

Chris Taggart

From: Cindi Schwartz <reddress2468@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 6:30 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID19 message to citizens of Ravalli County

County Commissioners,

I am unable to attend the meeting that will be held on Oct 22, 2020 with the agenda item: Discussion with possible approval: Commissioner message to citizens with regard to COVID.

It is clear that your previous and current messaging is failing. As county officials, it is your duty to step up and support scientific consensus about how to limit the effects of this pandemic until a safe and effective vaccine is developed.

In your messaging, you should state:

1. The pandemic is real and not a 'hoax' that will go away on Nov 3. It affects all human beings regardless of their political party and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
2. No one deserves to contract this disease and no one should be ostracized or shamed because they came down with a disease that has affected millions of people worldwide. Citizens need to help out wherever possible to ease the burden on families affected by COVID19.
3. CDC guidelines of physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing work, but only if the majority of the citizens of this county follow them.
4. If citizens of the county cannot follow CDC guidelines, our cases will continue to rise and businesses will be forced to make a tough decision to shut down for the safety of their employees and customers. In addition, our medical infrastructure of both the hospital along with the doctors and nurses who care for patients will become overwhelmed.
5. COVID19 is NOT the flu. They are different diseases caused by different viruses. Getting a flu vaccination is important to keep our medical infrastructure from becoming overwhelmed.
6. Although death rates from COVID19 have dropped, there continue to be serious long-term health consequences that can linger for at least 6 months in a high percentage of people who contract the disease.

Additionally, you should fund the Ravalli County Health Department so that it can do the important work of contact tracing and messaging about COVID19. Hire as many people as needed to get the job done. If contact tracing doesn't happen in a timely manner, then infected, asymptomatic people could be unknowingly spreading the virus while going about their daily lives until they receive the call.

Lastly, YOU need to be seen in public supporting CDC guidelines by physical distancing, getting a flu vaccine, washing your hands, and always wearing a mask. With your example, more citizens will follow your lead. At this time, the CDC guidelines are the only way we have to minimize the burden of COVID19 on families and our dedicated medical staff across the county.

Thank you for your time.
Cindi L. Schwartz
Hamilton

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