

Chris Taggart

From: Kelsey Coty
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:07 AM
To: Wayne Chilcote, MD; Roger De Haan; Jeff Burrows; Mick Turner; Katie Scholl; Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Community health

Kelsey Coty

Ravalli County Environmental Health
215 S. 4th Street, Suite D
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: (406) 375-6567
Fax: (406)-375-6566
Email: kcoty@rc.mt.gov

From: Laura Jackson [mailto:lmj@copper.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:50 PM
To: Chris Taggart <CTaggart@rc.mt.gov>; Kelsey Coty <KCoty@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community health

This letter is intended for our Ravalli County commissioners and for our Health Board members.

I am writing this as a 76 year old great granddaughter of early Bitterroot valley homesteaders. I give these credentials to indicate I might have some awareness about both the need for patriotic rugged individualism as a baseline value in our valley and also the importance of the cooperative community values and respect for others in the community, equally essential to our surviving and prospering, historically and presently.

I have been planning to make a presentation to the County Health Board this year. Although I have had no symptoms or known exposure to the Covid-19 virus/illness, I would certainly wear a mask to make this presentation out of respect for others present, considering this a civic and patriotic duty, and I would hope others present would also be masked for the sake of protecting all community members, and particularly (admittedly selfishly) those who are considered members of more vulnerable population groups—me. I have lived and worked in our mountains and camped there alone. I'm not generally seen as a fearful person, but the range of effects of Covid-19 infection includes severe and life threatening consequences for some of us.

As our elected officials, it is your official obligation to further the best interest of our community as we live together in this valley. The health of all of us depends on our mutual support of regulations that minimize our damage to others. It is with this understanding that I ask you to support and model public behaviors for our community to embrace taking a precaution that is a minor discomfort for an individual and could help protect us all from a potentially debilitating diseases. We should all be wearing masks and practicing social distancing in public indoor spaces simply out of community

respect, just as we should not be defecating on our neighbors' lawns. Official public meetings should require these measures out of respect for our elected and hired officials and for members of the public who may be present.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Laura Jackson

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