

Debra Thompson

From: Donna Marsh <dwmarsh430@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:14 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Lots on the plate of Covid-19

7 July 2020

Dear Assembly Members and Mayor Jensen,

It was reported that the Monday, July 6, assembly meeting had to be postponed due to technical difficulties; however, the scuttlebutt is that it was really cancelled due to a move to write a proposal/letter/mandate dictating the universal use of masks for any and all people in Petersburg (with exceptions).

Technical issues notwithstanding, the meeting was postponed and here we are. I am writing this letter to request that should any masking mandate be put forth that the assembly would vote against such a proposal based on a number of points.

Science does not know if masking is effective in slowing the spread of covid-19. Even among the experts, the for or against battle has been ongoing. Studies suggest that they *may* be effective; studies have also shown that they *may* have more negative effects and not curb the spread as previously thought. Consider countries where near universal masking has been the norm for years: Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Yet they are close to the same rates of Covid-19 infection and Covid-19 deaths as in the United States.

From the NIH in a recent study regarding masking, it was stated with much inconclusiveness:

“The study suggests that community mask use by well people could be beneficial, particularly for COVID-19, where transmission may be pre-symptomatic. The studies of masks as source control also suggest a benefit, and may be important during the COVID-19 pandemic in universal community face mask use as well as in health care settings. Trials in healthcare workers support the use of respirators continuously during a shift. This may prevent health worker infections and deaths from COVID-19, as aerosolisation in the hospital setting has been documented.”

Alaska’s Dr. Ann Zink, herself, underscored the lack of conclusive evidence regarding wearing masks, stating that her reason for wearing one was “humility.” Her second and third reasons were 2. Kindness, and 3. Community. That’s not a lot of scientific backing here. We don’t need a government mandate to compel people to show humility, kindness or community.

Please do not pass a mandatory masking rule here in Petersburg. Let each individual ascertain for him- or herself whether it is appropriate or not. Enough of the overreaching arm.

Once again, thank you for your time. Respectfully submitted.
Donna Marsh

<https://twitter.com/annezinkmd/status/1270750665275346945?lang=en>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7191274/>

<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-masks-safety-carbon-dioxide-immune-system-n95-20200619.html>