

Debra Thompson

From: erinkandoll@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Unsafe conditions waiting at USPS

Good morning,

I am writing because I am concerned of the safety of our community, especially while waiting in line at the USPS. As they have reduced hours because of things beyond their control, the lines have wrapped around the building, indoors all the way to the last bay of boxes by the back door and started wrapping back towards the front of the office again. My PO box is in that bay and I was unable to get to it without being within 6 ft of 5 different people not wearing any face coverings. I have opted to not get my mail due to safety concerns. I checked multiple days last week, but before entering look inside at the amount of people and usually roughly 50% without face coverings, then account for the amount of time I would have to spend indoors with people outside of my household and that puts me and 'at risk' members of our household at risk for contracting Covid. Thus, I am not able to check or receive my USPS mail which is a problem.

If everyone in the Post office wore some sort of facial covering, and stricter indoor limits on number of patrons we would be less at risk while waiting in line. Towards the back of the line there was maybe 2 feet of distance between those waiting. Contract tracing is defined as person who has spent more than 10 min. in close proximity to someone who has the virus, especially indoors. The way I see it, one positive case in the PO, could lead to a rather large community outbreak. The signs on the door ask patrons to wear a mask, and limit number in lobby to 10 ppl. These guidelines are not being followed, and since there will be no federal mandates, I see this as another reason to have a local face covering mandate in place. We have left it up to peoples good will and used words like highly suggested, though we've seen dwindling number of face coverings over the past months including at our essential town services. There have also been an increase in large gatherings of people indoors with no facial coverings at local bars and restaurant's providing more 'at risk' opportunities for the potential spread of the virus. The countries major Covid spikes over recent weeks have been attributed to people resuming life as normal to soon, not following social distance guidelines, and facial covering suggestions. I hope we can act here again, before it's too late.

I appreciate the assembly member's who have been in support the face covering mandate's and all of you for working so hard to keep this community safe thus far. I appreciate the assembly and EOC getting our business open and running to support our local economy and livelihoods. In order to keep these open and running, we must see more participation in safety and preventive measures in our community. I appreciate seeing our community leaders setting good examples and adhering to recommendations of health officials, scientists, CDC, the Administrations requests for US citizens as well as our own great state of Alaska and the governor's requests for Alaskans to wear facial coverings and adhere to preventive safety measures. Thank you to those of you who are choosing to wear them if you can, and adhere to guidelines suggested to keep our community safe.

We ask so much of our local hospital, and health care facilities, also the canneries and their employees. That they follow the strictest of safety guidelines and they are all wearing facial coverings for entire shifts. They do that for our community, the least we can do as a community is show them that we are also doing everything we can to keep our community safe in return. We have locals who work in the canneries, so community spread could potentially shut down our canneries and put a huge dent in our local fishing economy. The more we do as a community to keep Covid out or stop spread when it gets here, the more likely we are going to be able to get our kids back in schools and keep the

schools and local business open. Wearing face coverings and adhering to preventive measures, actually is beneficial to our economy in the long run and most importantly, the health and safety of our beloved community members.

Last note, perhaps we could figure out a way to move that line outdoors, rain or shine, while they are on limited hours or anytime there are more than 10 people in line? I realize this burden should not be placed on the Postal service workers as they are already working so hard for our community to get us our mail, I appreciate them greatly! Thought the idea was worth suggesting in case there was a way to get this type of plan going at the USPS.

Sincerely,
Erin M. Kandoll