From: Emma S. Cronin
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please keep the mask ordinance. Peoples Lives are at Stake
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:07:57 PM

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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.