

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Malena Marvin <schoolhousefish@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 6, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Please mandate face coverings

Dear Assembly Members,

I wanted to support our local hospital workers and others who've asked you to mandate mask wearing -- we need to do it.

This is a historic time and none of us have ever lived through anything like it. You have the opportunity to display leadership that could end up saving someone's life in this town.

Recommending masks is quite easy for people to heed or to ignore. A mandate sends the stronger message that there are consequences for being reckless with the health of fellow community members. It sends the message that conspiracy theories will not be tolerated in civil society when they endanger others.

While it's true that some people refuse to have a reckoning with the reality of how COVID spreads, good public policy does have the power to change social norms.

Anyone who's traveled outside Petersburg to the Lower 48 or to Anchorage knows that mask mandates are normal elsewhere, and heeded by people of many political backgrounds. It is shocking to those living in Seattle that we in Petersburg sit in public spaces without masks worn by customers or staff.

Here's a summary of the latest mask mandate language in Anchorage -- I urge you to pass a similar set of rules for our community:

*Emergency Order EO-13v3 removes most exceptions to the face covering requirement, which will make it easier for businesses and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to enforce. The order requires individuals who cannot tolerate wearing a face covering due to disability to wear a face shield instead, unless it is impossible to do so, or to seek alternate accommodations such as curbside pick-up, take-out, or delivery. The order also extends the mask requirement to all school-age children over five years old, and to individuals exercising at indoor facilities.*

[Anchorage Press](#)

Thank you for rising to this moment and doing your part in these terribly challenging times to protect the lives of people who live on this island.

Sincerely, Malena Marvin

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