

Chris Taggart

From: Kelsey Coty
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Mick Turner; Roger De Haan; Katie Scholl; Jeff Burrows; Wayne Chilcote, MD; Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Board of Health Meeting 7/24/20 comment

Kelsey Coty

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Cc: Greg Chilcott <gchilcott@rc.mt.gov>; Chris A. Hoffman <CAHoffman@rc.mt.gov>; Jeff Burrows <jburrows@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Board of Health Meeting 7/24/20 comment

7/23/20
702 Windsong Dr, Corvallis, Mt 59828

To: Board of Health
To: Board of County Commissioners
To: County Sheriff

Subject: Face Covering Directive

I have read the Governor's July 15, 2020 Directive and have read the July 16, 2020 public statement from the Ravalli County Sheriff and Board of Commissioners. I have also read the press coverage of Dr. Calderwood's resignation letter.

The Governor's Directive does not give businesses the discretion to not require face coverings for their employees or customers. Why would the Sheriff and Board of Commissioners state that "Private business owners may choose to enforce the Governor's Directive?"

The Governor, through his duly appointed authority, has directed that citizens of Montana in certain counties must wear face coverings in public places. To not follow that directive is putting all citizens at risk of contracting and spreading the coronavirus. It should not be discretionary for a business and its customers to become vectors for community spread because they do not want to follow the Governor's Directive. The Governor has provided the Commissioners with political cover for a difficult issue yet the Commissioners do not appear to want it.

I believe the Board of Health, the Ravalli County Commissioners and the County Sheriff should clearly and unequivocally support the Governor's face covering Directive and remove the "may choose" language from the Sheriff's Office public statement. The value placed on "freedom" should not outweigh the value placed on public health and safety. Our elected leaders should model best public health behaviors in their words and actions.

--David Bull

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