

Chris Taggart

From: Jill Deppel <jcdeppel@gmail.com>
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To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Health Meeting Comments

I have been sharing my opinions with you on the Covid-19 pandemic for a few months. Now as cases are increasing and masks are mandated, the Ravalli County Public Health Department is facing the resignations of many of its key staff. I am compelled to write again.

I can put aside the RCSO enforcing the mask mandate. I realize that staffing and funding preclude the ability to do that.

But I am asking you to influence use of masking. Lead by example. Wear them in public spaces, make a public service video. What a statement that would make seeing the three of you and some of the peace officers in masks.

Recent public comments from Commissioners asking for everybody to get along and respect each other does nothing. That appears you are trying to ride the fence. But this pandemic is a barb wire fence and you can't straddle that.

It's time to respect science and medical expertise. Support masks. You've already lost a physician and several nurses. As a tax payer and committed voter I request these changes.

And Montanans always have stepped up to help others. A mask is just that. And preventing a virus surge is also ensuring your local hospital is not completely overwhelmed.

Jill Deppel RN BSN
Hamilton MT

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