

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Petersen, Donna <dpeters@usf.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** An urgent appeal to retain the face covering order in Pinellas County  
**Attachments:** Commissioner Gerard 91520.pdf

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Gerard,

As chair of the USF COVID-19 Task Force charged with protecting the health of students, faculty, staff and visitors on our USF St Petersburg campus, I submit the attached letter as an urgent appeal to you and your fellow commissioners to please keep the face covering ordinance in place. Asking people to follow the mitigation measures we know are necessary to prevent transmission of the novel coronavirus is simply not enough; they have to be required to do. We require every member of our University community to wear face coverings at all times; retaining the order you already have in effect makes it that much easier for us to enforce our order, an order we remind everyone must be followed *on* or *off* campus.

Please do not repeal this order; this virus is still very much with us and just waiting for the opening an action to repeal this order would provide. Help us keep our campus and our community safe.

Dr. Petersen

Stay up to date at [www.usf.edu/coronavirus](http://www.usf.edu/coronavirus)

Donna J. Petersen, ScD, MHS, CPH  
Senior Associate Vice President, USF Health  
Dean, College of Public Health  
Professor of Public Health  
University of South Florida  
13201 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, MDC 56 (mailing address)  
3010 Banyan Circle (physical address)  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813) 974-6603 (phone)  
(813) 974-6616 (fax)

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Kimberly Rose <roseforever12263.kr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** [BULK] Good job !!!  
**Importance:** Low

### CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I wanted to thank you for doing a good job for Pinellas County residents and tax payers. You helped keeping Pinellas moving forward with a kind voice and a strong hand kept order. You will be missed in this position..Keep up the good work.

Kimberly Rose a Pinellas resident & tax payer.

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** Keeley Sheehan <keeley487@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:15 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Continue the Pinellas County mask mandate

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Gerard,

I am writing in support of continuing the mask mandate in Pinellas County, because it is essential in protecting our citizens at this critical time.

Dr. Angus Jameson, the medical director for Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services, described the COVID-19 as an unpredictable new disease that medical experts are still studying. Although disease rates are lower than they were at the peak of the pandemic, the epidemic is far from over. Consider the following:

1. The drop in local disease and death rates are because we are wearing masks; wherever there are no masks (North Dakota/South Dakota, for example) the highest increases have been observed.
2. If we stop wearing masks the risk of increased disease and death will rise again, as we have seen in other parts of the world, requiring repeated shut downs.
3. We have just begun to re-open and re-enter bars – we risk inviting the virus to spread more freely by encouraging more interaction without masks.
4. Hillsborough County continues with a mask ordinance. In a regional economy with many people commuting between counties we need consistent mask mandates. Committing to stopping this deadly virus is the surest path to full economic recovery.
5. We are a tourist economy – people will be coming here from all over the country and world. Adherence to the mask mandate will reduce the likelihood of disease transmission brought from areas experiencing a resurgence of cases.
6. The highest infection and mortality rates are among people of color, the elderly and essential service workers. These disproportionately harmed groups need us to wear masks to protect their health and their lives.
7. Wearing a mask is inconvenient, but they are the best way to stop this disease and get our economy working again. There are many precedents for rules that protect public health, such as anti-smoking laws. Mask ordinances a life-saving policy tool.

Thank you for your time,

Keeley LaForme  
Pinellas County resident

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Jacquie Ott <jacquiesott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:25 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mask mandate

### CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jacquie Ott <[jacquiesott@gmail.com](mailto:jacquiesott@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** Mask mandate  
**To:** <[JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org](mailto:JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org)>

It has come to my attention that you will soon be considering lifting the mask mandate. I implore you, please don't. I have stayed in place since February, cancelled 3 vacations, have not seen my children or grandchildren in all this time, and only go to get groceries about once every 10 days. Because of the mask order, I feel safer to do the limited activities I do. My neighbor is in the hospital with Covid and we share the same elevator. ( He refused to wear a mask ) The numbers are going back up with each lifted restriction, in person school, and those who defy the ordinance. I have not done all this, to only have government fail to protect it's citizens until there is a working vaccine.

I hope you will continue to follow the CDC recommendations for masking and social distancing. I will be following this

Issue and how you vote and will Vote accordingly when the time comes.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Ott  
Saint Petersburg

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** Diann Stern <stern.diann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Keep Mask Mandate

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Gerard:

I understand that the County Commissioners are meeting soon to discuss lifting the mask mandate. I urge you to keep the mandate in place. The Pinellas county infection numbers are declining which is a good thing and is mostly due to the mask mandate. I do not want to see the mandate lifted, especially with schools and bars now open. Please, Please keep the mandate in place for now.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

Diann Stern,  
Resident, Bacopa Bay Condominium

tel: 727-290-9112

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Pamela Long-Dugan <docpam2282@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Keep the mask mandate

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Pamela Long-Dugan

Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Thomas Thompson <TTDP@MINDSPRING.COM>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:38 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I was appalled to learn that the Pinellas County Commission is considering lifting the ordinance requiring face masks in indoor public spaces. The mask mandate has played a key role in lowering Covid case numbers in the county, along with social distancing and other public health measures. To rescind it will put us back into a cycle of rising numbers of infections followed by measures to control the spread. You can prevent that from happening. Leading public health experts across the country advise wearing masks as the single most effective way to contain the virus, allowing us to keep businesses and schools open and saving hundreds of thousands of lives. Such a small thing to do for such a big payoff!

Donna Peltier

St. Petersburg

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** MaryAnn Beckley <mcb10842@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 11:54 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Mask ordinance

CAUTION:

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I believe the mask ordinance should stay in place.

MaryAnn Beckley

Sent from my iPad



## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Norman Hatter <revnormh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:57 AM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Gerard,

As we review our daily news, the burgeoning count of people who have died as a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus appears and may be viewed with mixed feelings. There is sadness, for the loss of life, particularly “out of order” so to speak, is always sorrowful, even when we do not know those who have died. The numbers are astonishingly large, approaching 200,000 souls on a national level and more than 700 here in Pinellas County. However, one also suspects a certain numbness may have a tendency to creep in, inuring us to the regularly experienced impact of this information. And in such a state, we may find our basic human sensitivities have a propensity to become compromised.

As you consider voting on whether to continue having people wear masks while occupying interior public spaces, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of the option that may potentially save a human life, in the spirit of demonstrating care for your neighbor whom you may not know. That is, one should wear a mask for the sake of our neighbors.

Many Blessings,

Rev. Norman Hatter

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Fred Feld <fsfeld@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:57 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** masks in Pinellas County

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge you to continue the mask wearing in Pinellas County, at least until COVID-19 really abates. One of the first things we learned in Dental School was the value of personal protective equipment (including masks). We did numerous experiments that proved their ability to protect against disease. These protective devices are most effective if everyone uses them (to help contain the sneeze, cough or breath) and to filter it on the receiving end. As for the rights some people claim they are giving up...we BAN SMOKING in most public places, and we BAN DRINKING & DRIVING.. We as a people have certain obligations to others for the greater good. It's a simple concept that seems to be accepted, and working, everywhere in the world. Thanks, Fred Stewart Feld, DMD and the Feld Family

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** sandra plevin <sjplevin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Masks mandate

CAUTION:

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing you to vote in support of the indoor mask mandate in Pinellas County. It is our best defense against Covid 19.

Sandra Plevin  
1019 Royal Troon Court  
Tarpon Springs, FL. 34688

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** Eileen Sharkey <eileensharkey727@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 8:52 AM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Masks

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Please vote yes to keep masks.

**From:** Ilene Robeck <irrobeck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:56 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Please continue the face mask mandate

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Please continue the face mask ordinance. This critical for the health of our citizens, our economy and our health care system

1. The drop in local disease and death rates are because we are wearing masks; wherever there are no masks (North Dakota/South Dakota, for example) the highest increases have been observed.
2. If we stop wearing masks the risk of increased disease and death will rise again, as we have seen in other parts of the world, requiring repeated shut downs.
3. We have just begun to re-open and re-enter bars– we risk inviting the virus to spread more freely by encouraging more interaction without masks.
4. Hillsborough County continues with a mask ordinance. In a regional economy with many people commuting between counties we need consistent mask mandates. Committing to stopping this deadly virus is the surest path to full economic recovery.
5. We are a tourist economy – people will be coming here from all over the country and world. Adherence to the mask mandate will reduce the likelihood of disease transmission brought from areas experiencing a resurgence of cases.
6. The highest infection and mortality rates are among people of color, the elderly and essential service workers. These disproportionately harmed groups need us to wear masks to protect their health and their lives.
7. Wearing a mask is inconvenient, but they are the best way to stop this disease and get our economy working again. There are many precedents for rules that protect public health, such as anti-smoking laws. Mask ordinances a life-saving policy tool.

Ilene Robeck MD  
571-259-2057

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Emma S. Cronin <emma.cronin@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Please don't repeal

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I understand that you have been urged, and plan, to consider [this Thursday](#) proposals to repeal the mask ordinance that was adopted to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

Please DO NOT repeal that ordinance. Instead, please follow the science that tells us this pandemic is nowhere near over, and may be poised to become much worse in the coming months.

Among other things, the data suggesting or reflecting recent reductions in community transmittal rates reflects reductions that must be attributed at least in part to the wearing of masks in public places in Pinellas County. If nothing else, it would be unwise to repeal the mask ordinance right on the heels of reopenings underway in schools, colleges and universities, not to mention the bar and restaurant reopenings also now underway in earnest.

It is beyond dispute that this is a reasonable measure to take to protect public health and safety under the circumstances. Our numbers are just now beginning to reflect that we are getting a handle on community spread. Repealing our county's mask ordinance must be delayed until we see how things work out in the coming fall and winter months.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** Harvey J. Landress <h.landress@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Require masks

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Pat,

Please vote at the next commission meeting to continue to require masks in Pinellas County. Those of us at high risk for the coronavirus need this added layer of protection when we must go out. Thank you.

Harvey Landress  
h.landress@verizon.net

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Donna Winchester <donna.rosewinchester@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:41 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Thank you, madame chair

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your compassion, your generosity and your level-headedness in this really difficult time. I can't imagine the stress you're experiencing. Despite the challenges, you appear, at least on the outside, to be matching calamity with serenity. I can't tell you how much I admire you.

Please know that I appreciate your service to our county, your leadership in the face of criticism, and your courage in the midst of chaos. You help me feel less afraid.

With great respect,

Donna



## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Juanita Umana <juanitasu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:09 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Thursday, September 17, 2020

### CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Pat Gerard,

The Pinellas County Commissioners are meeting this Thursday, September 17, 2020 to discuss lifting the mask mandate that requires masks to be worn in public places. The Commission has been inundated over the past several weeks with well-organized and vocal anti-mask advocates emailing and calling in to public meetings, demanding the ordinance be repealed.

It is critical that Pinellas County Commissioners also hear voices reflecting sound science and a concern for public health and safety. Instructions for commenting on keeping the mask mandate at this Thursday's Board of County Commissioners meeting are below.

Dr. Angus Jameson, the medical director for Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services, described the COVID-19 as an unpredictable new disease that medical experts are still studying. Although disease rates are lower than they were at the peak of the pandemic, the epidemic is far from over.

Consider the following:

The drop in local disease and death rates are because we are wearing masks; wherever there are no masks (North Dakota/South Dakota, for example) the highest increases have been observed.

If we stop wearing masks the risk of increased disease and death will rise again, as we have seen in other parts of the world, requiring repeated shut downs.

We have just begun to re-open and re-enter bars– we risk inviting the virus to spread more freely by encouraging more interaction without masks.

Hillsborough County continues with a mask ordinance. In a regional economy with many people commuting between counties we need consistent mask mandates. Committing to stopping this deadly virus is the surest path to full economic recovery.

We are a tourist economy – people will be coming here from all over the country and world. Adherence to the mask mandate will reduce the likelihood of disease transmission brought from areas experiencing a resurgence of cases.

The highest infection and mortality rates are among people of color, the elderly and essential service workers. These disproportionately harmed groups need us to wear masks to protect their health and their lives.

Wearing a mask is inconvenient, but they are the best way to stop this disease and get our economy working again. There are many precedents for rules that protect public health, such as anti-smoking laws. Mask ordinances a life-saving policy tool.

**Juanita Umaña**

Filmmaker

[juanitaumana.com](http://juanitaumana.com)

**Young, Bernie C**

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**From:** jrambo2@tampabay.rr.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Please protect the citizens of our community by continuing the mask mandate.

Betty Rambo