

## Chris Taggart

---

**From:** Mary E Slocum <maryeslocum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Chris A. Hoffman; Greg Chilcott; Jeff Burrows  
**Cc:** Clinical4n6RN@aol.com; Chris Taggart; mickturnermt@yahoo.com;  
rogerwdehann@yahoo.com; wchilcote@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] How We Respond to Covid-19

Dear Commissioners Hoffman, Chilcott, and Barrows,

I am writing to you to express my concern about the rising number of cases of Covid 19 here in Ravalli County and how we as a community must act to protect our own health and safety.

While the measures recommended are not fun to comply with they save us from this capricious virus that may present a startling range of severity from no symptoms in some to disablement and death in others.

What we face is a decision. Do we choose comfort? Or do we choose courage?

It might feel more comfortable to slide by because we don't want to ruffle anyone's feathers, but in the end it will hurt the community—all of us. More illness, more cost, and more suffering.

And courage? Courage allows us to act compassionately in the face of pain, suffering, and ignorance.

Some citizens are very vocal that they believe it is their freedom not to comply. I get it. It is not pleasant to wear a mask, keep six feet of distance from others, and wash our hands all the time.

I am sure if you were to ask the very same people who say it is their right not to comply with the health measures if they believe we must not harm one another, they would say, "Of course, we must not hurt others," And they would particularly not want to hurt their family, neighbors, work colleagues, and friends.

They may say, “Oh but I don’t have Coronavirus.” They may or may not. Even without symptoms, a person may be spreading the virus to others without knowing it.

So please have the courage to ask people to comply with

—wearing a mask when in public

—keeping 6 feet of distance from others

—washing hands often

Please educate the public and work with businesses, schools, and public services to have a plan for safety and to get the word out.

I would be happy to be able to do my shopping and business here locally. Now I can’t. I have to go down to Missoula and spend my money there.

And know that if we comply all of us will be safer going about our business, spending our money, and interacting and living in our county.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,  
Mary E Slocum  
Victor MT 59875

Cc:  
Administrative assistant, Chris Taggart  
Board of Health members:  
Roger DeHann  
Wayne Chilcote  
Mick Turner  
Katie Scholl

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is

safe. If you believe the email to be malicious and/or phishing email, please use the **Phish Alert** button.