From: Sent:	Lou Claudio <lou.sea@verizon.net> Saturday, September 12, 2020 11:06 AM</lou.sea@verizon.net>
То:	Gerard, Pat; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Welch, Kenneth; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C
Subject:	9/12 Mask Ordinance

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Greetings, esteemed commisioners...today's *Times* is reporting your plan to "investigate lifting the mask ordinance" and I'm writing to add to the voices of reason and sanity asking you <u>not</u> to do it...not yet. I would agree with Comm Welch's quoted comment to "...be very careful in undoing the very things, the very actions, that put us in a good position." I've lost 2 aunts to C-19 and almost 4 cousins, who've gratefully recovered. We keep reading about the victims who's last words express regret they thought it was a hoax or that they didn't take it serious enough....*"Hell is truth seen too late"* - Thomas Hobbes. Reports are that the Fall / Winter seasons that are coming will bring an increase in cases. If you want to give the anti-maskers an end-date, suggest we see how things look after that. Stay safe...regards, Lou

From: Sent: To:	Deb Bloome <docbloome@docbloome.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:27 PM JanetCLong@pinellascouty.org; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth</docbloome@docbloome.com>
Subject:	A.S.A.P. re: Face Masks

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To the City Commissioners:

I am very concerned that the mask ordinance is being considered to be rescinded. It seems that every time our numbers go down there is either a holiday or event and then the numbers go back up. I really don't care if groups who all agree to not wear masks don't as I strongly consider it survival of the fittest which in this case typically means those smart enough to wear masks are statically more likely to survive and this belief is supported by science. It's interesting how those working in medical care are wearing masks and are faring better than those selfishly feeling their rights are being imposed upon. We are in the middle of a pandemic, approaching flu season and possibly the highest number of voters ever to come together so this is not a wise time to stop wearing masks. As citizens, we are defenseless against COVID-19 with only face masks showing a fair amount of protection. Why does the City of Largo have a slower speed limit through town? Isn't it to protect the citizens? Doesn't the speed limit cramp the rights of some? How was it decided to not smoke in the restaurants in Largo? It would seem that at this time, that more people are likely to get ill or die from COVID-19 in the air than get ill or die from cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke. Wasn't this a decision made by vote? Why can't we vote on mask wearing this election? We are approaching elections where it will be important that those who vote are safe and given the age range and health ranges how can this be done without masks being required? Then there are concerns about going grocery shopping and getting other needs met though I suppose that we all can do most shopping through Amazon and let the businesses of Largo dry up. How sad that those who want to support local businesses may not be able to do so when they have to consider protecting their own survival.

As Abraham Lincoln said July 1, 1854, "The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do, *at all*, or can not, *so well do*, for themselves -- in their separate, and individual capacities." I implore you, please keep us all safe, the only way that can be done currently.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Bloome

-docbloome.com Imagine, Create, Become!

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communication or any information contained therein. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email to <u>docbloome@docbloome.com</u> or by telephone at (727) 517-1938.

From: Sent: To:	Deb Bloome <docbloome@docbloome.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 6:58 PM JanetCLong@pinellascouty.org; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth</docbloome@docbloome.com>
Subject:	ASAP Re: Face 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.

To the County Commissioners:

I am very concerned that the face mask ordinance is being considered to be rescinded. It seems that every time our numbers go down there is either a holiday or event and then the numbers go back up. I really don't care if groups who all agree to not wear masks don't as I strongly consider it survival of the fittest which in this case typically means those smart enough to wear masks are statistically more likely to survive and this belief is supported by science. It's interesting how those working in medical care are wearing masks and are faring better than those selfishly feeling their rights are being imposed upon. We are in the middle of a pandemic, approaching flu season and possibly the highest number of voters ever to come together, so this is not a wise time to stop wearing masks. As citizens, we are almost defenseless against COVID-19 yet face masks show a fair amount of protection. Why do most Pinellas county cities have slower speed limits through town? Isn't it to protect the citizens? Doesn't the speed limit cramp the rights of some? How was it decided to not smoke in the restaurants of Pinellas county? It would seem that at this time, that more people are likely to get ill or die from COVID-19 in the air than get ill or die from cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke. Wasn't this a decision made by vote? Why can't we vote on face mask wearing this election? We are approaching elections where it will be important that those who vote are safe and given the age range and health ranges how can this be done without face masks being required? Then there are concerns about going grocery shopping and getting other needs met though I suppose that we all can do most shopping through Amazon and let the businesses of Pinellas county dry up. How sad that those who want to support local businesses may not be able to do so when they have to consider protecting their own survival.

As Abraham Lincoln said July 1, 1854, "The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do, *at all*, or can not, *so well do*, for themselves -- in their separate, and individual capacities." I implore you, please keep us all safe, by mandating face masks to be worn in indoor establishments. Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Bloome

-docbloome.com Imagine, Create, Become!

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From:	David Jelaso <djelaso@gmail.com></djelaso@gmail.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:17 PM
To:	Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie
Subject:	[BULK] masks
040,000	

Importance:

Low

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Please keep them for now. djelaso@gmail.com

djelaso@gmail.com Home: 727-446-1575 Cell : 727-365-2245

Young, Bernie C	
From:	Diane Shea-Piser <dshea1993@gmail.com></dshea1993@gmail.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:46 AM
То:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject:	[BULK] PLEASE DO NOT RESCIND MASK REQUIREMENT
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.

County Commissioners:

Please do NOT vote to remove the requirement to wear masks until there is a vaccine against COVID-19. Your decision should based on science and not politics. People's lives are more important than their livelihood. We have to change the way we live until we have a vaccine which means wearing a mask, physical distancing and washing hands. These steps are working! We are heading into cooler weather which could mean a rise in the number of infections and a greater need for safety precautions (masks!). At the very least it makes more sense to continue the mask requirement until we see if the virus is going to spike again as the temperature cools. My husband and I are in the "at risk" group to have complications from this virus but we feel comfortable going out and supporting local business as long as there is a mask requirement for ALL. If the mask requirement is rescinded we will NOT go out and risk our health until there is a vaccine. Please follow what science dictates and not political party affiliation. Your decision could make the difference between life and death for your constituents.

Diane Shea-Piser

From: Sent:	Ava Pierce <javabones@aol.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 2:08 PM</javabones@aol.com>
То:	Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Seel. Karen
Subject:	Continuation of Pinellas County Face Covering 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 Pinellas County Commissioners:

>

> I am aware that the Board of Commissioners may be considering whether the ordinance referenced above should be continued or should be abandoned. My understanding is that there is some sentiment and possibly pressure from citizens to discontinue the ordinance as they believe that the requirement to wear a mask indoors is an infringement on their rights. I implore you to continue the face-covering requirement, or even to increase the situations under which one must wear a face covering to be more comprehensive and protective.

>

> Science has proven that the COVID virus is spread through droplets that are airborne and that travel far greater distances than originally thought. Furthermore, wearing a mask greatly reduces the chance that a person infected will spread the virus. Since it has also been discovered that persons can be infected and contagious without even having symptoms, it is even more critical that everyone wear a mask to protect from becoming ill and to prevent the spread from asymptomatic carriers. Respected medical journals, such as the New England Journal of Medicine, are publishing scientific articles with significant data proving that wearing of masks greatly reduces transmission.

>

> As our children and teachers go back to school and our bars reopen, please do not allow the removal of face coverings be another piece of tinder on this fire.

> I implore you all to consider our community's need to continue the Ordinance that was so wisely adopted.

>

>

- > Regards,
- > Ava Pierce
- > Dunedin

Sent from my iPad

Young, Bernie C From: Nicole Skalka <nicskalka@gmail.com> Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 5:07 PM To: Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat Subject: Continuation of Pinellas County Face Covering 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 Pinellas County Commissioners:

I was told that the Board of Commissioners is considering whether the ordinance referenced above should be continued or should be abandoned. My understanding is that there is some sentiment and possibly pressure from citizens to discontinue the ordinance as they believe that the requirement to wear a mask indoors is an infringement on their rights. I implore you to continue the face-covering requirement, or even to increase the situations under which one must wear a face covering to be more comprehensive and protective. The reduced number of cases experienced in our area is a direct result of the mask ordinance and should continue. Please do not let this critical safety issue become a partisan issue.

Science has proven that the COVID virus is spread through droplets that are airborne and that they travel far greater distances than originally thought. Furthermore, wearing a mask greatly reduces the chance that a person infected will spread the virus. Since it has also been discovered that persons can be infected and contagious without even having symptoms, it is even more critical that everyone wear a mask to protect from becoming ill and to prevent the spread from asymptomatic carriers. Respected medical journals, such as the New England Journal of Medicine, are publishing scientific articles with significant data proving that wearing of masks greatly reduces transmission.

As our children and teachers go back to school and our bars reopen, please do not allow the removal of face coverings to be another piece of tinder on this fire.

It is of the utmost importance that people keep wearing masks in all indoor establishments. It is the easiest way to ensure that schools and businesses remain open. I implore you all to continue the Ordinance that was so wisely adopted.

Regards, Ann Nicole Skalka East Lake Woodlands, Oldsmar

Young, Bernie C From: Lisa Lombardi <lisaj_lombardi@hotmail.com> Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:02 PM To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth Subject: Continue Face Mask rule

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 County Comissioners,

As a concerned resident of Pinellas County, I implore you to please continue the requirement to wear face masks in all indoor venues. Given the status of COVID cases in Florida as well as the sad news that bars will reopen, it is now more important than ever to please keep Pinellas County safe.

The CDC has logical advice on the topic:

Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of masks is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

And NPR has written a logic, sound article with sage advice on the topic: <u>https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/06/21/880832213/yes-wearing-masks-helps-heres-why</u>

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Yes, Wearing Masks Helps. Here's Why

Politicians argue. Those opposed to mask mandates protest. But meanwhile, growing evidence shows that mask wearing is a critical tool in curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

www.npr.org

PLEASE...I urge you to not make this a political debate, but look at the scientific facts and keep Pinellas County safe.

Respectfully,

Lisa Lombardi Seminole, Florida 33778

Young, Bern	ie C
From:	Jim Gigurtsis <jim_gigurtsis@yahoo.com></jim_gigurtsis@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:08 PM
То:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject:	Continue usage of face 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.

Dear County Comissioners,

AUTION:

As a concerned resident of Pinellas County, I implore you to please continue the requirement to wear face masks in all indoor venues. Given the status of COVID cases in Florida as well as the sad news that bars will reopen, it is now more important than ever to please keep Pinellas County safe.

The CDC has logical advice on the topic:

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And NPR has written a logic, sound article with sage advice on the topic:

https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/06/21/880832213/yes-wearing-masks-helps-heres-why

Yes, Wearing Masks Helps. Here's Why

Politicians argue. Those opposed to mask mandates protest. But meanwhile, growing evidence shows that mask wearing is a critical tool in curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

www.npr.org

Please...I urge you to not make this a political debate, but look at the scientific facts and keep Pinellas County safe.

Respectfully,

Dimitrios Gigurtsis

Seminole, Florida 33778

Young, Bernie	C
From:	Andrea Deutsch <andrea.joan.deutsch@gmail.com></andrea.joan.deutsch@gmail.com>
Sent:	Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:02 PM
То:	Long, Janet C; Eggers, Dave; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject:	County Covid Mandates

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 Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know I have supported your previous mandates put in to place to protect citizens and to implore you to continue these mandates and implement any additional ones that will continue to maximize the safety of residents and visitors to our county, as well as save lives and limit suffering.

Guidance should come from respected and qualified epidemiologists. The current mask mandate is essential not only to slow the spread but maybe stop the spread as well. There is no reason to reduce mask wearing as it will be more difficult to implement again if need be. As is, there are those that do not believe in science or that they should be forced to adhere to anything that infringes on their rights. They need YOU to guide them as their failure of concern continues to put all of us at risk.

If numbers continue to decline, there can be a time we will all feel comfortable going out to all the stores/restaurants we enjoy. Right now, many of us continue to limit shopping to only essential needs. If the number of infected decreases dramatically we can all make a difference economically. I've read of snowbirds avoiding Florida this coming season due to the carelessness of the state in regard to Covid. This will impact the economy as well.

Continue to limit the number of people in any establishment for the sake of saving lives and suffering. Masks required when not eating/drinking out.

Please do what is right to protect the residents of Pinellas County as that should be your first priority.

Thanks for your attention and thank you for your past concern for all of us.

Regards, Andrea Deutsch, Palm Harbor

From: Sent:	wheatley-giliotti <wheatley@tampabay.rr.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 12:13 PM</wheatley@tampabay.rr.com>
To:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth;
Subject:	Seel, Karen Covid Mask Ordinace

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 County Commissioners,

I urge you to extend the covid face mask requirement within indoor spaces in the County until such time as new cases are no longer documented here.

Shame on us. Pinellas County has almost 700 deaths related to Covid...4th in the state!!!.

Masks protect the user and those the user comes into contact with. This should not be a political statement. Rather a message of safety and concern for others.

I am a registered Republican and I wear a mask in indoor public spaces and even outdoors.

Dianne Wheatley 2842 Country Woods Lane Palm Harbor Fl 34683

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Virus-free. <u>www.avast.com</u>

From:	Eric Weston <ewestonmd@aol.com></ewestonmd@aol.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 12:29 AM
To:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Cc:	Barbara A Baccari
Subject:	Face 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has come to my attention that the County Commission will be considering the possibility of lifting the current requirement to wear a mask in indoor establishments (Pinellas County Face Covering Ordinance 20-14). IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS REQUIREMENT NOT BE LIFTED.

I have resided and practiced medicine in Pinellas County for the past 42 years. During that time I have considered the health and well being of my patients to be my greatest responsibility. I have always relied on the best scientific information to guide me. We now find ourselves in the midst of a deadly pandemic that has taken the lives of over 190,000 Americans. Florida has been particularly hard hit. I have witnessed the devastation personally. Our response to this grave threat has been woefully mishandled nationally and regionally resulting in the unnecessary loss of life. Science shows us that there are several measures that can reduce the likelihood of spread of disease as well as to reduce the severity of disease. Most important are the wearing of face coverings and "social distancing" to reduce airborne transmission, and frequent hand washing. Countries that adopted these measure early enjoyed much lower infection and death rates. A case in point is the failed "experiment" of Sweden to adopt a relaxed approach to protect the public. They suffered not only a much higher rated of infection and mortality compared to their neighboring Scandinavian countries, but also far greater economic impact.

While I can appreciate the complaint that requiring the wearing of a mask may be viewed and an infringement on our "freedom", we must acknowledge that, as a society, we establish certain mandates to protect the general public. One must wear a seatbelt and secure children in a moving vehicle to protect them (though not others) from harm. Smoking in restaurants is prohibited to protect the health of others. By comparison, this pandemic poses a far greater risk of death. You can be sure that history will judge the irresponsibility of those in authority harshly, in large part because the issue of mask wearing has become so politicized with the health and wellbeing of the population viewed as secondary. YOU MUST DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTY AND RESIST THE POLITICAL PRESSURES TO DO OTHERWISE.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Weston, MD, FACG, AGAF, FASGE

From: Sent:	Larri Gerson Saturday, September 12, 2020 12:02 AM
То:	Gerard, Pat; Welch, Kenneth; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie
Cc:	Greenleaf, Kim; Burton, Barry
Subject:	Follow the science - Please keep Face Mask Ordinance

CAUTION:

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Commissioners:

Very upset with the discussion last night regarding the BOCC looking at cancelling the Face Mask Ordinance Oct 1st or 7th. Nobody likes wearing a Face Mask, however, wearing a face mask is a life saver for everyone. COVID19 is airborne and those who are asymptomatic would be infecting others, face mask is a logical barrier. Nobody knows for sure unless they have been tested for antigens.

PLEASE KEEP THE FACE MASK ORDINANCE!

Today's count from FDOH confirmed 3650 new cases of COVD19, now at 658,381. There were also 176 deaths, bringing toll past 12,500.

We are just entering the FLU season. How many can afford to take a flu shot?? We are starting our plateau at high numbers. Knowing that COVID19 likes cold weather, the CDC is warning everyone that an increase is most likely along with the flu. Bad idea to remove face masks now. Everyone knows that wearing a face mask will help keep the number of flu cases and COVID19 down.

Why does Commissioner Peters spread misleading medical advice? Does she realize that large doses of "Vit C" is harmful to individuals with unknown underlying medical condition? Taking minerals, Vitamins, supplementals is harmful to those who are taking certain medications or have medical conditions. Commissioner Peters is out of touch with her community and is unaware that most families and individuals under 65 in Pinellas County DON"T have healthcare And if they do its high deductibles. Most don't have regular doctors visit's and only get to see a doctor when they go to the emergency room. Over 65 healthcare is Medicare advantage plan that have high deductibles or with a restrictive HMO that is limited with specialist and referrals. PLEASE tell her to stop giving medical advise!

Since this ordinance went into effect, I have witnessed every person and child wearing a face mask inside a building and outside everyone is social distant at 6 feet. My confidence to go shopping for essentials has been made easier and safer with everyone wearing a face mask.

My husband and I, as well as my in-laws have underlying medical issues that would make us a perfect candidate for COVID19, either be a "long hauler" or "death". Cancelling the Ordinance for Face Mask and allow businesses back to normal is forcing us to "Stay in Place" back to the very beginning of this pandemic.

Yes, it's hard to hear every meeting the ANTI-Face Maskers. They get loud, nasty, threatening and throwing quasi science as facts in your face. This is not a contest to see how many pros or cons speak to the BOCC by calling in or ZOOM. The decision should be based on SCIENCE not political pressure.

In fact, my daughter lives in Brooklyn NY. The daily rate of COVID19 positives is less than 1% and yet everyone is wearing their face masks. Why? Nobody wants to go back to "Staying in Place" and they want businesses to open up again. Everyone wants to live and not be afraid they are going to get COVID19. You saw the pictures on the news with the sirens going all day and night, morgues filled up in overload in freezer trucks. It was worse living there, hearing and seeing this every day.

Please do not be snookered by DOH COVID numbers, they are purposely less than the independent COVID19 Dashboard. Since Face Mask has become politicized the only hope to get back to normal will be a vaccine. According to Dr. Fauci today, the vaccine won't be ready until the end of 2021. So where does that leave us as a society? We have to have leaders that believe in science and will guide us through the this pandemic.

Below, I have included 2 recent articles that address children with no symptoms can spread COVID19.

PLEASE KEEP THE FACE MASK ORDINANCE!

Follow the science:

https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2020%2F09%2F10%2Fhealth%2Frest aurant-dining-covid-19-cdc-study-

wellness%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Cpgerard%40co.pinellas.fl.us%7Ceb438095ce614a3d13aa08d856d09d37%7Cc 32ee18fa4c746ffaf408ed605642745%7C0%7C0%7C637354801289712779&sdata=KqQNEUFwWoBZ6x4%2BwOwytAPLx% 2BCojwKNb1dDy1y1%2FZ8%3D&reserved=0

Even children with no symptoms can spread Covid-19, CDC report shows

https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2020%2F09%2F11%2Fhealth%2Fchil dren-coronavirus-transmission-

wellness%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Cpgerard%40co.pinellas.fl.us%7Ceb438095ce614a3d13aa08d856d09d37%7Cc 32ee18fa4c746ffaf408ed605642745%7C0%7C0%7C637354801289712779&sdata=J76nqAzeWFVOzfMqyIYznxFkWFXtMTB s3js%2F%2Fi9LwUM%3D&reserved=0

Respectfully submitted, Larri Gerson Dunedin

From: Sent: To:	Lesley Siemens <lesleysiemens@yahoo.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 12:39 PM Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; kpeters@pinellascount.org; Welch, Kenneth</lesleysiemens@yahoo.com>
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.

Dear Commissioners,

I understand that you will soon meet to discuss whether to repeal the mask mandate. I am writing to beg you not to repeal it as it has clearly worked to contain the deadly Covid 19 virus. The numbers are way down. My husband and I, both senior citizens with discretionary income to spend, were just now starting to feel comfortable in going out again. If you lift the mandate, the number of cases will go up, and we will be forced to sequester ourselves again for our safety. I know that we will not be the only ones who will feel this way. By lifting the mask mandate you will not alter the behavior of the young but will alter the behavior of your senior citizens, depriving businesses of our money.

My right to feel safe in my environment is just as much a right as those who do not want to wear a mask. Please consider the safety of your community!

Sincerely, Lesley Siemens

From: Sent:	Rebecca Stein <bblythestein@gmail.com> Friday, September 11, 2020 4:28 PM</bblythestein@gmail.com>
To:	Gerard, Pat; Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Welch, Kenneth; Seel, Karen; Justice, Charlie; Peters,
	Kathleen; Cc: Julie Ward Bujalski; Deborah Kynes; Heather Gracy; Maureen Freaney; Jeff Gow; Jennifer Bramley
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.

According to today's TBT, you are considering removing the mask mandate: https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/09/11/pinellas-commissioners-to-discuss-repealingcoronavirus-mask-ordinance/?fbclid=IwAR3kWMMsW5d3Y5-Pc3-QfXbG6ozDX40wKBGDGI9ryuxalNogFXg_HUYjWPc.I

As a resident, one who understands the scientific process and worked in Pharma for 3 decades, now is not the time to back down. Now is the time to stay the course and keep the line trending down.

As a county, we have a few events that are against us right now!

Labor Day! Did you see Dunedin causeway? It's a kissing hangout and this is not family kissing...

Second, school has just resumed. If you want to protect out teachers (health & sanity), administrator (health & sanity) and our children (health & sanity) it *must* be kept in place.

I recently traveled to Vero Beach in Indian River County. No mask mandate. I will not be returning anytime soon. They have great shopping, but hey folks, my life is not worth a throw pillow.

I drove to Boston. Now this town knows how to do it. Republican Major. Mask Mandate. EVERYONE follows it too. From one family in an elevator to 10 foot spacing in the stairwells. Could it be all the colleges? Medical institutions? What do know the we do not? Answer: they have all the same data.

Please keep the mask mandate in place. Becky Stein, Dunedin & voter

From:	linda medeiros <bchlad08@icloud.com></bchlad08@icloud.com>
Sent:	Friday, September 11, 2020 3:24 PM
То:	Gerard, Pat; Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Welch, Kenneth; Seel, Karen; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen
Cc:	Julie Ward Bujalski; Deborah Kynes; Heather Gracy; Maureen Freaney; Jeff Gow; Jennifer Bramley
Subject:	Mask mandate

To the Commissioners:

According to today's TBT, you are considering removing the mask mandate:

https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/09/11/pinellas-commissioners-to-discuss-repealing-coronavirus-maskordinance/?fbclid=IwAR3kWMMsW5d3Y5-Pc3-QfXbG6ozDX40wKBGDGI9ryuxalNogFXg_HUYjWPc. I am shocked and appalled. It seems to me that you are caving to the people who call every week armed with data based on politics not science. While Pinellas County has claimed, or tried to claim, victory in flattening the curve, people are continuing to get sick and die. I have followed the numbers on an almost daily basis. The FDOH, who should be unbiased but is constrained by our governor, consistently reports lower positivity rates than Covid Act Now, which is a multidisciplinary team of technologists, epidemiologists, health experts, and public policy. They are in partnership with the Georgetown University Center for Global Health Science and,Stanford University Clinical Excellence Research Center, and Grand Rounds.

According to the FDOH the positivity rate for Pinellas County was 3.2% on September 4 and 4.9% on September 10. For both of those same dates Covid Act Now showed a positivity rate of 7.2% and 9.2%. (See below for screenshots of data...unable to show dates in exact order). I choose to believe the data from Covid Act Now, an organization that is not beholden to our state's political leaders, and I hope you will too.

We all want this epidemic to end, but we're not there yet. Wearing a mask is the least we can do to protect ourselves and others.

Sincerely, Linda Medeiros, Dunedin resident and voter





Search for your state or county

Pinellas County, FL

COVID THREAT LEVEL

Slow disease growth

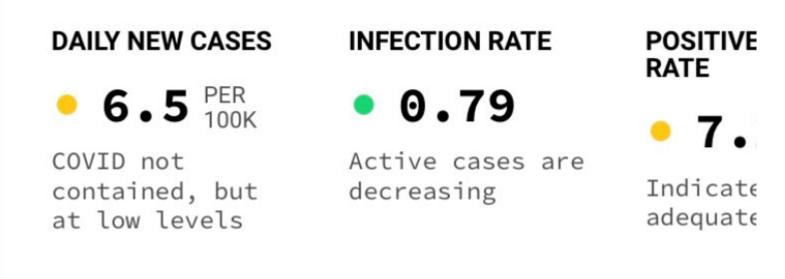
COVID in Pinellas County is spreading slow and controlled fashion, and Pine County's COVID preparedness meets international standards.

Pinellas County, FL

COVID THREAT LEVEL

Slow disease growth

COVID in Pinellas County is spreading in a s and controlled fashion, and Pinellas County' COVID preparedness meets international stand



Updated September 4, 2020 · County data is current Recause counties don't report pospitalizations of

COVID-19: summary for Pinellas County

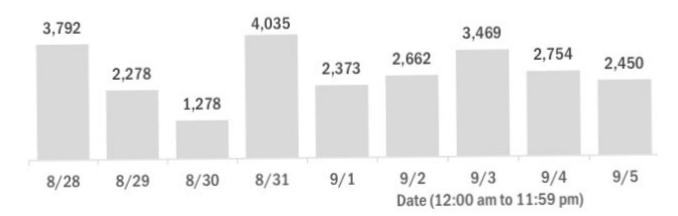
Data through Sep 10, 2020 verified as of Sep 11, 2020 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.

Laboratory testing for Florida residents over the past 2 weeks

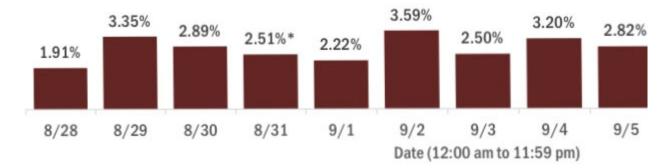
Number of Florida residents who tested negative per day

These counts include the number of people for whom the Department received negative PCR or antige multiple days will be included once for each day they are tested. Negative results for persons who has



Percent positivity for new cases in Florida residents

These counts include the number of Florida residents for whom the department received PCR or antig people who test positive for the first time divided by all the people tested that day, excluding people w



* Includes a one-time historical data submission from a large laboratory that affected some counties. The perce 2.60%.

From:	Mark Feinman <markfeinmandrums@gmail.com></markfeinmandrums@gmail.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 4:16 PM
To:	Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
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.

Dear Pinellas County Board of Commissioners,

We are in the midst of a pandemic where close to 200,000 people have died, about 1,000 people in this country die every day, almost 800 people died in Florida this week, flu season is approaching, a vaccine is months away and the discussion is about removing a mask mandate?

If each of you won't walk down the halls and into every classroom of any school maskless every day through May 2021, then you need to continue the mandate of masks.

There has already been 6 deaths in 6 states of teachers confirmed, related to COVID-19.

Why is this even a discussion?

Best, Mark Feinman

From: Sent:	Jane Brigham <janebrigham@gmail.com> Saturday, September 12, 2020 9:18 AM</janebrigham@gmail.com>
To:	Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Justice, Charlie; Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Welch, Kenneth;
Subject:	Eggers, Dave Mask mandates

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.

As a Pinellas County resident, I urge you to vote to continue the mask mandate. The use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has been proven effective worldwide and within our county. It is a simple and effective measure that keeps our community safe. Let's continue with this recommended guideline until we either have a vaccine or effective treatment. Jane Brigham

Sent from my iPad

Young, Bernie	C
From:	Eve Goldstein <eveness@verizon.net></eveness@verizon.net>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:05 PM
To:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
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 commissioners,

PLEASE allow the mask ordinance to stay in place UNTIL IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY!! Seriously, masks are much cheaper than being in the hospital. Masks are proven to be a deterrent to the corona virus. There is no reason to pull back this ordinance at this time. Florida's cases are enormous. Do you all really want to be responsible for even more people getting sick and dying? Please do what is right for Pinellas county. Masks are easy and inexpensive. It is not a hardship to wear a mask. If anyone tells you it is too difficult to wear a mask, they should speak to the thousands of healthcare workers who wear them all day, every day.

Please do the right thing and protect Pinellas county. Thank you.

Regards, Eve Alman Goldstein Clearwater, FL

From: Sent:	Barb And Bob Hannan <b.bhannan@verizon.net> Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:49 PM</b.bhannan@verizon.net>
То:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; lwelch@pinellascounty.org
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 Pinellas County Commissioners,

I understand that you will be voting on the "End the Mask Ordinance" this Thursday, September 17th. My husband and I strongly disagree with lifting this mask ordinance at this time. The numbers in Pinellas County are dropping because of the many vigilant people who have continued to wear their masks when they are out in public. Reversing that ordinance at this time could reverse those numbers rapidly as we saw occur when the bars opened up in June. Children have just returned to school and we need to watch those numbers very closely. Not to mention that we are right on the cusp of cold and flu season. It would be great to keep those flu cases down resulting in fewer flu related deaths.

Thank you for your time and thank you for what you do for us in Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Barbara and Robert Hannan

From:	Jay Preble <preblepr@gmail.com></preblepr@gmail.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:56 AM
To:	Welch, Kenneth; Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Gerard, Pat; Long,
Subject:	Janet C 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.

I've been a Pinellas County resident for 26 years. I'm writing because I'm extremely troubled by the comments I read from Kathleen Peters and Dave Eggers in the St. Pete Times on Sept. 11.

One of the main reasons Pinellas County is seeing lower COVID-19 case numbers is obviously the mask ordinance. It would be negligent of you, the people who are supposed to act in the best interests of county residents, to end the mandatory mask ordinance before a vaccine has gotten the virus under control. I don't care if you are getting inundated by emails from anti-maskers – you need to do what the medical professionals say is the right course of action and not listen to people who don't believe science and are acting purely for political reasons. The governor and president have both failed the citizens, and are now pressuring states to "act like" things are getting back to normal before a presidential election. It's your job to ignore that pressure and act on our behalf.

I have a relative who didn't take the virus or mask use seriously and is currently fighting for his life in the COVID unit at Morton Plant in Clearwater. Rescinding the mask ordinance would be, to put it plainly, one of the dumbest decisions you could possibly make when all the data points to the fact that it's one of the main reasons why things have improved. Any of you who act for political reasons and not in the best interests of the citizens will face much more than just the prospect of losing your seat in the next election. You'd have deaths on your hands.

Thanks for your time,

Jay Preble Safety Harbor

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Sent: To: Subject: sachittenden@tampabay.rr.com Sunday, September 13, 2020 8:25 AM Peters, Kathleen; Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie 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.

Commissioners:

I read in the Tampa Bay Times that the commission is going to discuss cancelling the mask mandate because the infection rate of Covid 19 has dropped in Pinellas County.

The rate has dropped BECAUSE of people wearing masks. Eliminating the mask mandate as we head into flu season is a big mistake. I urge you to keep it in place.

Help save lives.

Thank you,

Steve Chittenden sachittenden@tampabay.rr.com

From:	
Sent:	
To:	
Subject:	

Kate M. <kate.munkittrick@gmail.com> Friday, September 11, 2020 11:49 AM Justice, Charlie; Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Welch, Kenneth 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.

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the county-wide mask ordinance. While the number of cases has declined in the county since this was enacted in June, our numbers are currently stagnating (as reported by the Tampa Bay Times this week). Schools are back in session. The state is about to re-open bars.

I know many people don't want to wear masks, but masks are what make it possible for us to reopen schools, restaurants, beaches and bars. Seeing the decrease in numbers as a reason to stop, rather than a reason to <u>continue</u> is short-sighted.

Please, continue to keep our county safe by maintaining the mask order. This is such a small ask for such a large benefit. Thanks Kate Munkittrick

From: Sent:	Charlotte Higgins <cth1@tampabay.rr.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 7:58 PM</cth1@tampabay.rr.com>
To:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject:	Mask Ordinance for Indoor Public Areas

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.

Pinellas County Commissioners,

I strongly encourage you to continue support for the mandatory mask mandate. Social distancing and mask wearing greatly contribute to the lowering of Coronavirus cases in Pinellas County. Repealing the mask requirement at this time would be dangerous and make past sacrifices in vain. Please follow the advice of local physicians and health department officials before making a change to the mask mandate.

Thank you for all that you do to serve the residents of Pinellas County. Charlotte Higgins

Charlotte Higgins

From:	carolyn Allard <cdallard48@gmail.com></cdallard48@gmail.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:02 PM
То:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
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.

The mask ordinance should not be a political issue. It is a health issue. Even though the numbers are improving, we are not completely open. As an at risk senior citizen, I would like the mask ordinance to remain in place at least for the rest of this year. My life might depend on it.

I understand as a senior citizen, I'm considered expendable. That said, I'd really like to have a fighting chance. I'm doing my part by only shopping in person when necessary but still supporting local businesses through online business. Will you do yours by keeping the mask ordinance in place?

Carolyn Allard 4111 Iris St N St Petersburg, FL 33703

From: Sent: Subject: Sus H <susieharvey27@gmail.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:00 PM Masks wearing in Pinellas

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, please, please continue to require masks when in public places and inside businesses in Pinellas County.

Prior to masks being required, it was seen as a political statement resulting in hostility between those wearing and those not wearing masks. My friends and I were discussing just yesterday how much less stress there is now that masks are required for everyone.

Why not? Who is it harming? No one has a problem wearing shoes and a shirt when required to enter a business. How is mask wearing, which is so much more critical, that big a deal? As a matter of fact, plenty of small (and large) businesses are now selling masks giving them a new income stream.

Please continue to demonstrate that the pandemic is still an issue we are dealing with and demonstrate that you care about the people of this county by extending the mask ordinance and not setting an arbitrary end date before there is a good public health reason to do so!

Susan M. Harvey

Young, Bernie C From: Dan Der <chillaxind50@gmail.com> Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:54 PM To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth Subject: Masks... please maintain the 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 County Commissioners,

I am 60 years old with comorbidities. I need to have the ability to do some shopping without being fearful of contracting the virus. Please follow the suggestions of the epidemiologists who say that 100,000 lives could be saved just by having everyone wear masks.

Thanks, Daniel DerGarabedian

Young, Bernie C		
From:	Lori Ballard <lori.d.ballard@gmail.com></lori.d.ballard@gmail.com>	
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 5:45 PM	
То:	Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Justice, Charlie	
Subject:	Pinellas County 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 Pinellas County Commissioners,

I understand you will be discussing the mask ordinance this week, and I would like to share my thoughts with you. I know that you all understand the importance of this crucial decision and I trust that you will be using evidence-based science and consulting with healthcare experts before reaching a decision on whether to continue the current ordinance. This should not be a decision based on political pressure nor one based on gut feeling or wishful thinking - the citizens of Pinellas County deserve better and are counting on you to help keep the pandemic under control by keeping the mask ordinance in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Lorena Ballard 13981 86th Ave N, Seminole, FL 33776

From: Sent:	Deborah Pennington <deborahkayp@gmail.com> Sunday, September 13, 2020 2:41 PM</deborahkayp@gmail.com>
To:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch,
Subject:	Kenneth Pinellas Mandatory Mask MandateWE NEED THIS

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.

Do not politicize this important public safety issue any more than it has been, WE NEED A MASK MANDATE, without it we are left too vulnerable to uncontrolled spread of COVID19. Decisions need to be made on the basis of science not political pressure. As a member of the vulnerable population (age 68, cancer patient with autoimmune disease) I am only able to venture out of my home to Publix and Walgreens and the Library and such places because I know that there is a mask mandate in place—without this, my risks of exposure would be too great and I would become a prisoner in my own home. Florida (& the US) does not have its infection rates and death rates under control. The mask mandate is ESSENTIAL because without it, due to the politization of this public health measure, too many fools will not wear a mask if not required to do so and COVID will continue to spread.

Yours truly, A concerned voter, Deborah Pennington, 10676 Park Place Drive, Largo FL 33778.

Young, Bernie C From: Nancy Vellucci <nvellucci@gmail.com> Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 4:22 PM To: Peters, Kathleen; Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Welch, Kenneth Subject: Please extend 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.

To all my county commissioners: I would very much appreciate it if you would extend the mask ordinance here in Pinellas County. I am a great proponent of masks because they save lives and they make people more comfortable to be out in public areas. And no matter what is said, the fact that we are likely saving lives is far worth the 'bother' of wearing masks.

My husband and I are in our late 60s, his 64 year old sister was admitted into Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater on JUNE 27th with Covid-19 and has not come home yet. She was in ICU for 6 weeks, transferred to Alliant Hospital in Dunedin for another 4 weeks, and is finally in a rehab in Largo to try to recover. Her 92 year old mother and 55 year old sister were admitted to Morton Plant 2 days after her admittance, also diagnosed with Covid-19. If I hadn't insisted on taking them there, they would have stayed home even though they had the virus because neither had a fever. They stayed for 4 and 2 days respectively. Thankfully, they recovered well, though mom registered positive for weeks after. Other family members were diagnosed with Covid-19, including a 3 year old. We all wear masks now when out in public and are far more careful being around others. And unfortunately, we don't even know if those who had Covid can get it again or not.

Having a mask ordinance allows us to go places that we might avoid if there was not an ordinance. I am amazed how many people are refusing to wear masks or who wear them improperly. We understand that we need to help the businesses and economy but we must do it safely and masks are helping.

Please vote for the approach which will save lives and still encourage support of businesses. Having to shut down everything again should not happen but likely will if you stop the ordinance too soon.

Nancy Vellucci nvellucci@gmail.com

Young, Bern	ie C
From:	Trish Ezell <atsarap1@tampabay.rr.com></atsarap1@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 8:45 PM
То:	Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Cc:	Beverly Anderson
Subject:	Re: URGENT: Masks MUST remain in force

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.

To the Pinellas County Commission Members:

As a senior citizen with underlying conditions, the mask ordinance must remain in force to protect the seniors, the immune compromised, the children and families and all citizens of Pinellas County. We have all made incredible progress in decreasing the spread of the COVID-19 and the masks have been very instrumental in lowering Pinellas County numbers of cases and deaths. Let's keep this practice going. We all have the right to be safe and the mask ordinance is utmost important to the rights of the people who want to stay safe. We are all in this together.

Patricia Ezell

On 9/13/2020 6:54 PM, Beverly Anderson wrote:

Good morning,

I just heard that there is a county commissioners meeting tomorrow, September 14th, because a lot of political pressure is coming from citizens who think mask wearing is an infringement of their rights. Look, we just got our kids back in school and so far, they are doing great. Let's not mess up the one good thing that seems to be working. It is of the utmost importance that people keep wearing their masks in all indoor establishments. Because of this political pressure we cannot let our guard down. WE MUST KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Beverly Anderson

From:	Beverly Anderson <bev40@tampabay.rr.com></bev40@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: To:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 6:54 PM Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch,
Subject:	Kenneth URGENT: Masks MUST remain in force

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.

Good morning,

I just heard that there is a county commissioners meeting tomorrow, September 14th, because a lot of political pressure is coming from citizens who think mask wearing is an infringement of their rights. Look, we just got our kids back in school and so far, they are doing great. Let's not mess up the one good thing that seems to be working. It is of the utmost importance that people keep wearing their masks in all indoor establishments. Because of this political pressure we cannot let our guard down. WE MUST KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Beverly Anderson