

Debra Thompson

From: Alisa Jestel <chefalisajestel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: Mask mandate

Good morning,

I wanted to take a minute to share my thoughts on the proposed emergency mask mandate. I believe at this point, 2 years into this pandemic, that we are doing more harm than good by trying to universally mandate the public's actions. I believe that no one intentionally is trying to infect others with Covid and beyond that we are all capable of making decisions to protect ourselves and our families if we are feeling vulnerable.

Taking away personal choice, and creating situations that promote division and discord amongst the community is compounding the negative reach of this pandemic far beyond the actual physical effects of the disease. We are ignoring all the other negative impacts. Depression and mental health issues that are being exacerbated by the isolation of this pandemic as well as the community division, the emotional turmoil all the kids are experiencing with the openings/closings of school and activities being randomly taken away, the kids living in households that are monopolized by constant conversations amongst adults worried about making the right decisions for themselves and their families in all aspects of life not just physical health, the economical strain on small businesses, and the forced division within this community.

I believe that if we all take a step back, and make decisions based on what's best for ourselves and our family and support our neighbors in doing the same that we will work through this Pandemic in a much more successful manor with less casualties. I do not believe we need government to step in and dictate how we navigate, we are all capable of choosing to mask, not mask, vaccinate or not vaccinate.

I myself chose to vaccinate, I have friends who are both vaccinated and unvaccinated. We have been able to navigate this pandemic with respect for each other's decisions as well as support each other through the trying times regardless of our individual beliefs. This is what I want (and honestly would expect) from a small tight knit community like Petersburg. Respect, Empathy, Kindness, and a little Grace. We don't all have to behave in the same manor or share the same beliefs to be a thriving community.

Thank you
Alisa Jestel

Sent from my iPhone