

Debra Thompson

From: Ed Wood <fvtalon@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:07 AM
To: Mark Jensen; Stephen Giesbrecht
Cc: Debra Thompson
Subject: What's with the confusion over masks? - Anchorage Daily News

Mayor Jensen, Manager Giesbrecht,

<https://www.adn.com/nation-world/2020/11/18/whats-with-the-confusion-over-masks/>

This article is from today's ADN, and is pertinent with regards to our local public health masking policy.

From the last paragraph; "Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds cast some doubt Tuesday on the science behind masks even as she imposed a limited mask rule, noting that neighboring states with mask mandates have seen rising numbers of cases, although not as severely as Iowa."

"If you look, you can find whatever you want to support wherever you are at, she said."

What the Iowa Governor said in that sentence either makes a lot of sense, or no sense at all. I am not interested enough in her background to deduce which it might be.

Here is a true story, and part of the impetus behind my recent personal phone call to the Mayor:

A few months ago I was sitting in my truck in front of Hammer and Wikan hardware store, having just been through it picking up whatever it was that I needed at the time. Plenty of customers, a minority wearing masks, while none of the clerks wore face coverings. Then, as I watched from my truck, the store employee (it would be a lot easier to give his name/title at this point, but I'm trying to respect his privacy here) walked out, pulled a mask from his pocket which he put on, and walked across Main Street to a business on the other side. As I sat there digesting what I had just seen over the next few minutes, here he came again back from across the street, only this time when he was in front of me, he took his mask OFF and walked back into his store!

I haven't been back in that store since, or others with similar lax policies. I've discovered what I can do without, what I can make work with the materials that I have, and the internet. The Post Office is a necessary evil at least once a week, so I might as well order out what I need instead of buying local and risking my health in a store that seemingly couldn't care less.

I am highly appreciative to the four Assembly members who chose science and caution over unsubstantiated claims, and instituted our local mask policy. We elected you to lead and make the hard decisions, and you did in this case. You have my thanks.

Who knows, with our new masking policy, I might even go back inside H&W at some point?
Ed Wood