

Debra Thompson

From: Scott May <mays2121@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:54 PM
To: Assembly
Cc: Bridget Wittstock
Subject: Mask Testimony

My name is Scott May, and I'm a proud new resident to Petersburg.

Thank you for the work you do, and the difficult decisions you make.

I too feel that masks ***should be required***. I've recently moved here from Juneau where I have just retired as a teacher for 35 years. I can directly address the issue of students wearing masks in schools since we returned to in-person teaching last Fall. From day one, masks have been and continue to be required by all people in all our schools at all times in Juneau. To my surprise, my students last year adapted and adjusted extremely well. While some didn't like it, they accepted it because we all knew that by wearing masks we were helping to keep ourselves and our friends safe. That continues to be the culture and the expectation in Juneau schools. While we know that masks are not 100% full proof in helping prevent the spread of the virus, we know that they do help some. And that was enough for us all to make this small sacrifice. I also want to say that as an athlete, I have always worn a face mask while running when the temperature is under 15 degrees. As a coach of 18 years (Track & Cross Country) I also know many other athletes that wear masks as part of training, and there is absolutely no truth to harmful effects from breathing with them.

Finally, I wish that the borough wouldn't need to come up with a mandate. However, if we continue to have people that are putting others at risk by not taking such a common sense and simple precaution, then I feel it is the *moral and ethical responsibility* of this body to impose a mask mandate so that those who feel their personal freedoms are more important than their neighbors health and possibly lives, will be compelled to do so. I further hope that as in other communities, there is some consequence for those who continue to put others at risk by choosing not to comply.

Thanks again for holding this meeting and taking our opinions.