

Debra Thompson

From: Malena Marvin <schoolhousefish@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: We ask that you pass a mask mandate for Petersburg
Attachments: Face Masks Really Do Matter. The Scientific Evidence Is Growing. - WSJ.pdf

Dear Assembly members,

A mask mandate will help in reducing potential community spread of COVID-19, which will allow the community to safely process our season's catch and ensure businesses like Schoolhouse Fish Co, and all our related processors and web of small and large businesses are able to finish the season successfully.

Serious outbreaks in Petersburg will tank a lot of jobs this summer - we can't afford this. We have to act smartly and quickly.

Our direct market seafood business takes pre-orders from customers around the country in May and then we ship out those orders June through October as we fish and the awesome, hardworking folks at Coastal and Tonka process our catch through the season.

Right now we're just hoping and praying that COVID outbreaks don't interrupt Petersburg's ability to process our catch and get it out to the world. At this point, we can't afford to refund our customers if we can't ship. If either of us were to get seriously ill we also wouldn't be able to meet our orders. As a family business, we don't have back up. In a roll of the dice, we've been lucky to be able to continue our business, and as such we are a source of revenue for the community, supporting local businesses and nonprofits and doing our part to keep our economy afloat.

Science, common sense, and evidence from around the country and the world now unanimously confirm that the simple wearing of masks when indoors in public places dramatically reduces the spread of COVID-19. We understand that this wasn't super clear at the outset of the pandemic, but as of July, the data is indisputable: masks are a simple, cheap, and effective preventative that pose no health risks. (If they were a drug, we all know the pharma companies would be making trillions selling it to us and it would be immediately mandated across the country!)

+ A recent Wall Street Journal article summarizes just some of the data on masks and is included in this email and available here:

[Face Masks Really Do Matter. The Scientific Evidence Is Growing.](#)

+ Earlier this month, Anchorage did the right thing and passed a mask mandate. A professional survey double checked by UAA found that [77% of residents supported](#) a mask mandate.

+ Later this month, Juneau passed a mask mandate. Their diverse Assembly passed the mandate 6-0 unanimously.

+ National polls are also clear. [The latest shows that 75% of US voters support mandating masks to stop the disease.](#)

There is no reason to believe that Petersburg would be different than Anchorage or the nation: a majority of us support a mask mandate.

Sometimes, it's your job as an Assembly to listen to a vocal minority. Sometimes there are a minority of residents who care deeply about an issue that the majority is indifferent to or doesn't comment on. THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES. In the case of COVID-19, there is a community majority, a national majority, and an international majority who understands that we must get our act together in this country and beat this disease back as many other nations already

have. Those who support masks are the majority and in this case it is your civic and moral responsibility to act decisively in support of public health and the continued economic stability of Petersburg.

Please vote on and pass a mask ordinance. We ask that you do what's best before we needlessly lose someone in this town to COVID or before we have outbreaks that damage our economy further.

We know some of you may think masks are a good idea but shouldn't be mandated. Not only is that a minority opinion nationally, it's worth reconsidering locally.

While it's true a small crowd may defy a mandate in Petersburg, it's also true that a mandate will impact the behavior of lodge visitors and other tourists who bring COVID into town. It will also impact behavior at the Post Office which is over full with partially masked community members congregating indoors during staff shortages. Every time we can get someone to wear a mask who may not have prioritized it before, we have the opportunity to save a life or a business.

It's my belief that we all want the same things for the town: health, prosperity, thriving families, open schools. And while we value our rights to disagree, we must also understand that on this issue the facts regarding COVID are true regardless of various opinions about them. Let's mask up and beat this thing and get back to treating one another's ideas respectfully and thoughtfully.

Sincerely,
Malena Marvin & Eric Grundberg
Schoolhouse Fish Co.

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