

Chris Taggart

From: Kelsey Coty
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Masks

From: Gary Milner <garymt1915@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Kelsey Coty <KCoty@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Hi,

I'm troubled by the message the commissioners are sending the residents of Ravalli county regarding masks. In my opinion your message puts ideology over science and the safety and well being of people. Everyone wants to return to normal, but that will only happen if everyone pulls together. I used to think part of being a patriot was doing what was beneficial for the greater good, even if it meant a little inconvenience. Today it seems some folks believe being a patriot means; "I have the freedom to do whatever I want no matter if it hurts others". It's a rationale I'll never understand. I've copied below a recent letter to the editor that expresses my feelings. I hope you will change your messaging and insist (and enforce) we all wear masks. The sooner we all do that the sooner our schools, our business, and our lives will get back to normal. Thank you.

My parent's formative years were defined by the Great Depression and WWII. My dad served in the Pacific and my mom grew up on an isolated farm that did not receive electricity until 1947. They told me of, and I've read about, the home front sacrifices then. Rationing of gas, butter, milk, sugar, and not wasting food was the norm. People were expected to dress warmer so oil/fuel could be used elsewhere. Doing without for the greater good was patriotic and embraced. Even if it inconvenienced them, Americans did their part. Even though I was not alive then, it gives me a sense of pride that Americans pulled together for the good of all. Compare that to folks today who refuse to wear masks because it might damper their individual freedoms, even though we know wearing a mask saves the lives of Americans. I wonder where we would have been in WWII if folks like those who feel inconvenienced by masks ruled the day?

Sincerely,

Gary Milner

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