From:	Imjacobus
To:	Eggers, Dave
Cc:	Imjacobus@aol.com
Subject:	Please extend the Mask Mandate
Date:	Monday, September 14, 2020 8:06:33 AM

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Dear Vice-Chair Eggers,

My husband and I read that Board of County Commissioners is considering repealing the Pinellas County Mask Mandate. We **strongly encourage you to extend the mask mandate.** Not long ago, Florida was the Covid epicenter. The mask mandate has been the key to reducing our infection levels, and to making us feel safer. Yet, we are not out of the woods yet. This week friends in our "bubble" were exposed to a student who tested positive. One exposure grows exponentially to all those who were near or related to the positive person, the exposed people, and on it goes.

Bars will be reopening and schools are in session. These activities will increase our numbers. Reports show that the Tampa Bay Area has reached a plateau. We cannot travel to many states unless we quarantine for two weeks, due to Florida's numbers. Please do not repeal the mask mandate. We want our state to improve so we can travel once again.

If the mask mandate is repealed, my husband and I and many of our friends will no longer
shop in local boutiques and other stores, we will not eat out in restaurants, and will also stop taking staycations to local hotels. The mask mandate has made us feel comfortable venturing into the world, and staying as normal as possible. If this changes we will
hunker down in our home again, not spending money in the community.

Flu season will be upon us soon. Dropping mask requirements now is fool hardy. Read the science, not the politics. Keep your citizens safe. Even though we have lower levels of infection, Pinellas County's death rate is the highest in the state. We have lost close friends to Covid. Let's reverse the high death rate in Pinellas.

We encourage you to extend the mask mandate, so that your citizens and constituents can remain safe and alive. Covid is a terrible disease, with new side effects and long term impacts being discovered everyday. Compound that with flu season, and we will have a mess on our hands. A mask keeps you and me safe. Isn't that what we all want--to stop the spread of the deadly Covid?

Thank you for considering this issue wisely.

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