

Chris Taggart

From: Cindi Schwartz <readdress2468@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:41 PM
To: Glenda Wiles; Greg Chilcott; Chris A. Hoffman; Jeff Burrows; Chris Taggart
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Face Covering Directive

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

I would like to see you stand up for public health and support Governor Bullock's Face Covering Directive issued July 15, 2020. The citizens of this county deserve a board of commissioners that puts our health and safety first. Once citizens feel safe, they can and will continue on as best they can by going to work and shopping locally.

I'll cut to the chase . . . scientists and medical professionals from around the world have come to a consensus that SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is primarily spread through respiratory droplets. These droplets are propelled through the air by talking, laughing, singing, coughing, sneezing, and even breathing.

What stops a person's respiratory droplets from contaminating another person or surface?

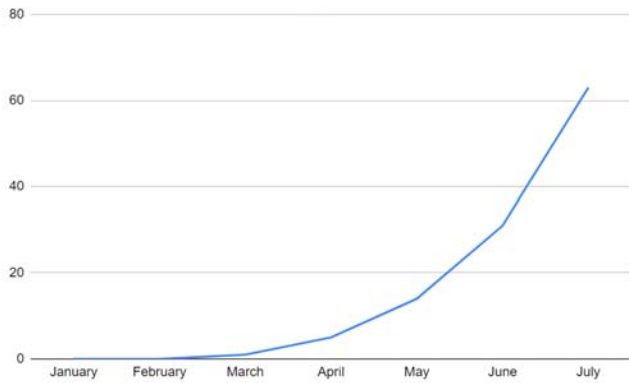
- 1: Distance, which is why we should remain several meters apart, but that is not always feasible--especially indoors.
- 2: A facial covering, which will capture respiratory droplets and keep them from spraying further distances.

That's it. That's pretty much all we have to keep ourselves from catching this virus until a vaccine, a viable treatment, and/or a cure is found. Together, physical distancing and facial coverings have been shown (peer-reviewed scientific publications) to dramatically decrease spread of the virus from person to person. However, we need BOTH of them to maximize our chances of not catching the virus and spreading it to others. This virus spreads BEFORE a person knows they are infected.

The simple truth is that many of the residents of this county are at high risk of getting COVID-19 simply because of their job. It is UNFAIR to them for employers, coworkers, and patrons to put their health at risk by not wearing a facial covering. Every grocery store clerk, every restaurant server, every person who has to work to pay the rent and feed their family deserves a board of commissioners that puts their health and safety first.

You NEED to make a strong statement in support of the two known ways to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2: Physical distancing and facial coverings.

Here's a graph of # of confirmed COVID19 cases (cumulative) from our own county. The cases are rising exponentially. Unless YOU decide to do the right thing and promote physical distancing and facial coverings, our county will see too many sick people who never needed to get sick in the first place.



Sincerely,
Cindi Schwartz
Hamilton, Montana

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