

Debra Thompson

From: George Wood <gswood49@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Mask mandate

Dear Petersburg Assembly Members,

I am relieved that we have no active cases of COVID-19 in our community at this time but I am concerned that the number of cases in Alaska is rising. We are a mobile society and just because we have no active cases in Petersburg at present does not guarantee that this will continue.

In light of the current dangerous health situation at the post office, and the fact that we are trying to open school (maybe our largest social gathering since March?), I would like to see the borough assembly adopt a mask mandate in public places in Petersburg.

With no natural immunity and no drugs or vaccine to help ward off infection, personal behavior is the only tool available to get the nationwide outbreak under control- and as hard as it may seem to comprehend at times, we are all connected. COVID-19 travels and we travel!

I do not see an immunization being available any time soon. WHO has said that even if vaccines are approved this fall or winter, it will be months until public immunization campaigns can start in earnest. The initial vaccine supply will not meet demand! It is likely that we are going to live with this virus for a long time.

We need to fight this virus with the tools we have, and the things we can do to reduce the risk of infection continue to be the same: practice social distancing, wash your hands often, and always wear a face mask in public. For that reason, I strongly support a mandate requiring masks be worn in public places in Petersburg.

I also strongly support CARES funding being appropriated to the schools for the purpose of hiring more teachers in order to provide adequate social distancing among students! Our children are our future and we need to support a safe environment for their education to take place.

Thank you for what you do in these difficult times!

Sincerely,
Sue Wood
Sent from my iPhone