering & not wearing masks ... there will be serious business failures with this second semi quarantine happening ..

no masks is not good ..

Here is a great review on
mask on ... mask off

https://www.khq.com/news/khq-investigates-how-effective-is-a-mask/video_e308a1e8-b74f-11ea-ac6d-878bd6f54032

Thanks !
Rc & Beth Beall
Coffee Traders
Roasting Great Coffees since 1981

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:08 PM
To: 'Stewart Cardon'
Subject: RE: Mask in Whitefish Please

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Stewart Cardon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask in Whitefish Please

Hi,

I'm Stewart Cardon at 137 Little Creek Lane.

I'm am strongly in favor of wearing mast in public.

Using the best science to do business is better than doing no business at all. The science deniers are being mislead for unknown reasons, so we can't cow to their whims. Sometimes you have to make people do what is good for them. Just like eating your vegetables.

Please do the best that you can to enforce this policy.

Thank you.

Stewart Cardon
Architect

Michelle Howke

From: jena cenis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

Please note that as a citizen of the valley I strongly disagree the idea of implementing mask wearing throughout whitefish. My children and I come to whitefish almost daily and will be disappointed to not be able to if this moves forward. There is no proof showing masks preventing the spread of Covid, actually data as of late proves quite the opposite.

Please take this into consideration before making a decision that the majority of the citizens are not in favor for.

Thank you,
Jena Cenis

Sent from my iPhone
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: amy chisholm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Comments in support of local mask ordinance

Hello, City Council Members --

I recently heard that the City is contemplating the institution of a local mask-wearing ordinance. Please know that I, like many other community members, am strongly IN FAVOR of such a step. We are no way near getting this pandemic under control, and we have people coming in from all parts of the country, many of whom are likely bringing the virus with them. PLEASE institute this directive in order to keep our community safe and allow us to all the sooner get back to life as we once knew it!

Thank you so much for your service!

Best,
ABC

Amy Beth Chisholm, BA, BM, MM
Performance & Teaching
[REDACTED]

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Connie Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: covid 19

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Michele
I am Connie Cohen, [REDACTED] in Whitefish.
[REDACTED]

If I wear a mask it protects others from me. If they do not wear a mask, I am exposed to their spray, even if I wear a mask.

I would feel safer if people wore masks at the Farmers Market and inside stores.

I feel safe walking on the street out in the air where it is not crowded, or anywhere outside that people are spread out. I have a mask with me at all times outside, and raise it if I am going to be closer than 6'.

I do not feel safe in a line without face masks, even if six feet apart. We move into the space where someone else has been a second ago.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:05 PM
To: 'Donna'
Subject: RE: Masks

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks

I am strongly in favor of a mandated resolution. I find the population is fairly good at wearing masks but resent the local businesses that do not mandate masks for their employees...after all, the employees are exposed to many more people during a day than the average citizen. Toggery is an example. Super One. Bradfords.

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Donna
Subject: RE: Masks, arts festival

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks, arts festival

I am baffled by the decision to allow the arts fair this weekend. It seems exactly the opposite kind of behavior the city should be advocating.

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: David Dunn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:40 PM
To: John Muhlfeld; Michelle Howke
Subject: mandatory facemasks

Please stop acting like Missoula. The mask is an illusion of safety and has become a political statement. 99.5% of people recover from this virus. The more crazy things y'all do the more I'll just drive to Kalispell instead of WF. BTW the singling out of Annie Bukacek for reading CDC protocol was pathetic as well, I mean really pathetic. Stick to what you are good at, you're not the legislature.

David Dunn
House District 9 (Evergreen & NE Kalispell)
[REDACTED]

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Janet Frazier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

We all should be wearing masks in indoor businesses Period! I wish we could just mandate masks for tourists causing Montana is up 50% of confirmed viruses, but if we all have to wear them so be it. Thanks 🙏
Opinion from an RN Janet Frazier

Sent from my iPad
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Lisa Giles - L. Giles and Co. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Use of masks

City Council,

I would like to be counted as an “against” vote for a mandatory mask ruling.

There is ever changing info regarding the effectiveness of masks and quite honestly we need to draw a line at the government control over our ability to make our own informed decisions.

If an employee of a business wants to wear a mask that should be allowed but by no means should it be required for employees or customers. All people should be given the freedom to choose their level of protection.

Lisa Giles
Beaver Lake Road, Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mary Gold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:37 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

Our country is a Republic and founded on individual liberty. Forcing people to wear a face mask is against what our country stands for - it is not lawful or Constitutional. There is no proof that wearing a face mask is helpful for countering Coronavirus. The chances of even contracting Covid19 in Montana is .001 percent based on a test that has false positives. The death rate of supposed Covid19 in Montana is .0002 percent. Wearing a face mask can actually be detrimental to a person health because it doesn't allow a person to have fresh air and also activates viruses inside the body that are dormant. I am very disappointed and embarrassed that such an idea as required face mask wearing is being considered for the city of Whitefish. If people want to wear a face mask that is their right. My right to fresh air is equally as important. Ben Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." Please do not pass required face masks in Whitefish, Montana. My family and I will not shop in Whitefish if masks are required.

It's my body my choice!

Mary Gold LMT NMT CBP

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jerry Hougen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mandatory masks

Dear Whitefish,

If you insist on making masks in Whitefish mandatory, a completely useless mandate aimed more at controlling people than at keeping them safe, count on us never spending another dime there. If safety is your concern, research the damage that wearing masks will actually do!

Jerry Hougen
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Alice Infelise <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Whitefish Mask Ordinance/Resolution

Dear Michelle,

I read with great interest the article in the Daily Interlake this morning regarding the city council taking public opinion on the subject of mask wearing. The paper went on to give quotes from letters written to the council by some Whitefish residents. All of them were extremely biased on the pro side.

A government is supposed to represent all people and the paper is supposed to report. Instead, the opinions given to them by the council is not a fair representation. I know many more people besides myself wrote against mask wearing and gave very plausible reasons why, yet the article was clearly meant to formulate and manipulate public opinion. That is not truth in reporting and not truth in the council representing the constituents. Surely you can do better. It appears that you have already made up your minds, so why go through the motions of involving the public? Is this just to make you look politically correct?

Sincerely,
Alice Infelise

On Sunday, July 5, 2020, 06:00:26 PM MDT, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Alice Infelise [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Whitefish Mask Ordinance/Resolution

I am writing this to be submitted to the city council meeting on Monday, July 7. I urge you to do your part to make sure that mask-wearing is voluntary, not mandatory in our communities.

Many jurisdictions are basing their face mask policies on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has flip-flopped its position on face coverings several times since March but is now recommending that everyone wear a mask in public. This recommendation is not supported by strong empirical evidence. Though there is science to support mask-wearing, there's also a preponderance of science showing that masks can cause considerable harm and are ineffective in preventing the spread of coronavirus. There is also no science supporting the use of masks by healthy individuals. So emergency orders that are being issued to help protect public health are actually hurting individuals' physical and emotional well being — and violating their basic human rights, constitutional rights and religious rights.

I am an 80 year old woman and I would never dream of expecting someone to be responsible for my health. That is my responsibility and mine alone. However, I do not think that it is a good idea to breathe my own waste and reduce my oxygen intake. That is one of the problems with this "disease".

This pandemic panic is being manipulated by politicians who want to control us with fear, news media who are raking in the millions in ads, and doctors and hospitals who are fleecing insurance companies by listing most deaths as covid related.

Evidence that masks reduce the transmission of viral respiratory infections within community settings is equivocal at best. A recent meta-analysis (bit.ly/2VHaubd) that included nearly a dozen randomized, controlled trials and 10 observational studies found that there was no clear clinical or laboratory-confirmed evidence that masks prevent infection. Even the U.S. Surgeon General has noted that masks “are not effective in preventing the general public from catching the coronavirus.” (bit.ly/31Dgdm5)

In terms of harm, studies show that wearing a face covering reduces blood and tissue oxygenation — which can be deadly — while increasing carbon dioxide levels. The use of masks can also increase the risk of infection and the spread of viral illness (particularly cloth masks), hinder detoxification that occurs through exhalation, impair the immune system, and cause a wide range of other physical and psychological issues. (bit.ly/31Epv1e). Moreover, some masks have been found to contain known carcinogens, which put people at risk from inhaling toxic chemicals and having them come into contact with their skin. Nearly all fabrics except organic cotton are manufactured using carcinogenic chemicals and now some people think its a good idea to breathe them.

There is no science to support the use of masks by healthy individuals, and the World Health Organization backed this up when it said, “WHO stands by recommendations to not wear masks if you are not sick or caring for someone who is sick.” Forcing healthy individuals to wear face coverings is a completely unnecessary intervention that dehumanizes their interactions with others. More important, it eliminates their right to make informed decisions about what risks and precautions they are willing to take.

It is unethical and unconstitutional to subject healthy, law-abiding citizens to measures that can result in physical and emotional harm and that impinge on their ability to move freely throughout society. For those with deeply held religious beliefs, mask mandates violate their ability to abide by natural law and follow their convictions to walk in faith, not fear. As such, the decision to wear a mask is a highly personal one and should not be universally mandated; measures that are meant to protect the community as a whole are not effective if they hurt individuals in that community.

Mandatory medicine and mandated interventions such as social distancing and mask-wearing have no place in a free society; citizens want to maintain the right to make responsible decisions about what is best for themselves and their children based on their own unique circumstances. I urge you to do the right thing, stand for choice and protect all individuals by encouraging — not mandating — the use of face masks in the community. This policy can be bolstered by asking at-risk populations and those who are sick to self-quarantine, with society taking the best care of them possible.

Thank you for your continued leadership during these unprecedented times and for upholding the health and the right to make our own responsible choices.

Sincerely,

Alice Infelise



Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:50 PM
To: kathleen johnson
Subject: RE: Mandatory masks if you want to lose our business

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: kathleen johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mandatory masks if you want to lose our business

Dear Whitefish,

If you insist on making masks in Whitefish mandatory, a completely useless mandate aimed more at controlling people than at keeping them safe, count on us never spending another dime there. If safety is your concern, research the damage that wearing masks will actually do!

By the way, your tactics against Dr Annie Bukacek was outrageous, and slanderous! I trust you already heard that.

Kathleen Johnson
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:59 PM
To: 'Ann Jones'
Subject: RE: Masks in Whitefish public-yes!

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Ann Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks in Whitefish public-yes!

I am scared to go into my own city right now! The influx of people who are ignoring the danger to me and endangering the economy and vitality of our town in spreading the coronavirus by not social distancing and in particular not wearing masks is alarming! Whitefish did a great job in flattening the curve initially but let's continue to be proactive and not let the virus get out of hand here like it has done in other parts of the country.

People came here because we did a good job in keeping the numbers down and people healthy. They will not come if the whole area is shut down because everyone is sick. But they will continue to come even if masks are the norm because they love Whitefish.

I highly support the Whitefish mask resolution but encourage it to be more than a recommendation-I prefer a mandate. Allow shopkeepers to refuse service-"no mask, no service" and give them the backing to have that enforced. Thank you. Please keep us safe.

Ann Jones

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, Mt 59937
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Ann Jones
Subject: RE: Mandatory masks

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Ann Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mandatory masks

We are encouraged that the City of Whitefish is considering further the safety of their residents and businesses as well as slowing the spread of Covid 19 through mask usage. We support any resolution which encourages mask use but we think the City falls short if they just encourage and not mandate use in public settings. Obviously they are already encouraged by the CDC and people do not wear them. The recent letter by Terry and Carol Trierweiler, Whitefish Pilot July 1, 2020 is well founded (with the exception that the number of Covid 19 cases since it was published have alarmingly increased here since!) and we believe the City should follow their logic and recommendation to make masks mandatory while in Whitefish public settings.

Sincerely,

William Jones

[REDACTED]
Whitefish MT 59937
[REDACTED]

Michelle Howke

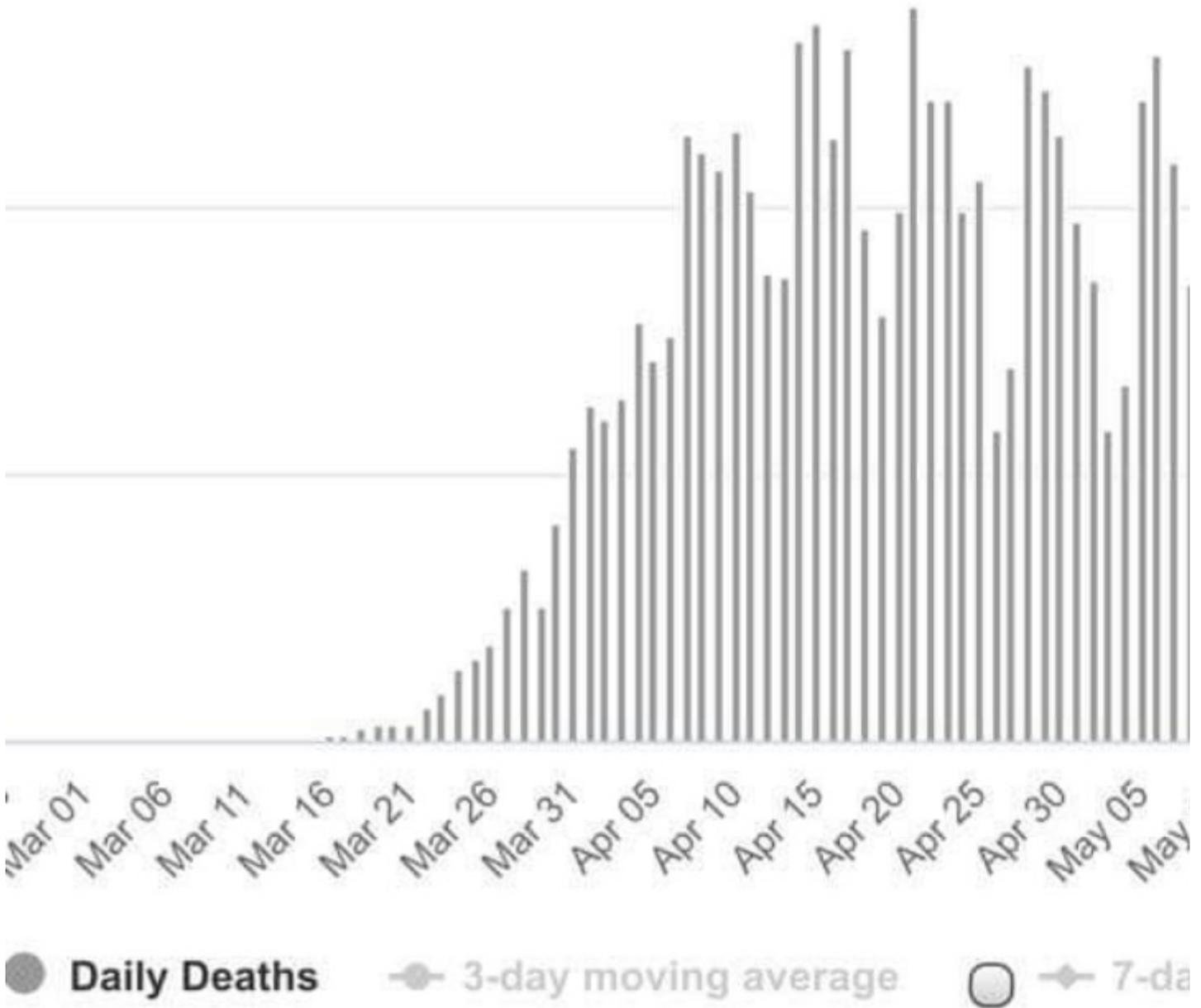
From: KIRKENDALL, MATTHEW [VISUS] [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO Mask Mandates for Whitefish, Montana

Dear City Clerk and City Council,

We are an active, healthy, community involved family raising our children and working for over two decades in research and engineering in the medical field analyzing clinical data and releasing new products to save patients lives. As the governor has stated many times, Montanans are a smart, highly responsible groups of citizens who take health and community seriously. It would be such a slap in the face to have local government decide that we can no longer enter restaurants, shop at stores, or walk down the sidewalk without masking our faces and our young children (which has been recently found to be dangerous to children health). We constantly strive toward health as a high priority in our family. In addition, last week was the lowest fatality rate in the nation in two months. The sole reason for new alarm is due to inaccurate media reporting and excessive testing to simply gather more data to track the virus.

Daily Deaths

Deaths per Day
Data as of 0:00 GMT+8



I have done a bit of research using studies, RCT trials, and scientific literature reviews on mask efficacy, linked below.

Unfortunately it is not protective to wear masks and actually subverts the stated health goal of protecting yourself or those around you.

When I read the research I discovered that masks don't work for this because they do not block viral particles (97% viral particle penetration in a RCT), they increase risk of self contamination from pathogens on the outside and inside of the mask, they increase risk of community spread due to pathogens on outside of mask/touching surfaces, and they decrease Oxygen intake and increase CO2 consumption.

Everyone needs to make their own informed decision, but the literature doesn't support masking in the community setting. See a few sources listed below:

Small sample size but COVID found on outside of cloth masks, risking community spread when touching/readjusting
<https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2764367/effectiveness-surgical-cotton-masks-blocking-sars-cov-2-controlled-comparison>

Scientific Literature review masks ineffective

https://www.oralhealthgroup.com/features/face-masks-dont-work-revealing-review/?fbclid=IwAR2p3HA7VORTvFd5bQ2yZ2SQPlzXhVG0HZHTQokZwadc9yJTKcPoBp_DLk0

RCT trial cloth masks allowed 97% of viral particles to pass and INCREASED infection from self contamination

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/pdf/bmjopen-2014-006577.pdf>

Decreased o2 n95

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00173017>

Decreased blood oxygen levels in surgeons in surgical masks

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>

Who guidance that there is no evidence in literature of effectiveness of community masking

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)

Harmful to health literature review

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/?print=pdf>

New England Journal of Medicine:

"We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection." <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>

CAL-OSHA Regulations: "Cloth face coverings do not protect against COVID -19"

<https://dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Logistics.pdf>

"Face coverings may increase risk if users reduce their use of strong defenses."

"There is limited evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission." <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>

FDA - "Even a properly fitted N95 mask does not prevent illness or

death" <https://web.archive.org/web/20200516235249/https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

Neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock :

"There is no scientific evidence that masks are effective. If you are not sick, you should not wear a face mask." <https://technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/>

Columbia University: Psychological Harms of Face Masks:

"Many young children burst into tears or recoil when someone wearing a mask approaches. By putting on masks, we take away information that makes it especially difficult for children to recognize others and read emotional signals, which is unsettling and disconcerting." https://www.cugmhp.org/five-on-friday/why-a-mask-is-not-just-a-mask/?fbclid=IwAR1_h_ykyuIOzQ9WqA_u_muupA8D8UwOgvnhlwcjOlw_CReHuKSPpmy2wC4

US Surgeon General Jerome Adams:

"Masks are not effective in preventing the general public from catching coronavirus." https://twitter.com/Surgeon_General/status/1233725785283932160

WHO, Dr. Mike Ryan:

"There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there's some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly." <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/world/coronavirus-who-masks-recommendation-trnd/index.html>

US Department of Labor — OSHA:

"Oxygen deficient is any atmosphere that contains less than 19.5%." This happens when the oxygen is displaced by inert gas such as CARBON DIOXIDE and is the leading cause of FATALITIES." <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/shipyard/shiprepair/confinedspace/oxygendeficient.html>

Another article that is basically a literature review

<https://www.professorhinkley.com/blog/sorry-oregon-your-mask-is-useless-according-to-the-science>

https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/08/asymptomatic-coronavirus-patients-arent-spreading-new-infections-who-says.html?_source=sharebar%7Cfacebook&par=sharebar

Asymptomatic carriers not a risk for illness spread...

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32405162>

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing these links and considering the actual data that shows that Montana is doing very very well in surviving the virus that has drastically weakened across the nation in cities and more populated areas. In fact, according to the CDC data, our chances of surviving covid are now 99.8% as a worse case.

Thank you again,

Matt Kirkendall

Whitefish, Montana Resident [REDACTED]
Global Engineering Director Medical Device

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sallie Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

I understand Whitefish is considering a mask mandate. If you do, my family and visitor's will not be shopping there.

S. Larson

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: erica (lorenzen) lengacher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Ordinance

Hello!

I want to weigh in to support the passing of a mask ordinance in the city of Whitefish. As an ICU nurse at KRMC who is regularly tasked with caring for COVID patients, I am alarmed at the apparent disregard for public safety throughout the Flathead Valley. While I appreciate the intention to leave mask-wearing as a recommendation, I hope that the city will provide strong leadership to protect our frontline workers and the public health. A recommendation leaves businesses in a tricky position, whereas a mandate would strengthen the support to require all patrons (and employees) to wear masks. I firmly believe that if we have a critical mass of mask-wearers, the vast majority of visitors would simply follow suit. I recognize that enforcement is a sticky issue and I have no easy answers, however, it appears that in places in which a mask mandate has been put into effect, compliance is quite high, regardless of enforcement efforts.

Many thanks for your careful consideration of this important issue.

All the best,
Erica Lengacher
Armory Road
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Ashley Lohr [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask mandate

Please vote for a mandate to wear masks in Whitefish for the remainder of the summer. I love this community and it is a simple way to protect it and all of our residents.

I wish the mandate was not necessary. However it's been proven effective if all people wear them and that is not the case in Whitefish. From being out and about as tourists have flocked here and cases are rising I would estimate 90% of people do not wear masks and this is unacceptable

Please protect us all by voting for the mask mandate

Thank you

Ashley Lohr
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Family-PC
Subject: RE: Adopting a policy on masks

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php>, you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Family-PC [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:48 PM
To: John Muhlfeld <jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org>; Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Adopting a policy on masks

To Whom it may concern,

With regards to adopting a policy on the wearing of masks. Please don't do this, the City of Whitefish businesses are still trying to recover from being shut down. We know for a fact that there are a lot (hundreds) of people boycotting

Costco, and have been for months due to their mandatory policy of wearing face masks (I know I have relatives that work

there). People do not want their personal freedom (choices) taken away from them!!! So the one way that they will show

their disapproval of this mandate is to take their business elsewhere (on line, other towns). You will effectively shut down

businesses again, (with some of them NOT being able to withstand yet another crisis - put them out of business for good)!!!

Please use common sense , those that are sick, or vulnerable should stay home or wear masks!!! People have a right to decide for

themselves what they want to do for themselves and their families!!!!

Thank you for your time, we await your decision,

Lyn

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Matt MacBradaigh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: NO to "mandatory" public masks.

This is America. This is Montana. We aren't serfs or slaves.

Cloth masks are approximately 1% effective against viruses, unless they are properly fitted -and- properly worn N95 masks, which almost no one wears, and even less have fitted *and* wear correctly. In addition, *every* mask including N95s increases risk of contamination from increased touching of the face.

That's science. There are multiple peer-reviewed articles on this topic.

Wearing a mask is a useless, feel-good, superstition, like throwing a pinch of salt over your shoulder and believing it makes you magically safe.

It's my public, just like everyone else's. No one has the right to force anyone else wear anything. If any person is "uncomfortable" they can stay home, they can wear a mask (that supposedly protects them).

NO to mandatory face masks.

Matt MacBradaigh
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:58 PM
To: 'Julie Martin'
Subject: RE: Mask requirement

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Julie Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask requirement

Dear Whitefish City Council,

My husband Steve & I are asking that you not pass a mandatory mask requirement in Whitefish. I have been a RN for over 29 years & am well-versed in the way masks are supposed to be worn, as well as their limitations. The only marginally effective mask is an N95, that is specifically fitted for each individual. Not only are the vast majority of masks worn ineffective, they are also contraindicated in certain medical conditions. Most of all, they inordinately discriminate against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, that rely on reading lips and/or a non-muffled voice for basic communication.

We truly hope you will keep these facts in mind as you consider this ruling. Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve & Julie Martin
Kalispell
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:57 PM
To: 'Mark Morgan'
Subject: RE: Mask ordinance

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Morgan [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask ordinance

I'm writing to strongly encourage the city to implement a mandatory mask ordinance. The influx of visitors, whom we do depend on for economic reasons, is guaranteed to bring an influx of Coronavirus as well, and we need to tamp down the spread as well as we can.

Thank you!

Mark Morgan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:00 PM
To: 'David Marx'
Subject: RE: Mask Resolution

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php>, you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: David Marx [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask Resolution

Dear Whitefish City Council,

I am writing today to thank you for your solid leadership so far during the Covid crisis. The short term rental ban, and lockdown, back in April were excellent decisions.

Now it is clearly time to make mask wearing in public a legal requirement within our city limits. Those who refuse to comply with a mask mandate should be fined since they are a public health hazard and we will need the money to help mitigate the harm that they might cause to the larger community. Businesses that refuse to comply should be fined or have their license suspended.

I know that these seem like strong words but we are facing a public health emergency unlike anything else in the past one hundred years. Now is the time for our city to take strong action and to again be a model of good judgement throughout the valley.

Thank you for seeking citizen input on this important issue.

David Marx

[REDACTED]

Whitefish, MT 59937

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: ken mcfadden [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: follow up on 7/6 meeting

I watched meeting of 7/6 and was astounded by degree of resistance and negative or bad information you recieved for even recommending masks. Wow the council is not paid enough. 3 comments:

1. The common meme that masking will destroy our immune systems is beyond ludicrous. To some extent we do build up antibodies to bacteria and viruses after exposure. The "memory" of those exposures then stays with us for most of our lives, whether we are exposed later or not. Second or later exposures generally Boost our memory and responses. (funny how some of the people who might say masks are bad would also say immunizations are bad.) Wearing masks when out will do nothing to harm the immune system. Note doctors and nurses spen a large part of their professional lives behind a mask and seem to have immune systems that work just fine.

2. Virtually all the questions about the effectiveness of masks deal with their ability to protect the wearer from infection which can vary based on fit, material, how its worn, etc. There is an overwhelming amount of increasing data that shows masks-yes even simple cotton masks and surgical masks work by making the wearer much less likely TO INFECT OTHERS. I appreciate Ms Owens being willing to isolate if she or her family have symptoms, yet we now know that the majority of transmission occurs in the 2 to 5 days when infected patients are actively shedding large viral loads yet have not developed symptoms.

3. Hearing Gerlinda Water's comments led me to check out the facts of the Austrian experience. It is quite informing. Austria identified active Covid 19 in their country in late february and progressively mandated early and increasingly more restrictive measures including masking. Because of their "rigid" control measures, they have enjoyed a very low mortality rate, are "opening up" and are one of the worlds true success stories as to how distancing plus masks and testing can control and limit the the pandemic. It is striking how they are doing with opening up as compared to our southern states!!

Good luck, you all do deserve a pay raise. Dr. Ken Mcfadden

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Conny Miersma [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:34 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mandatory Masks is Important

We fell, our Responsibility as a societal.
It is a simple and active way to do and fight the spread of the virus.
Very much appreciate, if The City takes important consideration of this.
Thank you and God Bless,
Larry and Conny Miersma
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: John Noyes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Masks

The resolution is a start, however without the word “must” wear a mask, allows for the continued personal choice, in most situations. Hopefully the councils intent will encourage merchants to demand mask wearing upon entering businesses. The crowded sidewalks of downtown remain an issue and a potential for spread.

A special thank you to Rebecca Norton for her dedication to adhering to science, and her service on the council.

Time will tell.

Hope Noyes
[REDACTED]
Whitefish

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 5, 2020, at 6:37 PM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

>

> Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying Clean, Careful, and Connected.

- > • Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- > • Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- > • Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Michelle Howke
> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd
> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
> 406-863-2402

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: John Noyes [REDACTED]
> Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 7:43 AM
> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
> Subject: Masks

>

> Why would the city of Whitefish NOT make mask wearing mandatory? Protecting our citizens and the visitors is the right thing to do and the ONLY thing to do! Issue the order. Claiming “Love Lives Here” would demonstrate the validity by wearing masks. Love for one another, love for town, love for state, love for country. It’s a no brainer, just do it.

>

> Hope Noyes

> [REDACTED]

> Whitefish

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

> EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: peaches [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Mask mandate

OK. So I guess you have no way of differentiating between tourists not wearing masks and locals. The tourists are not going to even listen to this... They are here for a weekend. They have nothing to lose if they don't wear a mask. Why would they care if this becomes mandatory with fines? This is just absolutely outrageous...

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 8, 2020, at 11:52 AM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your questions. Whitefish Convention and Visitors Bureau has created a page on their website titled Whitefish COVID Cares; <https://explorewhitefish.com/entries/whitefish-covid-cares/3df4b25b-994a-4991-832b-7347ec5ce4f4> . This page is kept up to date with information for visitors and the businesses. Posters have been created for businesses to post in their windows (attached). We have also reached out to the Chamber of Commerce to help inform our visitors and a Public Service Announcement was sent to all media.

>

> As it states in the Resolution, it is in the best interests of the City of Whitefish and its inhabitants to strongly encourage residents and visitors to use masks or cloth face coverings in public to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

>

> Thank you for doing your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying clean, careful and connected.

>

> Michelle Howke

> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd

> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

> 406-863-2402

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: peaches99206 [REDACTED]

> Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:08 PM

> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

> Subject: Re: Mask mandate

>

> I see that the resolution did unfortunately pass. How are you going to inform all of the tourists coming to this town about this? I see that if it is not followed then it will become mandatory... How are you going to differentiate between tourists not following it and locals not following it? I hope you guys have a very good system for informing everybody about this.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Jul 6, 2020, at 1:20 PM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>>

>> Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ> .

>>

>> Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying Clean, Careful, and Connected.

>> • Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.

>> • Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.

>> • Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com .

>>

>> Thank you

>>

>> Michelle Howke

>> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd

>> Street Whitefish, MT 59937 mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

>> 406-863-2402

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: peaches99206@

>> Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:59 PM

>> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

>> Subject: Mask mandate

>>

>> Hi there.

>>

>> I am against any mandates for masks. Please reconsider this proposal. The reason the cases have been increased is because the testing numbers have been increased. If you do implement this how are you going to inform all the tourists of this rule? Most tourists don't look up city ordinances before they come to town. I'd also like to know how this is going to be enforced. As far as I know policemen cannot charge someone with a crime without a law code. What will the punishment be? Also how long will this be in effect? There should be an end date as well. In all reality though, this should not even be implemented in the first place... Is your responsibility to be sure that every single thing I addressed is laid out before this is put into affect.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

>

> EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT <Wear a Mask

> Poster_Protect COLOR_V2.pdf> <Wear a Mask Posters-MASTER

> Color_Together_V2.pdf> <PSA Res 20-18; Encouraging use of masks.pdf>

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Julie Perchy; John Muhlfeld
Cc: Jere Perchy 
Subject: RE: Resolution No.20 Vote NO to face masks

July,

Thank you for your comments. You had mentioned at the meeting you didn't know if your email was received because you did not receive a response. After searching all 528 emails I received between July 1st and July 6th, I did not see your email. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner.

The letter you handed to me Monday night is included in the packet on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments from below to the City Council.

To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php>, you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Julie Perchy  >
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:29 PM
To: John Muhlfeld <jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org>; Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Cc: Jere Perchy  <jperchy@nextrnd.com>
Subject: Resolution No.20 Vote NO to face masks

Dear Mayor and City Council,

This is in response to the proposed Resolution No.20 that you will be discussing July 6,2020.

Vote NO on this Resolution; it is not in the best interests of our community and society. If Resolution No.20 passes it will cause a division in our city; pitting neighbor against neighbor.

You have created an echo chamber and you are not representing all of your constituents, but the select few that you surround yourself with. By using curried responses from select business owners you ignore most of your constituents. The majority of the citizens of Whitefish aren't being heard or represented.

Science and facts do not support healthy people wearing a mask to 'protect' others in public settings. There are reports of healthy young adults becoming sick with pleurisy from wearing masks.

If you have a compromised immune system you should take precautions to protect yourself. You should not rely on others for your health. *As reported in The New England Journal of Medicine 5/21/20, "Wearing a mask does not offer protection from infection."

Issuing a mandate for everyone to wear a mask is akin to the action of a ruling government, a monarchy. We decided against that rule almost 250 years ago.

Do not pass this resolution - it is not in the best interest of our city. Below are hyperlinks to two articles that you should read.

*'Masks Are Symbolic,' say Dr Fauci and The New England Journal of Medicine <https://hennesysview.com/masks-are-symbolic-dr-fauci/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/05/cdc-and-states-are-misreporting-covid-19-test-data-pennsylvania-georgia-texas/611935/>

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Julie Perchy
[350 Missy Lane](#)

[Whitefish, Montana](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Tessa Pitman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:42 PM
To: John Muhlfeld; Andy Feury; Rebecca Norton; Frank Sweeney
Cc: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Public Comment - July 6 - Mandatory masks

Thank you all for your due diligence and thoughtful dialogue on this controversial topic this evening. Your support and influence is greatly appreciated.

Take good care,
Tessa Pitman

On Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 2:28 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Tessa Pitman <tessapitman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:26 PM

To: John Muhlfeld <jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org>
Cc: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Public Comment - July 6 - Mandatory masks

Dear Mayor Muhlfeld and City Counsel,

I'm writing to ask Whitefish enforce a mandatory mask policy effectively immediately. I am reaching out to you on behalf of my dear friends in the service industry who serve locals and tourists alike in the Flathead valley at large. I want to urge those who travel to our state where a mask. It seems the voice of leaders in our community is falling on deaf ears which in turn weakens their diligent advocacy for their employees, business and community. Our numbers are low because we had the advantage of being vigilant and proactive. As a health care provider, I continue to remain cautious about overwhelming our health care system; we are not out of the woods yet. As I have said before, as cases in our surrounding states continue to increase, the less likely we'll be able to rely on them for back up if our community becomes overwhelmed with patients who need medical attention. However, while health is our first priority, there needs to be recognition that those in the service industry or small businesses that make our community unique and thrive, face additional ramifications for exposure including downstream financial loss if not so much more. It would take one employee in a small business to test positive to shut that business down for a few weeks and maybe longer. That affects more than that one tourist and more than that one employee. This is bigger than all of us. Please help keep Whitefish a safe, healthy, and thriving community by enforcing masks. Help keep store managers and clinics safe and open. Help remind those who enter our beautiful town that we are a strong community. Let's rally together and help set the standard so many of us are trying to exemplify on a daily basis.

Take good care,

Tessa Pitman

505 Dakota Avenue

406-871-3089

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:01 PM
To: 'Jeff & Barb Powers'
Subject: RE: covid regulations

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Jeff & Barb Powers [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: covid regulations

Dana Smith

My wife, Barbara, and I agree that wearing a mask in public would be appreciated whenever social distancing is not practical.

Respectfully,
Jeff and Barbara Powers
[REDACTED]
Whitefish



Virus-free. www.avg.com

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Douglas Rhodes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Social Distancing

Dear Michelle and City Council of Whitefish,

I am writing to offer my opinion concerning efforts to contain the spread of Covid 19 in our community. Social distancing is already in effect, required by most all businesses...washing hands is critical, wearing a mask is required by some businesses of their employees and to require customers to wear masks on the premises should be a decision made by the individual business as this restriction on the operation of many establishments could be the final blow to the respective business. Every business is 'essential' to the owner and employees.

Thank You for your attention to this crisis!

Best Wishes,
Doug Rhodes
Whitefish, Mt.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Loni Schenk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks

To whom it may concern

I work downtown whitefish and have been working in whitefish for years. I feel as if you are taking away my personal freedom by making me wear a mask. I am very very conservative. And I will not be made to wear this. We strive on our summers and if we turn people away for not wearing a mask or making it a "whitefish law" we will lose business. I think it is truly amazing that you would even consider this. If you want to wear a mask that's fine we will be 100 percent for that but do not MAKE people wear them because it is a law you think we need. Montana is still very low in numbers (the lowest). Don't make this a ridiculous matter. Let people be free to do what they want.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Sylvia Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Resolution

To the Members of the Whitefish City Council,
In light of the fact that Governor Bullock has not issued a statewide mask-wearing mandate, I strongly feel that it is incumbent upon local leaders to take this step. With tourist season in full swing, business and property owners should be compelled to take responsible steps to mitigate the spread of novel coronavirus. A mask mandate will help business owners protect their workforce, and it will send a message that Whitefish believes in the findings of science to protect the health of its citizens. Thank you for your consideration to this matter. ~ Sylvia Smith.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: NOuse maria [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Whitefish resolution for mask wearing in public

I am glad this resolution has been drafted. I have lived in Whitefish for over ten years and have never experienced such inconsideration and selfishness until the past few months. People just don't care about their fellow community members or their safety. People should have common sense and realize it is not an us vs them it is a We and we as a community should try and stop the spread of COVID-19 through our beautiful town.

One of my biggest concerns is that I have seen entire families claim they have a condition that prevents them from wearing mask. This needs to stop! If they claim they cannot wear a mask then they should wear a face shield or some other alternative face protection. There should be no exceptions.

Certain people are being misled by the government and think mask do not work for themselves. We as a community need to better educate certain people about why you actually wear a mask. It is not for you but for others. They need to understand that they can spread the virus to their grandmas and grandpas, their parents, their buddies, and other people with asthma or diabetes, who are more vulnerable like myself.

We as a community should stop fixating on individual liberties but rather join together and save our most precious and fundamental liberty...the right to health, the right to stay alive.

The link below is a funny and maybe helpful way to explain to certain people why wearing a mask actually helps stop the spread of COVID-19.

<https://couriernewsroom.com/2020/05/01/we-asked-health-experts-about-the-wear-your-mask-the-urine-test-meme/>

I hope this reaches you and thank you for taking the time for considering this resolution,

Greg Sproson
[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mark Talaga [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Cc: Verunka Talaga
Subject: Resolution of wear the mask

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

YES, we all should wear face cover or masks on public, it is for all to be safe and healthy and not being selfish.

Sent from my iPhone

Verka

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jamie Tatum [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Masks not forceable

You guys can't force people to wear masks
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jana Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Michelle Howke; John Muhlfeld
Subject: Re: city resolution to require face masks

Good morning, I've just read the article regarding the meeting held last night to discuss mandating masks in the city of Whitefish. I must express my deep disappointment in the outcome. You basically did nothing. We were already **encouraged** to wear masks and clearly the community at large is not following this recommendation. Your "resolution" is toothless and essentially meaningless. I will be saddened in a couple of weeks as we watch our infection rate continue to rise and I fear another shutdown. You were given the opportunity to make a critical decision for the health and economy of this community and you've sidestepped your responsibility. Wearing masks is the easiest thing we can ask people to do and the most effective way to fight the spread. How many people will have to be infected, how many businesses affected before you step up to the plate? I am deeply disappointed.

Concerned community member,
Jana Todd

On Sun, Jul 5, 2020 at 6:54 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Jana Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Re: city resolution to require face masks

Dear Michelle, I strongly support a resolution to require face masks in public. I would also strongly support giving business owners and law enforcement the power to actually enforce the mandate and punishment for those refusing (i.e., a fine substantial enough to discourage refusal).

As I stated in my email to governor Bullock, Senator Jon Tester and Mayor Muhlfeld, I do not feel safe going anywhere right now, particularly since we opened up to tourists. They have infiltrated our town, running around with no face masks, leaving me stuck in my own home.

I appreciate your time and sincerely hope we take action on this matter quickly and before it's too late.

Concerned Whitefish resident,

Jana Todd

[REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:06 PM
To: 'Sharon Tuttle'
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Sharon Tuttle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject:

I am totally in favor of the proposed resolution calling for the use of face masks in Whitefish. In fact, I would rather it be an ordinance that requires their use w/penalties for non-compliance.

Thank you for this pro-active approach!

Sharon Tuttle

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Rebecca and Todd Ulizio [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Masks

Hi Michelle! After reading my email I didn't really feel like I was very clear. If possible I'd like to resubmit this email as follows:

My name is Rebecca Ulizio. I am in a organic farmer in whitefish. I attend three markets a week in our community to distribute vegetables. At many of the markets (Whitefish included) we are required to wear mask but our patrons are not . Research shows that when you wear a mask you are not protecting yourself but only protecting those around you. If this is the case, then by my customers not wearing mask I am endangering myself and my employees. I would like to continue growing food for our community during this integral time without risking the health of my family and crew. I feel like Whitefish could provide a sound example of the appropriate response to this virus for our Nation. Thanks for allowing us to be heard! Rebecca Ulizio

On Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 2:19 PM Rebecca and Todd Ulizio <2bearfarm@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello! My name is Rebecca Ulizio. I am an organic farmer in Whitefish. I am currently serving three markets a week in the whitefish, Kalispell and Columbia Falls area. Research shows that people wearing mask are not protecting themselves but only the people who they encounter. I would like to continue growing food for our community but feel safe while distributing that food. I also need to feel like I can protect my staff. At the moment I feel like I cannot do that. Please make this mandatory to protect the citizens of our community. Thanks for the opportunity to be heard.
Sincerely, Rebecca Ulizio from Two Bear Farm

--

Two Bear Farm
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
Twobearfarm.com

--

Two Bear Farm
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
Twobearfarm.com

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Vanzant, Lisa M. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: RE: Masks

Nearly half of Whitefish citizens and business owners that had a chance to write a letter to the city council opposed mandatory mask wearing. You need to put it to a vote on the ballot if you are truly concerned about all voices being heard. Carol and Terry Treweiler do not speak for all Whitefish Citizens, nor are they elected or CZAR'S of Whitefish. They are bullying and intimidating in their language. Even if you had 60% of people who had enough notice to even send letters were in favor, that is a thin margin, not a majority or a landslide of the citizens supporting mandatory mask wearing. You can encourage mask wearing, but to seize freedom from residents, that is dangerous governing.

Lisa Macalister Vanzant

Licensed Agent

New York Life Insurance Company

Registered Representative offering Securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (Member FINRA/SIPC) A
Licensed Insurance Company

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Michelle Howke [mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Vanzant, Lisa M.
Subject: RE: Masks

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

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- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

From: Vanzant, Lisa M. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:44 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks

No to Mandatory Mask wearing.

Let people choose what is best for their bodies, families, businesses, churches.

There are currently Zero Covid patients at KRMC. The survival rate is over 99%

Please do not burden our police with enforcing mandatory mask wearing. This burden could include several hundred protesters from around the state of Montana and beyond. There are far too many unintended consequences that could hurt Whitefish.

Do not violate the rights of individual businesses and churches, private schools, to decide what is best for their clients, patrons, employees.

Do not rob residents, children, athletes, and visitors from enjoying the outdoors. Do not grasp the freedom away from individuals and businesses to decide what is best for their situation. Vulnerable individuals have the choice to wear a mask, stay home, or shop remotely.

Thank you kindly,

Lisa Macalister Vanzant

Licensed Agent

New York Life Insurance Company

Registered Representative offering Securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (Member FINRA/SIPC) A
Licensed Insurance Company

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Michelle Howke

From: Andrea [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Face masks

Sorry it was so brief. Know it was to be in by 4. If the masks are mandated we will not be shopping or going to restaurants in whitefish for a long time

On Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 4:07 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

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Thank you

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Andrea [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Face masks

I'd prefer to remain anonymous please

Please don't mandate face masks for the city of whitefish.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4868614/>

Andrea Vissotzky



Olney Mt 59927

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michell Wang [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Wearing in Public - YES

I am writing in support of a city-wide mandate to require masks in public, indoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible.

Surrounding towns may follow Whitefish's lead. We must set the precedence for solidarity.

From,

A year-round Whitefish resident

Michell Wang

[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask resolution

We have lived in Whitefish for about 21 years and just wanted to express our thoughts about the "mask resolution". We strongly support passing a resolution to require masks when in public in Whitefish with stated exceptions.

We feel that it is especially important now that we seem to be experiencing an influx of out of state visitors who may be bringing the Covid virus into our area.

We would also like to see that it be encouraged for workers that deal with the public to wear masks.

We are both over 70 so are in the vulnerable group if exposed to the virus and we have been reluctant to patronize the downtown businesses which we normally do and would really like to feel comfortable going to our favorite restaurants and stores again.

Tom and Noel Watkins

[REDACTED]
Whitefish

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Comment on Potential Mask Requirement in Public

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew Wetzler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Comment on Potential Mask Requirement in Public

I support the city making a formal requirement for residents, visitors, and frontline workers to wear masks in public for the foreseeable future in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and limit the burden on our healthcare facilities. There have been too many examples across the country of areas not requiring masks and infection rates increasing dramatically. And it is just not that big of an inconvenience to wear a mask. Thank you for your time.

Matthew Wetzler
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Michelle Howke
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:04 PM
To: 'Brandy Wetzler'
Subject: RE: Mask resolution

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
406-863-2402

STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

From: Brandy Wetzler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Mask resolution

Hello,

I support mandatory masks in public businesses and in public when distances of 6ft plus are not possible (ie farmers market - with the exception of actually eating food - although I feel like people should social distance when that is done). We personally wear masks when on Whitefish trails when people are near (if we can see people at all). And when bike riding downtown. We take the masks off when we are biking and no one is around.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brandy Wetzler
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT 59937
[REDACTED]

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EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Donna [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Masks

As a follow up...I was in Super One this morning, and only saw 2 employees with masks on. Manager and customer service guy. None of the check out clerks had masks on. Of customers, I saw 5 , probably out of 12 or so, customers without masks. Without the support of the Whitefish store owners/employees, this suggestion will not work.

Sent from my iPad

> On Jul 8, 2020, at 3:03 PM, Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

>
> Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. While cleaning my "Junk Email" folder, today, I came across your email. My apologies for not looking in my "Junk Email" folder sooner. Those 528 emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

>
> To view the packet, <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/mayor-and-city-council/2020-agenda-info-minutes-and-video.php> , you can download it or open it in a browser. This will provide bookmarks. The bookmark for the comments is titled 'Comments received between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm.'

>
> We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

>
> Michelle Howke
> Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
> PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street
> Whitefish, MT 59937
> mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org
> 406-863-2402

>
> STAY CLEAN, CAREFUL AND CONNECTED

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Donna [REDACTED]
> Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:34 AM
> To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
> Subject: Masks

>
> I am strongly in favor of a mandated resolution. I find the population is fairly good at wearing masks but resent the local businesses that do not mandate masks for their employees...after all, the employees are exposed to many more people during a day than the average citizen. Toggery is an example. Super One. Bradfords.

>
>
>

> Sent from my iPad

> EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Mindi Gawe [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Follow up to mask resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To all City of Whitefish Officials,

I am following up on the meeting regarding Resolution 20-18 that I commented on by email 7/6/2020. I've attached that email below for convenience. I streamed the council meeting Monday night and appreciate how Mayor Muhlfeld and the entire council handled what was a difficult topic to discuss. I watched many angered business owners and residents give at times hostile and very rude comment. A few were quite disrespectful. I was also very proud of the minority in physical attendance that spoke in favor of the mask resolution despite the rude laughing during their comments from those opposing with some claiming they couldn't understand the comments because of speaking with a mask, seeming to pressure the speaker to remove their mask. Some were deliberately acting to intimidate the masked speaker(s). Unacceptable. I was able to understand every word from masked speakers that were being videoed and live streamed. Thank you for staying neutral and respectful to all, and leading by example. It did not go unnoticed.

While I am happy the resolution passed, I do have some concerns and a few additional comments regarding a couple thoughts on the mask resolution I hope you will take into consideration at or before the next meeting.

First, the amendment to only suggest masks be worn in public, outdoor settings when there are more than 20 people in an area where social distancing cannot be achieved does not follow the CDC guidelines nor the guidelines from our governor for the current reopening phase of Montana found on this state website (<https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Documents/Reopening%20Montana%20Phase%202.pdf?ver=2020-05-20-142015-167>). It seems in this amendment Whitefish is moving to enact less restrictive guidelines than the state and federal government recommends and during a rise in cases in Flathead Valley and Montana in general. Whitefish is seeing many visitors from states with a critical spike rate of infection. How about leaving out the "more than 20 people" part and just require masks to be applied whenever social distancing cannot be achieved? The CDC says on this page of their website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>):

- CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.

Why would we not just follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention established by experts in their field instead of trying to make up what we as citizens think is reasonable? They are the health experts and have formal education in this area. I realize it is only recommended, but aren't the experts the best ones to give advice? It makes sense to have your mask ready to apply at any moment you pass others on sidewalks, stand at crosswalks, etc. and then be able to remove them once appropriately distanced.

Next, I understand the cultural acceptance this resolution is intended to cultivate, but I have strong doubts it will resonate with many who oppose the idea of wearing masks judging by the response of those who oppose that were in physical attendance at the meeting. The early misguidance on mask use during the initial learning curve of this virus's behavior and the politicizing of wearing masks has most definitely had a negative effect on the understanding of why we all must wear a one.

Lastly, I don't agree that the choice to wear or not to wear a mask is acceptable. One resident present at the meeting said "people can protect themselves and that's ok, but people get mad at you if you don't wear a mask but she doesn't

get mad at people for wearing a mask". This is a very common position for people who oppose wearing a mask, and I think it shows the need for clear education on why we need to wear masks and how they work or don't work depending on how widespread their use is. Many people who oppose wearing a mask seem to think it has no affect on others if they don't wear one. That is false and proven wrong through scientific studies. To this topic of choice I wanted to bring up the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) that was passed in Montana in 2005 which according to this page on the Montana Department of Health and Human Services website (<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/mtupp/clean-air>) bans smoking in enclosed public places. The websites states:

There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke is proven to cause heart disease, cancer, and many other diseases.

All people have a fundamental right to breathe clean air. **Smokefree environments eliminate all smoking indoors and in common places of gathering, such as parks and rodeos**, and are the only proven way to protect people from secondhand smoke exposure.

The [law](#) requires all enclosed public places and workplaces, including work vehicles, or vehicles that serve as a place of work, and vehicles accessible to the public, such as taxis and buses to be smoke free and it requires businesses to prominently place smoke free signs on all public entrances. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has adopted these [rules](#).

It goes on further to say:

The health benefits of the Clean Indoor Air Act are three-fold:

1. Patrons and workers alike are protected from the deadly health effects of secondhand smoke exposure.
2. More people who smoke will try to quit.
3. Fewer Montana youth will begin smoking.

Imagine how this would read if instead of smoke and secondhand smoke it was exposure to Coronavirus. I believe there is relevance in the fundamental right of everyone to breath clean air within the CIAA that can be applied to the idea of a mask mandate. Health experts told people they **should** not smoke indoors of public places because second hand smoke that is exhaled exposes others to potentially deadly health risks. It did not change the behavior. Fast forward 15 years after CIAA was passed...does the thought of sitting in a crowded restaurant where no one is smoking seem abnormal? No. Society has come to expect that there is no smoking in a restaurant. Apply that same thought process to the image of being in a crowded space where no one is without a mask because of the potential deadly health risks of exhaled virus to others. Why is this not expected by society as a whole? What would the list of health benefits of widespread mask wearing look like to you? My list is longer than 3 points.

The death rate of seasonal flu is typically around 0.1%. The death rate of Covid-19 is currently about 5.9% according to the CDC.

Please move to mandate the wearing of masks for the same reasons smoking was banned in indoor public places with the added knowledge that we will not be in this mask or no mask predicament forever. We will see the other side of this pandemic. How quickly we do that is up to all of us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy email. I hope it encourages more thought. I appreciate your leadership.

Respectfully Masked,

Mindi Gawe

██████████
Whitefish, MT 59937

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mindi Gawe [REDACTED] >
Subject: Yes to masks!
Date: July 6, 2020 at 2:25:30 PM MDT
To: City Of Whitefish <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>

To all City of Whitefish Officials,

I am a native of Whitefish and have many family members here as well. I work at Whitefish Animal Hospital, and my husband and I own and operate the Whitefish Motel & Studios. Our two children attend Whitefish Schools, and we are patrons of many businesses of Whitefish.

I would love to see all full time and part time residents as well as all visitors (many from states and areas where there are heavy infection rates of Covid-19) be required to properly wear a mask in all public places and anywhere the 6 foot distance rule cannot be achieved (sidewalks, farmers market, etc.). After no new reported cases for two months, we are seeing a fairly low number of new cases in the weeks since moving to phase two, but if we have learned anything from watching what happens in other more affected areas, it is that numbers of cases can multiply extremely rapidly and become out of control very fast. There is science to back the fact that masks work to slow the spread. Many places around our country are requiring masks now. I believe if we act early and responsibly by requiring everyone to wear a mask in our treasured town that we could continue operating our businesses more safely and reduce the risk of potentially closing again which would result in additional revenue loss. I am also concerned that our schools will not be able to open for the '20/'21 school year if we are still dealing with increasing cases. Our economy AND community would stay healthier with a mask mandate. Win-win!

We were way ahead of this virus before we moved to phase two. Please pass a resolution to mandate masks or facial coverings for ALL who are medically able and of a safe age in our town so we can get back to the position we were in at the end of May. Just say YES TO MASKS!

Thank you all for all your continued efforts to keep our community safe!

Mindi Gawe
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

Whitefish Motel & Studios
[REDACTED]
Whitefish, MT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Derek Good [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re:

<https://www.kpax.com/news/coronavirus/whitefish-passes-resolution-urging-mask-wearing-in-public-settings>

The corona came through here in December and January. If you ask around I promise you will find many people who had pneumonia in both lungs during winter as well as other corona symptoms. Your mask policy is putting a bandaid on a broken arm. If you wanted to protect your citizens and guests you should have had the brains to see this scenario in July. People were going to flock here and you did nothing when it would have been the most beneficial. Quit reacting and learn to be a little proactive.

Derek.

On Sun, Jul 5, 2020, 5:38 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comment. Your letter will be distributed to the Council at the meeting July 6, 2020. You are welcome to speak towards your letter during the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can watch the live streaming on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DuZE-QgQkdLNdkTPxBfuQ>.

Please continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying *Clean, Careful, and Connected*.

- Clean: Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Careful: Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in confined spaces.
- Connected: Stay informed at www.WhitefishCovidCares.com.

Thank you,

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Derek Good <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 2:07 AM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject:

I will quit my job in whitefish and only shop in columbia falls. Im already debating leaving my job because of the mandatory masks at work.

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Jamie Tatum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Re: Masks not forceable

528 emails does not represent the majority of people in Whitefish and the local communities. Let's be real here and we only started this conversation because of people complaining to you guys trying to make masks mandated. So does that mean if enough people complain about not wanting to wear masks you guys will back down from that pressure? This is unconstitutional. All of it and for a virus that isn't killing people like the initial reports suggested. Yes people are getting the virus but they are not dropping like flies! They're mostly getting better and we need to stop the charades. I know many people who do not want to wear masks. I'm a business owner and all of my clients are relieved we do not wear them. With the exception of one older lady in her 80's. That is how it should be! Based on our own judgment and decisions. You guys can not mandate these types of decisions and laws overnight. There are so many people who do not want to wear them!

On Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:05 PM Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments. We received 528 emails between July 1st and July 6th at 4:00 pm. Those emails were forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting and have recently been appended to the July 6th Council provided on the website. I continue to receive emails pertaining to this issue. I will forward your comments to the City Council.

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We appreciate your comments and thank you for your participation.

Michelle Howke

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PO Box 158/418 E. 2nd Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

406-863-2402

From: Jamie Tatum [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Michelle Howke <mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org>
Subject: Masks not forceable

You guys can't force people to wear masks

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

EXTERNAL SENDER verified by City of Whitefish IT

Michelle Howke

From: Wright, Vita [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Michelle Howke
Subject: Mask Use Resolution - Meeting Follow-up

Hello,

Thank you very much for considering and passing the mask use resolution. I thought you might be interested in this new article from Scientific American that explains the issue around aerosols and the WHO controversy: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/mounting-evidence-suggests-coronavirus-is-airborne-but-health-advice-has-not-caught-up1/>



Mounting evidence suggests coronavirus is airborne — but health advice has not caught up

Governments are starting to change policies amid concerns that tiny droplets can carry SARS-CoV-2. And after months of denying the importance of this, the World Health Organization is ...

www.scientificamerican.com

Like I said during my public comments on Monday, I am concerned that the number of people in attendance at the council meeting without masks may have resulted in coronavirus exposure for participants. I just went and tested this afternoon at WHS, and I believe they're planning on testing again tomorrow morning in case any council members are interested in being tested. It might be a little early to detect if we were exposed Monday evening, so I am also planning on getting tested next week (either in West Glacier or Whitefish). Please let me know if you learn anyone in attendance tests positive, and I'll let you know if I get a positive result.

Following Monday's meeting I expect some of the council members may also be concerned and will be looking into other options for obtaining public comment at future meetings, possibly by virtual participation, and/or by requiring masks of those who attend and speak in person. Upon reflection, if you continue to take in person comments, you might also consider having two microphones and using them alternately, to provide some time for the air to clear between speakers.

As we move forward, I hope you consider making the resolution into a stronger ordinance (though I realize how difficult this is) and including a mask requirement at Farmer's Market, other Depot Park markets/shows, and on the downtown sidewalks during peak hours.

Thank you for addressing this issue. I truly appreciate it.

/s/ Vita Wright