



**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
July 7, 2020**

Council President Leanora Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

PRESENT: Cotner (Remote), Baker (Remote), Bryant (Remote), Strickland (Remote), Salvati (Remote), Pyakurel (Remote), Lawson-Rowe, Jenkins (Remote)
ABSENT:

Approval of Agenda

The agenda stands as approved

Community Comments

Robert Barga

Mr. Mayor, Mr. City Attorney, Mr. City Auditor, Madam President, Members of Council, thank you. My name is Robert M. Barga and I am here tonight in my individual capacity. In January of this year, and last year, and the year before, I sat across the parking lot, and considered the very issues you are considering now. How should a member of the government use their general police powers to better protect the community they serve? What exactly is our job, is it to defend the helpless, to govern the budget, to build roads, to serve as parents? But it's more than what generally is our job, that's a debate between De Tocqueville and Rawles, we actually have to practically govern. So, what is it that our voters chose us for? Just two hours ago I bought the masks my wife and I will need for 1 month, almost 40\$. Did the electors think they were voting for candidates who supported equity? Did they think they were supporting candidates who opposed a strict student dress code, let alone an adult one? Did they think they were supporting candidates who opposed emergency meetings and barely legal notice, or did they want our normal to remain normal? I'm not here to tell you your job, I know my lane. I'm merely asking, do you know yours? Thank you

Dylan Daniels

My wife and I serve as teachers for Reynoldsburg City Schools and have lived in the district for the last four years. I would like to thank Councilmember Lawson-Rowe for her conversation that inspired me to share this evening. I am uplifted and inspired by the leadership within Reynoldsburg community. Thank you Council for your continued service to the residents and the young people I have the privilege of teaching. I speak to you this evening having the experience of contracting Covid-19 virus. On March 15th I was hired to provide audio support for an event in Worthington. I had no idea that following that event by a few days, I would be ill with the same virus that seemed so out of reach when I was



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watching it on the news. I would like to speak a little bit about the day I had been infected. The world around me was in the beginning stage of shutting down and it seemed a little bit unbelievable and crazy. However, I had a job to do and under one arm was Lysol wipes and sanitizer in the other. During the event I sat next to a friend from New Albany. We shared stories and hand sanitizer throughout the day. I felt ill 5 days later and then found out my friend had already been on a ventilator fighting for her life soon after. She had already contracted it and spreading the virus without even knowing. Now I tell you all of this to explain that maybe if we would have worn face coverings and practiced more precaution, I and the five others from that same event would not have had to fight the battle. Still today, I have antibodies, I still continue to wear a mask in public. I do it set an example and to reinforce the medical professionals who have encouraged the guidelines for our safety. I am young with no underlying issues and I survived. My friend survived. However, I wear my mask for the community members who would not survive. I wear my mask for those who are at home caring for their elderly parents or grandparents. I wear my mask for those who are dealing with the disease or other diseases that make them more susceptible to Covid-19. Thank you Reynoldsburg leadership for your encouragement to wear our masks to prevent the community spread. I look forward to the great things this leadership team continues to do for its residents. Continue to be great Reynoldsburg. Thank you.

Franklin Davis

I have lived in Reynoldsburg for 10, almost 11 years. I am in favor of wearing face masks in public spaces. A review commission by the World Health Organization, organized the results of 44 studies. Which tested more than 25,000 people in 16 countries. The studies examined the effects of social distancing, eye protection as well as face masks. They found that social distancing even 3 feet, there was an 80% difference in transmission rates between those wearing face masks, cloth face coverings then those without. Furthermore, each additional foot of social distancing up to ten feet when paired with face masks resulted in the chances of transmission being half. Using surgical or N95 mask resulted in even better results. Covid has killed 132,000 people in our country. That's more than any way America has participated in other than the Civil War and World War II. We celebrated Memorial Day and Independence Day recently. It seems fitting in the spirit of those holidays for us to take a stand to the common enemy that is killing our country. Whether one believes in the science or not, if there is anything we may be able to do to change the tide, even if it's just a chance, it's our duty to do so now. As much as anyone had a duty to support our country's cause in 1776 or 1940. Paraphrasing JFK, in times like this, it's imperative that we ask not just what can our country do for us but what will we do for our country. Wearing a face mask truly seems to be the least that we can do.



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Charles Meyers

I am here today to speak on the ordinance to mandate face mask coverings to be used in Reynoldsburg. I know you all are stuck between a rock and a hard place but I ask you do your best to tune out the noise and listen. It is easy to assume that those not agreeing with the mask policies are irrational, crazy talk or conspiracy theorist. When the government authority begins to mandate something, it is our duties as Americans to question all decisions. Every elected official are humans and humans can make mistakes and lost in the corruption throughout the process. Daily reporting of Covid numbers, hospitalizations, deaths are and have been reported inaccurately. They have knowingly been using projected models that were proven early on in this pandemic to be more way off base than its predictions. We are reporting cumulative numbers which cause people to fear more than anything. When we look at the numbers directly for the CDC files you can clearly see that we not only peaked in late March but have been in a huge decline ever since. The virus has been here since 2019, November of 2019. And even when we were doing nothing before March, our hospitals were never at full capacity. We are seeing an increase of positive cases because we are also increasing the number of test being given. Why increase testing taking place. We have pop up centers throughout the community and the state, encouraging anyone to come get tested. We have known from the beginning that a lot of people have had this virus. Deferred care from the stay at home orders are now being taken. People are going to the hospitals and getting the care they lacked before. We have hospital surgeries that require the patient to be tested even if they have no symptoms. If positive that could mean they have an active virus, false positive, antibodies of the virus or other strains which would lead to a positive reading. We are hearing younger ages are showing up and being tested when previously we were only testing the elderly and at risk. People are going to sport camps which require testing. Nurses are coming back to work. General surgeries, those are all requiring them to be tested. The only way to truly know about this virus is to follow through with the virus. We are seeing our hospitals and death count continues to get smaller, lets continue this process and build up our herd immunity within our communities. The governor's press secretary even said the numbers for hospitalization is all up to each individual hospital system. No universal way to collect the hospitalization numbers. You ask what does that mean. A lady comes in to give birth, she test positive, and she is now listed as Covid-19, even though she would have been at the hospital anyway to give birth. This allows our numbers to be inflated. Each hospital is given between \$11,000 - \$15,000 for each patient they mark Covid-19. Hospitals across our state are losing money and they need money. Anytime they can list someone at Covid-19, it's there. Deaths are down. There is no difference in the data between dying from Covid or dying with Covid. 51 counties have less than 10 deaths. Yesterday all 7 counties combined that are at the level 3, had 15 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Consider all this information



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before a decision is made in the City and I hope maybe we can do this conversation in person verses virtual.

Melody Colbert

I have lived in Reynoldsburg nearly 18 years. I am here tonight to voice that I am in favor of having face covering policy within the city of Reynoldsburg. We only have a few actions we can take as individuals to slow the spread of coronavirus, which causes the devastating disease of Covid-19. Wearing a mask is incredibly important. The figures from Franklin County public health are alarming, show our zip code 43068 as having the most cases of Covid-19 in the county. We saw an increase from 391 cases to 431 cases in just the past two days in our zip code. So how many more people in the community are carrying the virus and inadvertently passing it on. Our livelihood, businesses and teachers, school teachers, children and elderly immune compromised residents are counting on us to stop the spread of this virus. This impacts us all. We want to keep our businesses open, we want to continue to working or finding a new job. We want to attend school in person, receive visitors while in the hospital or nursing home. We want to keep our medical appointments without risk of contracting this virus. I view wearing a mask as a way to protect and show respect for those around me. Caring for one another is the hallmark of our Reynoldsburg community and one that I have always loved about our residents. I believe that we will step up to this challenge. We're known as the City of Respect and together we can reverse the alarming trend and stop the spread of coronavirus within our City and our county, state and country. Special note, I am concerned for residents who are people of color. Reluctance to wear a mask for fear of injustice or racially motivated violence would certainly be understandable. And a concern for some which may hit closer to home than coronavirus right now. So I respectfully request that action be taken by the Council to educate the community on why these concerns may exist and to increase awareness so that we can all feel safe in participating in covering our faces. Many conversations I have had with young people in our community have led me to feel that I need to speak out about this. The state has a resource. The Minority Health Strike Force Education and Outreach Support. Which if you have not seen, I am going to send a link to the Clerk just so you have it. It may be able to provide more guidance on this topic and may be of assistance. I appreciate your hard work and leadership during this pandemic, I know it's not an easy thing. You're between a rock and a whole lot of hard places. I thank you for your time and attention to this matter and to me.



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Dave Mirth

I support an ordinance requiring the wearing of masks in retail businesses. There are two key reasons that I support such an ordinance. The first is based upon science: Masks have proven to be the single best method to stop the spread of COVID 19, and to enable a society to return to normalcy, promoting economic growth and recreational activities. The best example of this science is the experience of South Korea. South Korea has a population of over 50 million, which is 4 times greater than Ohio's population. Yet they have had only 285 deaths due to COVID 19, versus over 2900 in Ohio. Ohio has experienced 10 times the number of deaths, with one fourth of the population. The simple reason: South Korea mandated the wearing of masks from the beginning of this pandemic. And the result is that they never shut down their economy, their sports teams are back in action, and their new cases have averaged less than 50 per day for months now. The second reason is personal rights. Some say that it is their right to not wear a mask. I agree with this when they are home, or outside and socially distanced from others. But this is not a right when they are exposing others to potential disease.

There is an old saying about personal rights: "Your right to swing your fist ends where my nose begins." For the current situation, I would modify this to: "Your right to not wear a mask ends where my breathing space begins." When someone does not wear a mask while around others in a retail business, it is **they** who are violating **our** rights to breathe clean air. I support this ordinance, conceptually it's no different than banning smoking in an indoor area. Thank you.

John Haag

We have lived in Reynoldsburg for more than 20 years. The two proclamations on Juneteenth and PRIDE month moved me to tears. Knowing the history of this town and having had to drive to DC to get married when Sean and I did in 2013. The diversity on that screen and what you did just move me incredibly and I thank you so much for that leadership. I am a lifelong democrat but I didn't miss a chance to praise DeWine for what he did in the early weeks of this pandemic. But when he backed down on a mandatory mask ordinance I was incredibly disappointed and thought it was a mistake. I understand the inclination to want to give people freedom, it's what our country is founded on, to make their own decisions, but we tried it and it failed. I understand the comments about numbers being worked somehow. Since this ordinance was written with 136,000 people dead, there will soon be 10,000 more Americans dead than when this ordinance was written. There is nothing inflated about those numbers. Every one of those people has a family, a father, a mother, a brother. That number isn't inflated for them. I just wanted to say I strong support this and I associate myself with the science of South Korea. It's self-evident that we have failed. That we have not had



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leadership and I appreciate your leadership. I just want to say when I debated online or elsewhere about this, the people that most advocate for freedom and who most fear tyranny are the same people that demanded that Sean and I have to drive to Washington DC to get married after being together for 15 years. They are the same people that thought it was ok for a bakery to deny us being their customer to bake a cake for us. I think there is an incredible amount of hypocrisy and I appreciate my city for taking a lead on this issue, I hope that you will pass it and strongly support it once passed. If it turns out that half the people in the grocery store have asthma, I think that we will have to revisit this. I understand the freedom to allow people not to have to prove that they have a medical issue but if it turn out that everyone in the city has COPD or asthma, I hope you will take a second look at that provision. Thank you everyone for listening to me and special thank you to Clerk Prasher.

Tamra Alexander

I am a family nurse practitioner in Columbus Ohio. I have lived in Reynoldsburg for six years. I have had the honor of meeting many of the Council members as well as the Mayor and know that they work very hard each day and thank you for all that you do. I support mandating wearing masks in public. As we all have heard, the numbers are continuing to increase, especially in our zip code. It is very important that we start to consider, or continue to consider those that cannot protect themselves. Any of the people that are not protected are those that could be a member of our family or a friend that lives close to us or that we walk by every day. I will keep this simple, please continue to understand that wearing a face mask helps decrease the likelihood of Covid-19 or at least slowing the spread of Covid-19. We must also continue to practice social distancing as well as continuing to practice good hygiene habits. It's going to be important to continue practicing all of the habits that have been reinforced by our local government. With this I ask that you continue to consider mandating mask wearing in our City. Thank you.

Janelle Layton

My name is Janelle Layton. I am 51 years young and I have been a resident of Reynoldsburg my entire life. You have before you this evening a very important decision regarding mandatory mask-wearing, and it's a decision that should be grounded in data, science and facts.

The data tells us that countries like Canada, Japan and Taiwan, who require mandatory mask-wearing, are the country's leading the world in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The facts tell us that these countries have leaders who lead from the top by example; they encourage mask-wearing and wear masks themselves in public. They also have bi-partisan



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agreement on mask-wearing, making the safety of their citizens the priority. And while we may not have that example here in the United States, and the effect is trickling all the way down to our small city, we do have the opportunity to lead by example in our corner of the world and require mask-wearing for the safety of our citizens. The science tells us that wearing masks significantly reduces the spread of the virus in the form of blocking respiratory droplets expelled into the air when we breathe, talk, cough or sneeze. There are the very basic outlines of what the data, science and facts tell us. I do not envy the position all of you are in this evening in having to make this decision, as there are many who are not in favor of mandated mask-wearing, but please do not be deterred from doing what the data, science and facts tell us we should be doing, and please do not be deterred from doing what is right for the citizens of Reynoldsburg.

Eric Rodgers

I am long term resident of Reynoldsburg, Ohio having lived here for nearly 18 years and raising two children in the Reynoldsburg City school system, I am also an attorney at law and have practiced throughout the state of Ohio and other states as well. With that said, I would like to say that this is really kind of common sense regulation. I am fully in support of the ordinance with the requirement for citizens to wear masks. However, I would like to see our leadership do this in a way that is practical and do this is a way that will show the safety of all residents, including residents that may just be passing through the City of Reynoldsburg. As you know the devil often lies in the details. I had an opportunity to read the most recent version of the ordinance and I am concerned about section 1. A3. Which makes a requirement for vehicles for hire to require the passengers and the drivers to wear mask. That vehicle for hire can also be a personal vehicle. That personal vehicle could sometimes be a lift or an Uber. My concern that is if we are going to enforce these things, we really don't have a way of knowing what is a personal vehicle being used for hire. So in other words, I would not like to see the mask become the new broken tail light, the new non-working turn indicator, which would be the impotence for a traffic stop that would otherwise be unwarranted. What I would like to see is for us to put something in there that would require or be a primary citation before a traffic stop could occur and be the primary reason simply for a passenger or driver not wearing a mask. I know that our law enforcement has a very tough job. They have to do their job and I am completely in support of them doing their job but we also don't want to open the Pandora's Box. Nor do we want to open up or invite the opportunity for abuses to be had when they could otherwise be taken care of with just a little careful drafting of the ordinance. I know I am running out of time but also like to point out that there seems to be a conflict down in section 3L, there was a reference back to section 1c on the draft that I looked at 1c does not exist. I think that the writers of the ordinance



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probably meant to refer back to 1a3, which was the section I just looked at. If I don't have the most recent version that I am looking at, I do apologize, I am not nit picking but I do think that we should take the time to walk through the ordinance. Look at those type of details and concerns and ensure that we are making a moving forward in practical safe way for our community and those that might be passing through the City of Reynoldsburg. (Clerk Prasher explain that this was a clerical error and has been resolved, numbers 2, 3 and 4 should have been B, C, and D.)

Kristina Balevska

I am not one to make a written speech as you all heard with the speakers before me. With statistics and science and all that. I am a direct front line worker and I am a healthcare provider. With this ordinance that you are putting into effect, if it does pass, is one of the best decisions that our city could make. I have seen patients that have been Covid positive. I have been there taking care of these patients and for me to not have a mask in place for our City, that tells me that the virus can easily spread. I could easily be on my clothing, not in my breathing but on my clothing. It could spread to other places. I do where a mask for 12 to 16 hours because of the work I do at the hospital. I give this analogy every day to anyone who wants to put up the fight of why we should wear the mask. Take a bottle of glitter, I am sure everyone has experienced working with glitter. Take that bottle and throw it up in the air and 2, 3 weeks, 4, 5 years later, it's still going to spread. And I give that analogy every day. That's how Covid is, we don't know if I have it, you have it, we don't know. In order to protect ourselves, the face covering should help and it does help. I have seen it, within my line of profession I have to wear two masks. To gown myself from head to toe to prevent any kind of spread from my end to anyone else's end. Yes, hospitals do test patients but not just for the patient's safety, it's for the safety for my coworkers who are taking care of these patients. People don't understand that, you walk into the hospital every single day we get checked without temperatures, if it's above a certain number we are not allowed to work because that is a risk of being exposed. It is something that we take into effect. I see visitors come in all the time and they are arguing with staff and security and doctors that they cannot see their loved ones but down the line it's for their own safety and benefit. I really do hope, and I know this is a big thing to consider or any easy thing to do. Put yourself in my line of work and if you're in that direct contact, you never know, the people around you could easily contact the virus. Thank you for taking the time to listen to what I have to say, truthfully I stand with you regardless of the outcome. I know all of you will make the best decision for our community like you have in the past. Let's fight this virus together and let's stop the spread of the infection.



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Jennie McAdams

Sustainability Supervisor
Franklin County Public Health

Dear Townships, Villages and Cities of Franklin County:

Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) wanted to ensure we shared new guidance provided by the state as well as resources for your communities.

Public Health Advisory Alert System

As Governor DeWine shared today at his press conference, the state has a newly developed, color-coded advisory level system. This system includes four levels of risk: yellow, orange, red and purple. Each county has their risk level determined by an accumulation of seven factors or indicators which include: new cases per capita, sustained increase in new cases, proportion of cases not congregate cases, sustained increase in ER visits, sustained increase in outpatient visits, sustained increase in new COVID-19 hospital admissions and ICU bed occupancy. Franklin County, along with four other counties, are in the red category. More information about the Red, level 3, risk level is below and on the state's website.

Red (Level 3): 4-5 Indicators

Public Emergency

Very high exposure and spread.

Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>

Requiring Face Coverings

As noted in the information above, Franklin County is experiencing active transmission of COVID-19 and we need to utilize every tool we have to slow the spread. One of those tools is to require face coverings in our community. The Franklin County Board of Health passed a resolution Monday evening, committing to uphold the CDC recommendations regarding face coverings and offer our support of any ordinances or executive orders that your jurisdictions may decide to pass requiring residents use face coverings. Just a few moments ago, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners passed a similar resolution encouraging the same. FCPH is exploring its legal authorities to require face coverings in our health jurisdiction as well.



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Please find the Resolutions below:

<https://covid-19.myfcph.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/088-Resolution-to-Uphold-CDC-Recommendations-Regarding-Face-Coverings.pdf>

<https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/>

4th of July

Finally, as we approach the upcoming holiday, we want to remind you to please continue to check our COVID webpage for up to date information, guidance and shareable resources. On our website you will also find a statement released by FCPH on the safe celebration of the 4th of July holiday in response to COVID-19 as well as general safety tips.

<https://covid-19.myfcph.org/updates/july4th/>

<https://myfcph.org/fireworks-safety/>

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have at any time. Thank you for your continued support and tremendous work ensuring the safety and health of our residents during this unprecedented time. Stay well and have a happy and safe holiday weekend.

Scott Chamberlain

Dear Ms. Lawson-Rowe,

I am writing to urge you and the Reynoldsburg City Council to require citizens and visitors to wear masks while in public places. It's time to follow the lead of Columbus and communities such as Bexley in taking all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

My family moved to Reynoldsburg in 1968 and my late father served as school board president in '80's. I've seen the evolution of our suburb and I'm more proud today to be a part of Reynoldsburg's diversity and call it my home. Let's keep Reynoldsburg moving forward by setting the example nationwide of an accepting, inclusive, and safe place to live and work. Thank you for your consideration.

Betsy Decillis

I have grave concerns about Governor. DeWine's decision to leave mask mandates up to local governments, so I decided to look into what Reynoldsburg is planning to do on this front. I was shocked to find out that since this kind of decision is handled by city council, it would wait until the next council meeting on July 13. I would like to implore you to do something about this sooner.



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Based on the data, one of the three counties Reynoldsburg is in is on the verge of being purple. That signals an out of control virus that could devastate our economy even further. As a business owner in the area, I have experienced that devastation first hand, and if we are shut down again, I can assure you that we will lose many more local businesses. A simple mask has the possibility of keeping our economy going and keeping Reynoldsburg stronger with more thriving local businesses.

And then on a personal front, I have unfortunately had to choose to mostly self-quarantine due to a medical issue. When I go to grocery stores, the majority of people are not wearing masks and some of those people choose to harass and follow those that do choose to wear a mask. This is not a game. Their decision to get within 6 feet of me without a mask is akin to assault since it could put me back months on treatment should I catch COVID-19. A mask mandate would allow people like me to have greater range of motion around our city, as well as keeping the citizens of our city safe from illness and harassment. It's asking so little and unfortunately, people in our area are showing that it does have to be mandated.

Once again, this is an emergency situation. Waiting until July 13 will only increase the load on our hospitals and do further damage to our economy. Please do not wait. Please take action as soon as humanly possible.

Thank you for your time.

Sue Miller

First, thank you so much for all the updates on Facebook you have always provided. I feel so much better Informed than ever before...that's why we voted for you! I had sent you a message via Facebook earlier today. Just wanted to give you more information. My husband and I are both senior citizens and active in the Reynoldsburg Senior Center. We had volunteered there a lot. It's so sad so many senior citizens have had to stay home so much.... and it doesn't look like it will get better anytime soon. If we have to drop out of society for year... so be it, but people could at least help by wearing a mask. I've heard horrible stories about people getting the virus, both young and old. Our son works for one of the local fire departments so that's why we feel so strongly about it. If everyone could only understand how extremely contagious this is. Our 4 grandkids will be returning to school soon, if breaks my heart that any child might get this virus. Also cat tails at Carlyle and Main need cut back before someone gets in a bad accident there. I contacted the city A few days ago but they have not been cut down.



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Carolyn Asar

Mayor Begeny doesn't have the authority to order mask wearing during the Covid-19 crisis, but you and your fellow councilmen do. Please expedite an order to this effect. I was so pleased to find that nearly everyone at Meijer on Broad was masked today as per Mayor Ginther's order. But that Meijer is in Reynoldsburg and I'm afraid there are still some hold-outs who will wear a mask only if so ordered. I hope this can happen sooner rather than later.

Thanks for your kind consideration,

Nancy Stark

I feel strongly that our Council needs to meet immediately and vote to make masks mandatory effective now. With schools probably starting next month we need to protect our citizens and keep this virus from spreading in our community. Let's join other communities who are already requiring masks in public.

**DeAnna Bray
Cheri Grayson
Taylor Camp
Angela Briley**

Dear Council Member Cotner, I am writing to urge you to do your part to make sure that mask-wearing is voluntary, not mandatory in our communities. Many jurisdictions are basing their face mask policies on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has flip-flopped its position on face coverings several times since March but is now recommending that everyone wear a mask in public. This recommendation is not supported by strong empirical evidence. Though there is science to support mask-wearing, there's also a preponderance of science showing that masks can cause considerable harm and are ineffective in preventing the spread of coronavirus. There is also no science supporting the use of masks by healthy individuals. So emergency orders that are being issued to help protect public health are actually hurting individuals' physical and emotional wellbeing - and violating their basic human rights, constitutional rights and religious rights. Evidence that masks reduce the transmission of viral respiratory infections within community settings is equivocal at best. A recent meta-analysis (bit.ly/2VHaubd) that included nearly a dozen randomized, controlled trials and 10 observational studies found that there was no clear clinical or laboratory-confirmed evidence that masks prevent infection. Even the U.S. Surgeon General has noted that masks "are not effective in preventing the general public from catching the coronavirus." ([Bit.ly/31Dgdm5](https://bit.ly/31Dgdm5)) In terms of harm, studies show that



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wearing a face covering reduces blood and tissue oxygenation - which can be deadly - while increasing carbon dioxide levels. The use of masks can also increase the risk of infection and the spread of viral illness (particularly cloth masks), hinder detoxification that occurs through exhalation, impair the immune system, and cause a wide range other physical and psychological issues. (bit.ly/31Epv1e). Moreover, some masks have been found to contain known carcinogens, which put people at risk from inhaling toxic chemicals and having them come into contact with their skin. There is no science to support the use of masks by healthy individuals, and the World Health Organization backed this up when it said, “WHO stands by recommendations to not wear masks if you are not sick or caring for someone who is sick.” Forcing healthy individuals to wear face coverings is a completely unnecessary intervention that dehumanizes their interactions with others. More important, it eliminates their right to make informed decisions about what risks and precautions they are willing to take. It is unethical and unconstitutional to subject healthy, law-abiding citizens to measures that can result in physical and emotional harm and that impinge on their ability to move freely throughout society. For those with deeply held religious beliefs, mask mandates violate their ability to abide by natural law and follow their convictions to walk in faith, not fear. As such, the decision to wear a mask is a highly personal one and should not be universally mandated; measures that are meant to protect the community as a whole are not effective if they hurt individuals in that community. Mandatory medicine and mandated interventions such as social distancing and mask-wearing have no place in a free society; citizens want to maintain the right to make responsible decisions about what is best for themselves and their children based on their own unique circumstances. I urge you to do the right thing, stand for choice and protect all individuals by encouraging - not mandating - the use of face masks in the community. This policy can be bolstered by asking at-risk populations and those who are sick to self-quarantine, with society taking the best care of them possible. Thank you for your continued leadership during these unprecedented times and for upholding the health and the rights of your constituents.

Barbara Shannon

Please include Reynoldsburg in the growing number of Ohio cities mandating masks. It's the right thing to do plus all those anti-mask nuts from Columbus will be coming to Reynoldsburg if you don't.



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Karen Jackson

Please vote to protect Reynoldsburg residents from the stupidity of their fellow citizens. My husband and I have lived in Reynoldsburg for 30 years and we see large numbers of people entering stores and restaurants without masks. Their irresponsible behavior is keeping us from leaving our yard. Our consumer spending is going out of the community to internet businesses. We are trapped by the lack of respect and selfishness of so many local people and I'm sure we're not the only people who share this frustration.

Thank you

Vicki Vorhees

Hello. My name is Vicki Vorhees and I live on Campanula Ct in Reynoldsburg. I would like for Reynoldsburg to require wearing masks in public. I realize there is a lot of controversy on this subject but the medical experts say we would be safer if we did, so let's listen to them, for everyone's sake. And it needs to be enforced with penalties for noncompliance. That's no different from seatbelts, except seatbelts do less to protect others than masks do.

Please do this as quickly as possible. Thank you.

William Crawford

Good Morning,

I have been citizen of Reynoldsburg now for over 20 years and lived in the wonderful state of Ohio my entire 44 yrs. I have been completely embarrassed by the handling of Covid 19 by the government. The shutting down of business, schools, and parks and the exploration of free to keep people home. I am a strong believer in personal responsibility and rights. If some person chooses to wear a face mask that is great and should be their choice, just as I believe it should be mine to not one. I would like to encourage you to NOT follow the lead of Columbus, Dayton, Bexley, and Cleveland by mandating mask. I firmly believe this will hurt our local business. The people too afraid to go out to dinner will not go just because of the mask, and those like me are less likely to go out because I don't want to be FORCED to wear a mask. I ask for your common sense to lead you in this issue.

Thank you



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Tamra Graver

Good Morning,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Reynoldsburg. It has come to my attention that you all are considering a mask order. I would like to know what data you plan to predicate your decision upon. The state has not made the Reynoldsburg data available to us, on the website. The best we can do is look at the zip codes, which are arbitrary at best

Fact 1: There is not a pandemic - The CDC has downgraded this virus to an epidemic, and it is about to lose even that status: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

Mortality <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

Based on death certificate data, the percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia, influenza or COVID-19 (PIC) decreased from 9.0% during week 25 to 5.9% during week 26, representing the tenth week of a declining percentage of deaths due to PIC. The percentage is currently at the epidemic threshold but will likely change as more death certificates are processed, particularly for recent weeks.

Fact 2: During the early part of the "pandemic" testing was only available for the sickest of the sick. In fact, people were told not to get tested if they were not symptomatic. Our testing in Ohio has ramped up over the last few months. Therefore, so have our cases from people who show no symptoms. If testing was widely available at the beginning then you would see cases spread across the graph instead of just showing up recently.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/key-metrics/testing>

Fact 3: Definitions of "cases" and "hospitalizations" have changed

The definitions of cases and hospitalizations

Definition of a case has changed from someone that tested positive via a test because only "sick people" were to be tested at first, to include presumed (not tested) cases. One would use logic to think that if this epidemic were anywhere as deadly as what we were lead to believe it was then these numbers would make a difference, also we would not be counting "Presumed" Deaths.



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Scenario 1: I go riding my bike, and I get hit by a car. They take me to the hospital: They test me for Covid prior to treatment. I come back as Covid positive: Then I am counted as a Covid positive hospitalization. Even though I clearly was not admitted because I was sick. Then, I am tested until I have 2 consecutive NEGATIVE tests that could be 10 times. In this case, I am also counted as a Covid positive case 10 times. These tests are not linked, in any way shape or form. So one person could/will account for multiple tests.

Scenario 2: I go to the hospital because I had a heart attack. I die before I make it to the emergency room. During my autopsy, it is discovered that I have Covid or Covid antibodies. I am automatically counted as a Covid death, when my primary cause of death was really pulmonary embolism.

Both of these scenarios are used to skew the data, and I don't know why. I have been watching the data for quite some time and if you look at it closely, you will see hospitals are not overwhelmed.

The State of Ohio has identified a case as early as November of 2019. That means Covid was a thing in OH, and it went on unmitigated for 5 months before everything was closed, and even then by taking no action the following things happened 1. We lived, we had fun, and we socialized with our friends. We lived normally.

The best measurements that you can watch at this time to determine the impact of this virus are 1. Hospital utilization - Generally, hospitals run at around 80 - 90 percent capacity based on general procedures, elective surgeries and seasonal injuries. 2. The number of people that have died. If this were truly a pandemic, or even an epidemic at this point there would be a lot of people dying, hospitals would be backed up, and there wouldn't be enough emergency personnel to handle the load.

According, to the OH website, if you download the .CSV file you will see the following information you will see that we have had a total of **6 deaths** even with the expanded definition of death in OH, so far in July, and all of them have been 80+. If you parse and graph out all of the data you will find that our death rate since March has gone down consistently over a period of months. Masking will only encourage healthy people to become sick, and weaken our ability to fight disease in the future. While people dying is bad, it is not a "pandemic" people are not dying in droves. They are not dying on the streets and hospitals are not overwhelmed. So, making a decision to support masking in this case would not be wise. I am all for people having the ability to do it if they feel they need to, but forcing the



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issue when there is no science/data behind it is not right. It then becomes about virtue signaling, and not public health.

Also, on a personal note: I have a hearing difficulty and I read lips, the use of masks up to this point at places of business, have made me feel disabled because I can't make out what people are saying. I went to our Kroger on Taylor Road the other day to get groceries for my family and a lady yelled at me in the aisle because I accidentally hit her cart on the way down the aisle, I apologized. Then she came up to me and started yelling at me, and I had no idea why... once she took off her mask to talk to me, I was able to understand. I apologized again, she called me stupid, ignorant, a terrible human, just because I accidentally hit her cart. Come on, this kind thing has to stop. People have to know this is not OK. By leaving no room for people to make their own decisions, this kind of behavior will continue, and who knows where it stops

Allen	Female	80+	4/18/20	7/2/20	1
			0		
Allen	Female	80+	6/11/20	7/5/20	1
			0		
Franklin	Female	80+	6/24/20	7/3/20	
			0		
Franklin	Female	80+	6/25/20	7/1/20	
			0		
Franklin	Male	80+	6/23/20	7/1/20	
			0		
Trumbull	Female	80+	6/19/20	7/2/20	
			0		

Now to the most important reason masks should not be implemented/mandated in Reynoldsburg. People should have the right to choose how to protect themselves. If you have specific data around Reynoldsburg, that is not currently available on the OH website. I would love to see it. That way I can further inform myself, and protect my family. I urge this to be a data driven decision rather than a political one.



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Sue Williamson

Hi Mayor Begeny;

I met you several months ago at a city council meeting. I was the one talking about the “Plalking the Burg” Facebook page where we work to clean up litter around the city.

Anyway, I wanted to ask that you please mandate masks in the city. I have been writing Governor DeWine for months and calling the ODH to express this need, but I have never received a response of any kind. It is so crucial to mandate this and fine people who don’t - at least at this point in time. We are in the middle of a global pandemic that last killed over 126,000 Americans. This is no joke and no time to cave to people who won’t wear masks because they feel “offended” like DeWine stated. These people who don’t wear masks are awful and hateful. It’s unbelievable. I try too hard to protect myself and my family, and then others who just don’t care can potentially infect us. What does wearing a mask hurt? It is not an infringement on one’s civil rights and it is not a health hazard. Would those people want their surgeon to not wear a mask?? Anyway, we have tried not mandating it, and look where we are. Can we try now to mandate it, and fine people so they take it seriously? It’s time. It’s time to stand up and ensure people do the right thing.

Can you please get on board? :) Can we try to turn things around?

Thank you for your time! I appreciate it. I do hope to hear from you.

Georgia Morgan

To Whom It Concern,

I have lived in the Far East area of Columbus since moving here from New York in 1981 and have always done a good deal of my shopping in the Reynoldsburg area.

On Friday, July 3, I went to the Target store on 256 in Reynoldsburg and was surprised to see a number of people not wearing masks. I asked a Target employee why people weren’t wearing masks. She informed me that the city of Columbus required that masks were mandatory in public places on 7/3, but that Reynoldsburg had not adopted this policy yet. I immediately left.

I am asking the city of Reynoldsburg to adopt the mandatory mask policy in public places as soon as legally possible.

Myself, and a number of my friends have made the decision to no longer shop in Reynoldsburg until this policy is adopted. As COVID cases increase daily in Ohio, it is imperative that mask wearing is substantially increased.

Thank you



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Lisa Dummer

Please protect individual's rights and ability to make their own health decisions. The science behind masking is inclusive and in fact shows more negative effects than positive. Therefore, each individual citizen needs to determine what is best for themselves and family. Do not mandate masking. Death rates are lower than the Flu. Thank you.

Carol McGlone

I have been a resident of Reynoldsburg since 1997 and am totally supportive of the above proposal except for a person who has a valid medical condition which is negatively impacted by wearing a face mask or for a person who has a neurodevelopmental disorder such as autism and who just cannot tolerate a face mask.

I was going to contact the Mayor's office independently today about what Reynoldsburg leadership was contemplating doing but was unable to do so. I am so relieved to see the news article posted on-line tonight about tomorrow's meeting.

Wearing a mask is common sense and a civic duty in my opinion during this particular pandemic due to how this virus spreads.

Amanda Myers

Ms. Prasher

Below are the questions I have for City Council to answer regarding the possible Mask Mandate:

Why now? Our daily hospitalization and death count continue to fall. How many hospitalizations and death has 43068 had? The CDC says the following and I think the Key word is MAY. What evidence are we using to make this decision? "A cloth face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others."

I noticed we have one of the highest rates in Franklin County based on the data being provided. Have we had more testing compared to other parts of the county? Are we still one of the most populated suburbs in Columbus?

Who will enforce this mandate?

Will this put more burden on our businesses to have to enforce another restriction or just cause many to shop out of our city?

Will religious organizations be exempt?

Protest exemptions?

Why the exemption for schools? Why they are able to make their own decision but local businesses are being forced to follow the order?

Why not set an end date and re-examine the status of our city vs waiting for the state to lift orders?



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Lisa Freeman-Williamson

TOP TEN REASONS REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL SHOULD PASS
LEGISLATION TO MANDATE MASK WEARING IN PUBLIC

1. COVID -19 is the worst global health crisis in generations a Federal Disaster Declaration was made on March 13, 2020.
2. Masks are apolitical. Science instructs us that mask wearing protects ourselves, our families and our communities.
3. The experts implore us to wear masks as another surge could overwhelm the capacity of our healthcare system.
4. Mask wearing is one of the common sense approaches urged by public health experts, frontline essential medical workers, hospital and health system leaders and researchers.
5. The statistics on this pandemic are onerous-

6. AREA	CASES	HOSPITALIZATION S	DEATH S
US	2,886,267	129,811	129,811
OH	57956	8,249	2,927

Of all the zip codes under Franklin County Public Health's purview 43068 has the highest concentration of cases.

Brian Turney

Good evening. I am writing to ask that you and the city council do not institute mandatory mask requirements. There is plenty of evidence against the use of face coverings and the negative effects on our health. COVID-19 is not nearly as deadly as we have been told. John Ioannidis, co-director of Stanford's Meta-Research Innovation Center has spoken out about the misleading data used to justify our government's response. None of my neighbors approve of a mask mandate and neither do I. Please do not institute a mask requirement. Let people and business choose how they respond to COVID. Side with liberty. Thank you for your time and your service to our city. Respectfully.



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Pat Dodge

Thanks for considering this ordinance. I fully support requiring masks.

Dale Thorpe

I live in Reynoldsburg and would like to see masks made mandatory in our city. The use of masks in stores has consistently dropped over the past few weeks. Please take the socially responsible step and make masks mandatory.

Glenda Scott

I totally agree with this. Please do this so that we will not put everyone at risk from spreading or getting the virus.

Abby Bowman

As a concerned constituent, I am writing to you on behalf of myself, my family, and my community to encourage you to refrain from enacting a mandatory face mask order in the city of Reynoldsburg.

The reasons are numerous, but I will focus on just a few. The emergency statute is long past, therefore no mandates regarding COVID can legally be enforced. This would merely be an inappropriate flex of power from our local government, and even if a law was properly passed, this is outside the role of government.

We have elected you to hold the line between us and the infringement of our right to make medical choices for ourselves. The right to life.

To force a medical practice that has just as much evidence that it is harmful (or at least not helpful) is wrong and unconstitutional. The citizens of our city must be able to choose for themselves how they will handle health issue, and it is ethically wrong to require businesses to do what you the government should not do. That becomes a form of blackmail.

Yesterday I went to the gym for the first time after Columbus mandated masks and was told that my gym is following that mandate even though they are in Reynoldsburg. Exercising with a mask is not safe or healthy for me. I will not be returning to that gym. Many others that I know will do likewise. Mandating masks can potentially hurt the businesses in our city. You have before you the opportunity to ensure that our city holds fast to the principles of freedom upon which our country was founded. To attempt to enforce mandates that insist that a healthy person is a walking weapon is not in keeping with those principles. We are not



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weapons, we are humans - and we deserve to make these decisions for ourselves. Please keep our government from interfering in our lives this way.
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

James Keller

Hello City Counsel,

Let me start by saying I am FOR requiring facial coverings in the city of Reynoldsburg.

I am James Keller and my wife is Christa Keller.

We have been Reynoldsburg residents for 24 years. We live in the Taylor Road subdivision, Licking County, Ward 2. I feel we should require the use of face coverings when we cannot do the standard social distancing, when we're indoors, when we're in business, & retail stores, to maintain what the CDC's guidelines say is appropriate behavior to curtail the Corona virus.

The reason I'm reaching out to City Council is because we're in "No Man's Land" here in Licking County.

Franklin County and at the time of this writing 5 suburbs in and around Columbus have already adopted these guidelines.

Reynoldsburg encompass 3 counties. Licking and Fairfield are considered rural Counties and I don't look for them to comply with the rules.

And I don't look for them to follow suit.

So unless Governor DeWine steps up and makes all of Ohio, follow the face covering rules. We in Licking Co. / Fairfield Co. will be left out.

The Corona Virus has shown us that you have to be proactive with this pandemic. If you wait, it will be too late. Ohio has done pretty good so far, but, we are seeing rises in our own state too. Franklin Co has the largest number of cases in Ohio. We are a 1/2 mile east of the Franklin Co. Line. So No, I don't feel safe.

If Governor. DeWine doesn't act, Reynoldsburg City Council is our last option for help.

My wife works at the Kroger store on Taylor and Main, Licking Co. where mask are encouraged, but not mandatory.

Kroger makes employees wear masks to protect the customers, who protects the employees and the other shoppers?

Council is in the unique position of different rules for different areas of our city.

Franklin Co. Required masks. Licking and Fairfield No rules set in place.

I hope the Reynoldsburg City Council steps up and protects its Licking Co and Fairfield Co residents. Please make this a rule in the city of Reynoldsburg, so All residents are treated equally.



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This could have a negative response from some misinformed residents, but I feel it will subside in time, as people become accustomed to wearing face coverings, and seeing others comply with the basic standards.

We should apply these requirements when you're indoors and when you can't abide with the CDC's Guidelines of social distancing.

I feel this is low hanging fruit. We know certain things slow the transmission of this virus, frequent hand washing, social distancing, and face coverings. This is an easy option, to help curb the transmission of this virus.

We have to do all we can to slow this pandemic. My greatest concern is if I, as a senior citizen with some underlying health issues that make me a higher risks. If I get the virus and get really sick, our hospitals will be to full and I can't get a bed. The only thing we can do is try to keep the Virus cases numbers down so those who do get sick can get a Hospital bed. But my first choice is to don't get it at all. At least until we figure out some way to make it not as severe and to have some treatments in place to help us get thru this easier.

I hope I've expressed my thoughts clearly.

I hope you City Council members step up and do the hard thing.

You will probably get some criticism from some. But, you will be doing the Right thing.

Thank You for listening

Fellow Reynoldsburg resident asking for help Jim & Christy Keller

Johnna Kay

As a resident of Reynoldsburg I am aware of the increasing pressure from the state and government to join the movement to mandate the wearing of face masks here in our city. I am aware that the decision to do this is more or less around the pressure to conform, the possible financial consequences, and the overall state compliance. It is understandable that you are all stuck between a rock and a hard place, but I ask you to do your best to tune out the noise and hear the following. I am sure you have heard it before, but please, once more, listen.

There are several reasons that will be highlighted why a mask mandate is not the way to go. Although it is easy to assume it is irrational, "crazy talk" and conspiracy, we truly believe that the side you choose to take in this moment can be the difference between a chance at reversing poor decision making, or the state and our country heading into a direction that no one truly wants.

Here they are:

1. When any government authority begins to mandate something of its constituents, it is very important that all involved rightfully question such decisions. This is not only wise, but it is



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our duty as Americans to hold those accountable who we placed in power and leadership. They are human, and humans, as we know, are very capable of not only making mistakes, but of getting lost in corruption along the way. This is why we are here; to question these decisions and to use our collective voice to make sure that any decision and policy we make as a city, as well as a state, is backed by the constitution, our basic human rights, and by data.

2. There is no data to support this decision. There is no data to support mitigation of any kind, especially now, with the possibility of mandated masks. Let me explain. The daily reporting of Covid-19 positive case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths, are and have been reported inaccurately. They have been knowingly using a projected model that was proven early on in this pandemic to be more than way off base in its predictions. Not only that, but the format in which they are reporting numbers is cumulative; meaning that its design is to always go up; they are continuously adding to the total count. What they should be doing, (and many, many nurses, doctors, epidemiologists, and other professionals around the state have agreed on this fact) is showing a daily case count based off the date of onset, as well as negative tests. When taking the numbers directly from coronavirus.ohio.gov <<http://coronavirus.ohio.gov>> and the CSV file located there, you can clearly see that not only did we peak in late March, but we have been in a huge decline ever since. We do not know why our governor and his administration have chosen to report the data in this way, but we believe at this point it is for manipulation, as they very well know better. This is just not an accurate report.

3. The "increase" in cases example: The increase in cases that have been reported was due to the large increase in daily testing. When looking at the CSV file on the state's Covid website, you can clearly see two very important things; the cases were spread out from throughout the pandemic and indicate the positive daily cases were largely in the past, but nowhere near increasing today's daily cases. And, the hospitalizations and deaths are going down. This means that the virus is not only less deadly today, but that it has been less deadly than originally believed all along. Even with every positive case thus far, we still wouldn't have overwhelmed our hospitals. This is important because slowing the spread and flattening the curve were our original goalpost. When we passed those goals, we never adjusted our strategy. We are currently under an emergency order with no outlined goals. Generalized phrases such as "this virus is still here", "people are dying", and "it's not safe" are wordings that can easily persuade the people, but that have no specific backings. It means that, at what point can we clearly see what would constitute the orders being taken away and the state opening fully? Right now, there are none. With the cumulative positive cases going up, and the recovery rate along with it, this is good news! It means we are out of our epidemic here in



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Ohio, natural herd immunity is setting in, and this virus is not as dangerous as we once believed. What are our goalposts now? At what point will we be considered "safe"? These are questions our Governor has yet to answer clearly.

4. This is a gateway: Although we would like to believe that our state and government would never mandate more than is needed, we have to come to realize one simple truth; if we open the door to allow any authority to mandate a mask, we have simultaneously opened the door to mandate other precautionary measures in the name of safety. And we can also assume that any future policies will not be supported by any more data than the decisions made thus far. This could open the door for possible mandated quarantine, vaccines, and immunity passports. It could also open the door to shut down the state again for any and all reasons that are deemed "unsafe" in general terms. With no accountability to show accurate data, we are creating a culture who will "take their word for it", and a standard that any amount of positives, deaths, whether low or high, of any disease or virus, can leave room for extreme mitigation measures. All other states that have mandated masks up until this point and early on in the pandemic are now discussing possible mandated Covid vaccinations.

5. Regardless of what mainstream media have said, the science is simply not clear on face masks. We just do not know if a decision to mask everyone would truly stop the spread of the virus. And, we do not know if masking everyone will have negative side effects. Think back to all the times in history where we got it wrong. Where we believed something was good based off of an assumption, only to look back and see how misguided we were. To look back and see even lives that were lost due to those decisions. Right now, we do know that wearing face masks can make you sicker. We urge you to look into this. Wearing masks can decrease your oxygen levels, create a breeding ground for bacteria, and cause even this virus to stay trapped in our faces and make the symptoms worse. Not only this, those who have autoimmune diseases and handicaps either cannot wear a mask or could be seriously injured if that is the case. We know there would likely be an exemption, but we're creating a culture that shames those for not wearing a mask. And, even healthy people can become ill by improper use of masks, improper masks, and simply breathing in contaminated air throughout the day. Again, the science is clear on how this can and does weaken the immune system. We urge you to look into those who are speaking out and consider this in your decision. Where there is risk, there must be personal choice.

I ask that you please take into account the things said and the concerns that have been addressed. If what we are saying is true, it would mean that Reynoldsburg could be part of



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the movement to take back our state and to build a better ground for more accountability, more accurate data to support decisions, and for truth to be the forefront.

We end with these questions; if you're going to mandate masks, at what point and in what data would the line be drawn to lift this mandate? A goalpost must be placed. And, if your line and goalpost is to mandate until there is a vaccine, what would this mean when a vaccine is available? Will we suddenly have a choice to wear a mask, or will we have to trade the mask for a vaccine?

We have to draw the line. There has to be an end goal to a mandate like this, and that goal should be outlined now. We ask that you consider a strong recommendation over a mandate, and let the people of Reynoldsburg freely choose what is best and safest for them and their families.

LaTasha Goodwin

Good morning,

I am a RN, who operates a hospice company, so I have seen and continue to see the effects of COVID 19 on the Geri population, as well as those who have compromised immune systems. Witnessing patients pass away from this dreadful virus and having to support family who are left to process the loss of their loved one, is one of the major reasons why I support mandating wearing face masks in public areas. I believe the lack of wearing face masks is not only a major deterrent to slowing the spread of the virus, but is also reckless and inconsiderate of others. Let's do our part in stopping the spread of Covid-19 and protect our community by wearing face masks when out in public.

Linda Zacchetti

I vote against mandatory mask wearing as it is my right to make my own healthcare decision. Thank you.

Deana Allerheiligen

I do not want masks mandated here in Reynoldsburg. I am sure you do not care if I tell I will be moving soon if masks In Reynoldsburg are mandated... there will be someone else in my home before I settle into a new one elsewhere. But please do not mandate masks. They are useless. Social distancing and hand washing will help with the spread of COVID. If more of our freedoms are taken from us, I will be looking to move out of Reynoldsburg.



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I cannot help but to wonder what the true agenda behind the mandate truly is. But pushing freedom loving Americans to the breaking point hard is not a wise decision. I will vote for my freedoms at the polls. I will be keeping tabs on this issue.

John Haag
Sean Cress

I am writing in strong support of an ordinance requirement masks when in public in Reynoldsburg. There is overwhelming evidence that this, and social distancing, is the best way to flatten the curve without completely shutting down our economy. Since there is little consistent national leadership on this topic I hope that you and the other council members will step up and provide strong local leadership to save lives and save of economy. Thanks for listening.

Jay Bickel

I'm a very concerned about current events and the knee-jerk reactions being made on both sides of the table regarding what has been labeled as Covid-19, especially with conflicting information coming from the CDC itself regarding the use of masks. I believe all of our memories serve us well enough that I don't have to bring up the timeline of these changes. If the Reynoldsburg City Council passes an ordinance, which I'm sure they have already made their mind up to do, will Reynoldsburg and their residents be subject to the authority of the State and it's laws and how they proceed, and adjust accordingly, rather than to be subject to the CDC? Will City Council take into account the possible undue burden being placed on city employees, first responders, and citizens to keep up with the rapidly changing situation and additional ordinances and laws, and how they may "mutate" over time, and to do so without unintentional misinterpretation of said laws and ordinances, and with proper training of those in positions of authority? Or will Reynoldsburg take a stand with more of a "wait-and-see" approach, letting the proverbial pawns go first? It's bad enough that these ordinances in many cities around the nation and the State are VERY subjective and are quite different from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. It's like a brand new mine field. Mask, no mask? Fine, no fine? VERY concerning and alarming, indeed. There are many questions that must be asked and accounted for during this perceived crisis, and moving too quickly, in my humble opinion, may cause more problems in the long-term than solutions in the short. But I'm sure you already know this. In ending, I have one rather simple question about this entire event and how it has been handled at all levels, and I challenge anyone in government to think logically and answer it, HONESTLY. IF masks and social distancing do work and are effective why are many businesses still closed and are currently being closed, but, if they do not work then why is everyone being forced to wear them? Thank you for your time.



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Kyle Udall

My comment is I support wearing masks in public. My question is if I am outside exercising such as running or walking my dogs at a non-strolling pace and others are not around or are socially distanced will I be required to wear a mask? My hope is that I would not.

Christine and Jim Smith

Jim and Christine Smith encourage the Reynoldsburg City Council to act tonight to suspend normal procedural rules and vote in favor of the emergency ordinance to require face masks to be worn in all non-residential buildings and outdoors where six foot distancing cannot be assured. This regulation is an important step toward limiting the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Public health officials at the national, state, and county level are urging mask wearing as an effective way of slowing and limiting the spread of the virus. Epidemiologists have urged mask wearing for the same reason. The science behind experts' support of mask wearing has been explained, illustrated, and diagrammed. We feel no need to restate what has been convincingly stated by educated, experienced experts. We are sure every member of council has seen the evidence that we have seen. As public officials, you have the right and the duty to enforce rules that safeguard public health and safety. The governor has just mandated mask wearing for Franklin County. Sections of Reynoldsburg in Licking and Fairfield counties have close proximity to Franklin County, and we are all one community, one city, and deserve the same care for our collective health and well-being. There is a vocal minority who do not trust the medical experts and scientists, and you have surely heard from some of them. We beg you to base your vote tonight on valid evidence, on rational science, and not on emotional outbursts based on false information, misunderstanding, paranoia and suspicion. Thank you.

Christina Weisner

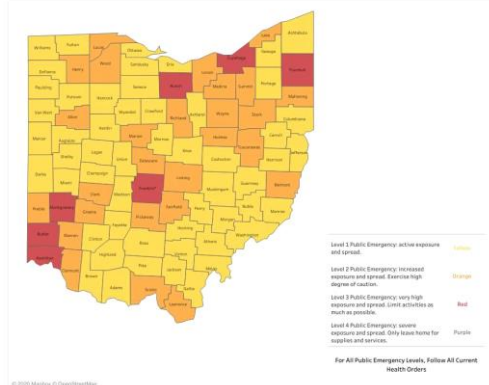
I would like to say that I am adamantly against mandating masks in Reynoldsburg. All of the latest data I have been reading says masks do not help, in fact they hinder if you are healthy. It is proven with oxygen meters that wear experience a lack of oxygen. If you are wearing glasses they fog up creating a hazard. They traumatize children and persons with disabilities. They are dirty and when you are touching them to adjust them all day, you're defeating the purpose of keeping your hands away from your face.

Many studies have shown that the mask trap your germs and you are not able to breathe clean air, less breathing them back in along with increased carbon dioxide and taxing your lungs.

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Why are we suddenly mandating masks when the numbers are going down? If you wearing a mask works, why do I need to wear one as well? What's next? Are you going to tell me what clothing to wear every day? I'm serious! Are you going to tell me how I can wear my hair also because someone might be offended or my hairspray may irritate the nasal cavities of someone next to me, where does it end? There's a good science out there proving this is not fatal, asymptomatic individuals do not pass along the virus!

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=726697094795394&id=100023653304828



https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=726697094795394&id=100023653304828 Today we will hear about cases, spread and increased infection. But we need to #TellTheWholeStory. Governor Mike DeWine Why are we not clear that a positive test does not equal spread? Why are we not clear that when positive tests don't translate to hospitalizations and deaths... that is a good thing? And why do we still carry the false notion asymptomatic spread is prevalent? See pictures below: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=726697094795394&id=100023653304828 m.facebook.com

Today we will hear about cases, spread and increased infection. But we need to #TellTheWholeStory. Governor Mike DeWine Why are we not clear that a positive test does not equal spread? Why are we...

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Also epidemiologist Dr. Wittkowski said the pandemic would have been over by now if we hadn't shut down. He also says healthy people shouldn't wear masks.

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/amid-percentage-of-deaths-having-declined-cdc-admits-coronavirus-on-verge-of-non-epidemic-status>

<https://zachbushmd.com/video/the-highwire/>

<https://www.rcreader.com/commentary/masks-dont-work-covid-a-review-of-science-relevant-to-covid-19-social-policy>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/05/29/masks-and-covid-19-an-open-letter-to-robert-kennedy-jr-and-childrens-health-defense/#gsc.tab=0>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/05/29/masks-and-covid-19-an-open-letter-to-robert-kennedy-jr-and-childrens-health-defense/>

<https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2020/06/19/do-face-masks-help-against-coronavirus.aspx>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3CglBhn0znM&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you

Debra Datres

Ward Three Council Person: Bhuwan Pyakurel

Ohio Constitution 1.01 Inalienable Rights (1851)

All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety.

Ohio Constitution 1.20 Powers reserved to the people (1851)

This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people; and all powers, not herein delegated, remain with the people.

Civil liberties are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment provides for the right to due process of law and I have to wonder and ask just where are the delineating boundaries of government that spill over into government over reach?

Ninth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that the people will not lose certain rights simply because they are not given to the people or referred to in the Constitution.

Protection against government infringement is guaranteed.

The federal government has made recommendations but has refrained from mandating mask use. The public health authority of the states derive from the police powers granted by their constitutions and reserved to them by the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

These powers do have some limits:



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Under the 5th and 14th Amendment's rights of Due Process and Equal Protection, public health regulations used to impose such conditions can't be "arbitrary, oppressive and unreasonable."

There are precedents where courts have ruled that states or local governments didn't meet a burden of proof to justify a quarantine. For example, in 1900 courts ruled against the city of San Francisco when it tried to inoculate and then quarantine Chinese residents against the bubonic plague when the courts had doubts that plague conditions existed.

But when plague conditions clearly *do* exist, state and local governments *can* close businesses and break up your block party until those conditions no longer exist. This is not unconstitutional. CCP virus is not a plague, there are currently no conditions that meet the criteria of a plague. It is a virus, and a weak virus at that. It can be killed by UV light, sanitizer made with rubbing alcohol & aloe, and cleaning surfaces with bleach. There is a 99.95% recovery rate by those cases registered and by those tested positive. This is better than a bad seasonal flu.

There is absolutely no scientific tested evidence that wearing a mask prevents the virus. There is however, plenty of scientific evidence that masks DO let in virus molecules and are NOT EFFECTIVE against corona virus (check the side of the box it says it right on it), masks DO create a false sense of security, diminish oxygen levels which can result in the wearer fainting, cause mental confusion, and increase the risk of contracting other fungal lung infections in the bronchia which can turn into pneumonia. I direct you to review OSHA guidance that is disseminated by the Presidential Coronavirus Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged the general public to wear a mask on a voluntary basis "cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission" of the Coronavirus. Cloth masks are NOT PPE which lack a filtration system like N-95 respirators.

Dr. Acton was inaccurate in every detail and forecasted modeling provided to the public. Neither the models used, nor any numbers being orated by her or the Governor, are in fact and condition, truthful. The fact is infection numbers are a lousy way to measure the 'danger' of the disease. Case numbers testing positive, are being lumped into positive antibody results and the Director of Health sent a letter to hospital administrators instructing them to mark every death a Covid-19 death, with or without testing, inflating the numbers arbitrarily. This is not science this is fraud.

People WILL get sick, corona virus has been around for centuries, the common cold is a corona virus, but the question should be who, and how sick, what is the mortality rate, is it going up or down. There is confusion about shifting guidance from public health agencies, which had initially discouraged mask-wearing among healthy people and even the



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government is not mandating masks be worn. The goal isn't to eliminate all cases, that's not rational, it's not necessary. Informed people are sensible enough to know if they are at risk, and given the proper information take the necessary steps to protect themselves from serious complications.

Look at the data: younger, healthier people get infected, they have nearly a zero risk of a problem from CCP virus. Of the hospitalized patients, how many occupy ICU beds that are CCP patients, of the hospital population? The total population of Ohio is 11.65 million.

In Ohio, as of Monday, July 6th the Covid-19 dashboard reveals in the 21 day report only 17 deaths from 2,927 reported deaths, but it doesn't state the actual cause of death, just that they tested positive for CCP virus, which may not have been the primary cause of death. Out of 57,956 reported positive tested virus cases the average per day with a positive test is 780 per day, and of 8,249 total hospitalizations on average there are 62 per day. Of total ICU Cases reported 2,077, ICU admissions are on average 14 per day over the last 21 days. The total population of Ohio is 11.65 million the reported cases are 0.00497 of one percent of the entire state. Do you have any data specifically regarding cases in just the Reynoldsburg population?

The ridiculous, onerous and never-ending list of rules has crippled businesses, putting some 'out of business'. The public is sick of government overreach over a virus that now has prophylactic remedies, as well as treatment with Hydroxychloroquine [that comes from the Henry Ford Health System (whom Dr. Fauci approved for treatment to cure corona viruses 15 years ago), Z-pack antibiotics and zinc. Also, vitamins C & D and sunlight boost the body's virus fighting immune system, masks retard the immune system, and it stops the body from identifying a disease and building its natural ability to develop immunity, making you MORE susceptible to disease and to fungal infection of the lungs. Soap and water also kills the germs so be sure to CLEAN your environment.

During the swine and bird flu's, and Zikra virus outbreaks, vaccines and treatments were left to the individual, in consultation with their physician, so should the decision of wearing a mask be left to the individual and their physician. You can not infringe on the healthy majority health choices over the hysteria and panic being profligated by the media and irresponsible government officials who have failed miserably in their quest to wield power over the people instead of remembering their power is derived from the people. This started as a 14 day quarantine to keep hospitals from being overloaded by a swell of cases that NEVER HAPPENED and is not going to happen, and has morphed into months of house arrest and now forcing the population into wearing, what amounts to 'mouth burkas'.

Do not go down in the annals of history as being a body of those power hungry ill-informed sheep who failed to uphold the civil liberties of their community. Rather be the beacon of



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enlightened men and women who govern in an educated manner, seeking truth about the actual effectiveness or ineffectiveness of populations wearing masks that harm, not help.

Why are we discussing only masks? Why not shields? And personal responsibility for hygiene and cleanliness? Why are we not having this dialog? What's next, wearing shower caps to keep the virus out of your hair? Because germs and bacteria are all over you, everywhere...your clothes, eyes, ears shoes, should we bubble wrap ourselves? Should we divest ourselves of our jewelry? Where does this knee jerk reactionary governance stop? Protect the civil liberties and don't cave in to the hysteria, but thoughtfully engage in the research and speak to the community medical doctors and nurses who are experts in the field health care.

The cure cannot be worse than the disease, stop making it worse and DO NOT mandate masks. Ask yourself if the benefits of policing mask behavior outweigh the drawbacks? I guarantee that if you take on this unconstitutional mandate against civil liberty, you can and will be sued by state lawmakers or by class action. The Governor is already in the process of being sued.

Encourage citizens to take reasonable precautions in their own life and behaviors to mitigate possible exposure, but you are making a huge mistake to inflict onerous invasion of liberty on the people of Reynoldsburg. It isn't going to stop anyone from getting sick. Eventually we will all get the virus, just like we get the common cold, just like we get the flu. All you are doing by mandating masks is giving a false sense of security to the populace and enriching those profiting from a burgeoning new business model in mask creation and sales.

It is expected that you all disclose any and all investments you may personally have in surgical mask and/or shield manufacturing and sales, and recuse yourself as that involvement warrants.

End of community comments regarding the mask legislation.

President Jenkins

Thank you for reading all of those comments from the community, I really appreciate that. I know that was a lot to go through in your emails and us forwarding them and getting emails from the public. Taking the time to read all of those I really appreciate that.

Councilmember Strickland

I want to say thank you to our residents that joined us here on Zoom, Facebook live and sent in their personal letters to the councilmembers and to our clerk. Thank you so much for being involved. This is what it takes to have that conversation and getting the community involved.



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For this ordinance or against it. I just want to say my appreciation for everyone just providing their opinions. Once again thank you.

Councilmember Cotner

Attorney Shook how does this coordinate with what today's message from the governor and how does ours overlap other than the two other counties of Licking and Fairfield?

Attorney Shook

It's a little difficult for me to say right now because all we have is the governor's press conference and a bullet point presentation. We don't yet have the order from the Ohio Department of Health to be able to compare that order to what has been presented to council this evening. I would anticipate there will be significant differences. One difference in particular is how this ordinance may apply to businesses in the community. Also, one notable difference would be the age limitation on facial covering requirements. There will be some differences and I would be remissive if I didn't mention the Department of Health order at least for Franklin County would supersede any ordinance that we pass if there are differences.

Councilmember Cotner

One of the big ones is going to be how this going to be enforced is, who is going to enforce it, how is this going to look and what are the procedures going to be. For residents as well as businesses. Is a business guilty if they let someone in? It kind of reads that they are guilty or they are liable if they are selling a product to someone. Is a cashier at Kroger responsible if they sell someone an item because they didn't have a face covering? How is that going to look?

Attorney Shook

If we are looking at section two of the ordinance that would only apply when it comes to a place of business and apply to a manager or owner or person in charge.

Councilmember Cotner

Enforcement of this? Is it complaint driven? Are our Officers going to be going out looking for residents or businesses not comply. How do you envision that process happening?

Attorney Shook

Best case scenario would be that if there is voluntary compliance, obviously there is no enforcement. We have some experience with that already when it comes to the Department



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of Health orders that were issued back in March and then it progressed to the current day, the City has issued has no citation since the first lock down was issued by the state for violation of the department of health orders. It's not a situation where we are looking to be aggressive at all. There is a provision under section 4 that prohibits enforcement of the ordinance after compliance following a warning. This is not a situation in which the City is wanting to put our Officers into a position where they have to confront residents of the community.

Councilmember Cotner

The other one is the expiration of this ordinance. According to the Governors information today, that requirement will change when Franklin County moves from which ever color to which ever color when it moves in there. Our legislation doesn't have any plans moving forward, and indication of when we see numbers reach certain levels that we would be looking to remove this legislation. It doesn't show a method of removing it either. I'm sure we would just meet again and say ok were changing it but what would an exit plan be on this as well.

Attorney Shook

When this ordinance was drafted we did not know that the Governor was going to issue his order today. Franklin County is currently listed as a level of three county. So that would apply under the Governors declaration today and he had indicated a couple days ago that we are approaching level 4. Currently the ordinance that we have drafted, and again this is just a draft because Council has ultimate authority on what they want the language to be. The current draft indicates that the ordinance would automatically expire on the termination of the current state of emergency. Of course Council would always have the ability to terminate at any time.

Councilmember Cotner

Can you clarify where that is?

Attorney Shook

Under section 6, at the end where it says "shall remain in effect during the pendency of State of Ohio executive order 2020-01D. That's the declaration.

Councilmember Cotner

Ok so it will be from the executive order from the state that was made back a while ago, is that the order we are referencing there?



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Attorney Shook

Correct. That provision is in there because we did want to have an automatic triggering position for this ordinance to expire and that was the most obvious trigger mechanism. It was executed in early March.

Councilmember Cotner

Seems that then were going to have it stay in effect through an order that we didn't have at all, seems another problem with that. I know we can always come back and modify anything but seems like we would want a better exit strategy than an executive order from back in March.

I spoke with Councilmember Strickland about that earlier today, once the Governor had issued his order and as the sponsor of this legislation, I will leave that question to Councilmember Strickland.

Attorney Shook

It's my understanding that Councilmember Strickland is going to make a motion to send this for a first reading at Monday's meeting to allow time to make changes to the ordinance that are more reflective to the Governor's order and is constant with the governor's order. And I think that would include the termination.

Councilmember Bryant

Attorney Shook, the comments made by Eric Rodgers, do you have any response to what he had to say?

Attorney Shook

I think we had a conversation with the new Chief of Police earlier today and in that conversation, our understanding is that the police will not be enforcing this ordinance as a primary violation. If we make some changes to the ordinance, make that language of par.

Councilmember Bryant

Thank you.

Mayor Begeny

I wanted to announce that we will have a mobile testing unit coming in toward the end of the month. Councilmember Pyakurel has been instrumental to bring that to our area. WE will have more details as we just got this in earlier today, hopefully by the middle of the week we will have more information as to what the circumstances are. It will be one of the pop up test



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sites that you see in communities in the Central Ohio area. AS soon as we have information we will get that out to Council and the community.

Motions

A MOTION TO SUSPEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 8 MANDATORY REFERRAL OF THE COUNCIL RULES FOR THE REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL

Clerk Prasher

This motion is needed for Council to consider the mandatory face masks ordinance. Council rules require that all ordinances shall be referred to an appropriate committee for review and recommendation for adoption or denial prior to any final action taken by Council. This provision may be suspended by an affirmative vote of 3/4 majority of Councilmembers. As this meeting was called within the last 24 hours and there was no committee meeting included as part of this meeting, Council need to make a motion to suspend that ruled for just this meeting for just this ordinance.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Louis Salvati, Councilman
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson-Rowe

LEGISLATION FOR EMERGENCY APPROVAL

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN ANY PUBLIC SPACE TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- Strickland, Jenkins, Bryant. .

Councilmember Strickland reads the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Strickland moves to forward to Council for first read at the next Council meeting to ensure the ordinance is in line with the Governors mandate. Councilmember Pyakurel seconds the motion.

Attorney Shook

Council bypassed committee so it is now with Council for a first read tonight, are we moving this to Council next Monday for a second read?



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Councilmember Strickland

Yes, that is correct. I was to make sure that we are in line with what the Governor has mandated so we are waiting on that ordinance to come through and I want to make sure again, as you gave that example, we have anyone over 6, I think the governor has anyone over 10. We want to make sure that we have everything in line.

Clerk Prasher

The Council President can let this stand as a first read, there is not a motion or anything that is necessary to let it stand as a first read.

Councilmember Pyakurel

On page 4 it says April 1, 2010. I think you meant 2020? Just need to correct that.

Attorney Shook

Yes, that will be corrected.

Councilmember Pyakurel

Ok, just making sure.

Councilmember Baker

Just correct the date that it will take effect July 13.

Councilmember Strickland

The intent is to make sure we go back and update the ordinance again, that it applies to and are in line with what the Governor has mandated and we will come July 13 and all of the updates will be applied at that time. Keep in mind this was done before the Governors mandate this afternoon.

Councilmember Salvati

I will save my comments on the actual mandate for next week but I want to say that although I hate the reason this came about, I am thrilled with all the participation we have had on Facebook, letters and comments. This many people watching and commenting is something I dream of. A lot of the people won't agree with me, I just want to thank everyone for tuning in and commenting and now they will have another chance.



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Councilmember Pyakurel

I want to thank all of these healthcare workers, police officers, front line workers in this pandemic. My wife works at the hospital every day and seeing the patients who might be infected with Covid and we talk about what risk our family is bearing and at the same time a lot of members of our community are risking their own life to protect others. Same thing to the police officers who are going, who have to be outside and protect the communities and so their job. Also, at the same time when I go to the grocery stores, they are risking their life to serve us and protect our community. I would like to thank them for risking their life to help our community. Yes again, on this ordinance, I read a lot of journals, news articles and scientific research and I will bring up my comments on the 13th when we are voting on this one. Thank you.

Councilmember Baker

I will just briefly say, I know it's getting late. Thank you for everyone who submitted comment and I would like to thank the police officers, those who work in retail and lodging, because we know this is trying times and each time we get a chance to thank them we should just like we do our military, thank them every day for their service. We should also thank those who are on the front lines during this Covid pandemic.

President Jenkins

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this conversation this evening and for sending in their comments. I know that we all don't agree on wearing the face masks, everyone has a different opinion based on their own person choices and science. I think once the CDC said we should wear some sort of face covering, I believe that we should try to protect ourselves and our family. I have a 90 year old mother that I am trying to protect, I have a cousin who currently has Covid and he is 3 months old. This is concerning to me and close to home because I have a relative who has become ill with this. In reading the CDC recommendations as far as wearing the face covering and it could slow the risk in contaminating this virus. I believe that Council could err on the side caution and that we should be careful and plan ahead rather than be unprepared and make an error. I think that the number of deaths that have passed with this virus, this is not something that we prepared for, it's not the flu, there is no vaccine for it. Hopefully there will be one soon but right now it's just a great idea to try to protect our citizens of Reynoldsburg. And when you're traveling, you want to make sure that you are protecting the people you come in contact with and that could be just the people in the stores that we visit. I think this is something that I am grateful that we are bringing this forward and that our Governor is doing something. I think since our county is a level 3 it shows that this is



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still increasing in numbers and hasn't slowed down. I know more testing is being done but it still shows that the numbers are increasing in Franklin County and there is a big concern for that.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL	Next: 7/13/2020 6:30 PM
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Adjournment

Leanora Jenkins

Leanora Jenkins, President of Council

Mollie Prasher

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council**Mollie Prasher****7232 East Main Street****Reynoldsburg OH 43068****614-322-6836 Phone****MOTION REQUEST**

DATE: July 7, 2020**TO:****RE: Suspend Mandatory Referral**

Approval:

Joe Begeny	Chris Shook	Stephen Cicak
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This motion is needed in order for Council to consider the mandatory face mask ordinance. The Council Rules require that all ordinances shall be referred to an appropriate committee for review and recommendation for adoption or denial prior to any final action being taken by Council. This provision may be suspended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths majority of Council.

A Motion to Suspend Article IV, Section 8 Mandatory Referral of the Council Rules for the Reynoldsburg City Council

Clerk of Council
Mollie Prasher
7232 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg OH 43068
614-322-6836 Phone

ORDINANCE REQUEST

DATE: **July 7, 2020**

TO:

RE: **Mandatory Face Mask Ordinance**

Approval:

Completed Joe Begeny	Completed Chris Shook	Stephen Cicak
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Emergency/Suspension: Emergency

Reason For Emergency: Immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety

Explanation of legislation and need: This legislation is in reaction to the increasing numbers of Covid-19 infections in the area in and around the City of Reynoldsburg.

Statement of necessity for Emergency passage: This ordinance is an emergency health measure to help protect and reduce the infections from the Covid-19 virus.

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN ANY PUBLIC SPACE TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports over 2,545,250 cases of COVID-19 in the United States, resulting in over 126,369 deaths, to date; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D, declaring a State of Emergency, as a result of community spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio; and

Clerk of Council

Mollie Prasher

7232 East Main Street

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WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has 52,865 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2,876 deaths and continues to experience “community spread” of the virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 endangers the lives of the citizens of Reynoldsburg, creating an emergency to life and public safety and disrupting commerce; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that, while people are most contagious when they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, some spread is possible before an individual may exhibit such symptoms and even when an individual remains asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, the Ohio Department of Health issued an Order requiring all Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent further spread of COVID-19, later amending such Order on April 30, May 20, and May 22, 2020, to allow business to open with the recommendation that facial coverings be worn except in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Mayor Joe Begeny issued a Declaration of Emergency in response to COVID-19 to protect the well-being of the citizens of the City as well as those who work, attend school, and visit the City from the dangerous effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as businesses have reopened, more people are traveling in and out of the State of Ohio and within the City of Reynoldsburg; and

WHEREAS, a local and statewide emergency continues to exist with limits on mass gatherings and recommendations of social distancing; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described emergency, there is a continuing need to protect all citizens and guests of the City of Reynoldsburg from the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends wearing face coverings in public where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 from symptomatic, asymptomatic, or unknown carriers to others; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, the Franklin County Department of Health stated, “It’s time to require face coverings to give us the best opportunity to protect and promote the health, safety and economic recovery of our community.”; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2020, the Governor of the State of Ohio designated Franklin County as a Risk Level 3 with a “very high exposure and spread” with guidance to “limit activities as much as possible,” and the Governor identified Franklin County as the only county in the State of Ohio approaching a Risk Level 4, which would indicate the county has a “severe exposure and

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spread,” and the Franklin County Commissioners have adopted a resolution urging all communities in the County to encourage and mandate the appropriate wearing of face coverings; and

WHEREAS, requiring face coverings to be worn by any person in a public place within the City of Reynoldsburg promotes health, safety, and efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 while enabling the continuation of essential services, business, and travel necessary to protect public health and safety, and for the continuity of social and commercial life during the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3701.13, issued an Order for Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Huron, Montgomery, and Trumbull Counties stating that “all individuals... shall wear facial coverings at all times” when indoors outside of their place of residence, outside when unable to maintain social distancing, and for ride-sharing or public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the July 8, 2020 Department of Health Order will remain in effect for the affected Counties until each of the Counties no longer is designated as a Level 3 or Level 4 Public Health Advisory alert; and

WHEREAS, the majority of residential and commercial property located in the City of Reynoldsburg is in Franklin County and are subject to the July 8, 2020 Department of Health Order; and

WHEREAS, there remains residential and commercial property located in the City of Reynoldsburg that is located in Licking and Fairfield Counties, which are not subject to the July 8, 2020 Department of Health Order but which are in close proximity to Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of the known information about COVID-19, and in consultation with the Franklin County Department of Health, and considering the July 8, 2020 Order from the Ohio Department of Health, the City Council of the City of Reynoldsburg finds that the safety of its citizens is best protected by implementing a requirement to wear face coverings in public places as set forth herein for the entire City of Reynoldsburg; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons stated in this preamble, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect at 8:00 a.m. on July 14, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG:

Section 1. All individuals within the City of Reynoldsburg shall wear a face covering over the individual’s nose, mouth, and chin in accordance with the following:

A. In any indoor location that is not a residence.

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Mollie Prasher

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- B. When entering, exiting, or waiting in line to enter a City of Reynoldsburg operated building or facility that is open to the public, and while inside a City of Reynoldsburg operated building or facility as to the areas within such City of Reynoldsburg facility that are accessible to, and are intended for the use of, the public.
- C. In any public transportation such as a bus or other public transit vehicle, a taxi or ridesharing vehicle or any other vehicle for hire, or at a transit stop or waiting area for any public transportation. This does not apply to private or rental vehicles where members of a family are sharing a vehicle. This does not apply to vehicles engaged in direct travel through the City that does not stop in the City.
- D. In any outdoor space or outdoor place where or when a person is unable to maintain or does not maintain physical separation of not less than six feet from others who are not members of their own household.

Section 2. The requirement to wear a face covering through this Ordinance does not apply in the following situations:

- A. Any individual who cannot wear a face covering because of a medical condition, mental health condition or developmental disability, or who is unable to remove the face covering without assistance, and any individual who should not wear face coverings under the CDC guidance. An individual is not required to produce medical documentation of the condition or disability, provided an employer may require such documentation from an employee in accordance with state and federal law.
- B. Individuals under 10 years old.
- C. Restaurant and bar patrons while eating or drinking. If a patron is not seated at his or her table or at the bar, a face covering is required.
- D. School individuals, including, but not limited to, students, administrators, and teachers, on or in school or school district facilities, so that schools and school districts may follow

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the regulations and guidelines promulgated by their governing bodies and the Ohio Department of Education.

- E. In settings where it is not practicable or feasible to wear a face covering such as when receiving dental services, medical treatments, or while swimming.
- F. Walking or exercising outdoors so long as physical separation of not less than six feet is maintained, or while walking or exercising outdoors with other members of the same household.
- G. While actually engaged in exercising in a gym or other similar indoor facility so long as physical separation of not less than six feet is maintained and the individual wears a face covering at all times when not actually engaged in exercising.
- H. Any individual who is utilizing outdoor property or facilities and actively engaged in recreational exercise or athletic activities.
- I. An individual is actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a Department of Health Order.
- J. In an area of a place of business not used by a customer and not intended for access by the general public, as long as individuals are maintaining a safe six-foot distance.
- K. To any individual who is communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or has other disability, when such communication requires the speaker's mouth to be visible.
- L. When an individual is in his or her work office, conference room, or other workspace not intended for use by the general public.

Clerk of Council

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- M. When inside a personal or commercial vehicle either parked or moving that is not a vehicle described in Section 1(C).

- N. Individuals while acting in their official capacity as a public safety employee or emergency responder when wearing a face covering would interfere with or limit their ability to carry out their official duties or functions. These include peace officers, firefighters, and other public safety or emergency medical personnel that support public safety operations.

- O. Any individual who is not in compliance with this Ordinance but who, upon request of a law enforcement officer, comes into compliance with the Ordinance within a reasonable period of time, shall not be cited under Section 5 of this Ordinance.

- P. When facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation, in violation of documented industry standards, or when in violation of a business's documented safety policies.

- Q. Individual is actively participating in broadcast communications.

- R. Individual is an officiant of religious services.

Section 3. For the purposes of this Ordinance, "face covering" means a piece of cloth, fabric, or other material that fully covers the mouth and nose and that is secured with ear straps or otherwise tied so as to prevent slipping. A face covering may be factory-made or may be handmade and improvised from household materials. Face coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, scarfs, medical masks, and cloth masks; and also include respirators, N95 masks or other personal protective equipment that provides a higher level of protection than a face covering defined in this Section. A face covering shall be worn so as to cover the mouth and nose in compliance with the CDC's guidance on wearing face coverings.

Section 4. Whoever violates this Ordinance is subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$55. Any business who permits an individual(s) in any indoor location who is in violation of this

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Ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$300. For the purpose of this Ordinance, a suspected violation of this Ordinance shall not provide a lawful basis for the initiation of a traffic stop by law enforcement.

Section 5. For the reasons set forth in the preamble hereof, the Council of the City of Reynoldsburg declares this Ordinance to be an emergency measure which shall take effect at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 and shall remain in effect for entire City for any period of time in which the State of Ohio designates either Franklin, Licking, and/or Fairfield Counties as a Level 3 or Level 4 Public Health Advisory alert pursuant to the Ohio Department of Health Order dated July 8, 2020.

RESOLUTION 20-088

June 29, 2020

RESOLUTION TO UPHOLD CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
("CDC") RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FACE COVERINGS

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain;

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others;

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings; and

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Now, therefore, upon motion by Board Member Dr. James, second by Board Member Dr. Barnewall.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS:

1. Franklin County Public Health supports its cities, townships and villages to pass local ordinances and emergency declarations, as allowable by law, to require residents and visitors in those communities to wear face coverings while in indoor settings such as, but not limited to, retail stores, restaurants, and other workplaces;
2. Franklin County Public Health staff are available to work with municipal staff and elected officials to provide any assistance and support as would be helpful in the drafting and implementation of such actions;
3. This resolution shall be in full force until the emergency declaration of the Board of Health has been rescinded.

Resolution 20-088
Page Two
June 29, 2020

Voting Aye Thereon:

Roy Barnewall

Thomas L. Rudge, Jr.

Sally W. Morgan

Latisha Chastang

Arthur James

Board Members
Franklin County Board of Health

Voting Nay Thereon:

Board Members
Franklin County Board of Health

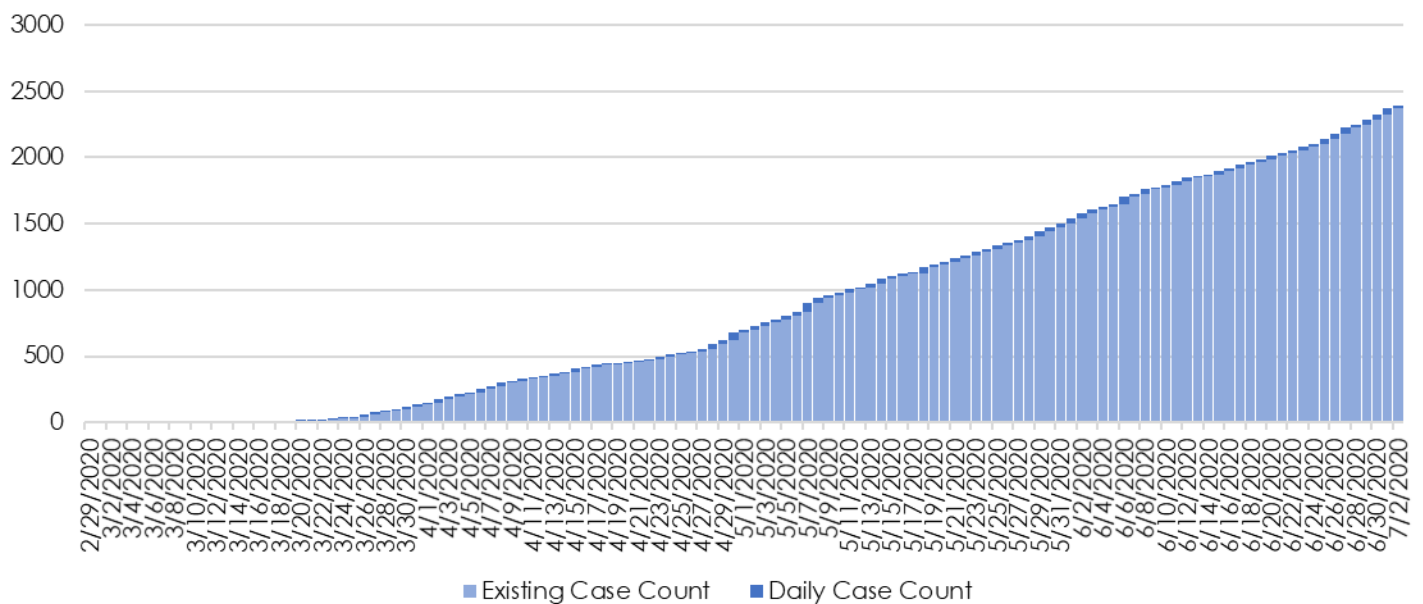
Epidemiology Update for COVID-19 for Franklin County Public Health, 2020 July 2, 2020, 10:00am

COVID-19 Case Data*		
Total Cases	2,393 (2,289 Confirmed, 104 Probable)	
Age Range	<1 – 102 years	
Median Age	46 years	
Gender	1,273 female	1,084 male
Hospitalized (overall)	266	
ICU Admissions (overall)	76	
Deaths***	102 (67 White, 28 Black, 3 Asian, 2 Hispanic, 2 Unknown)	
Onset Date Range	02/23/2020 – 06/28/2020	
Asymptomatic Cases	344	
*Data are pulled from the Ohio Disease Reporting System and are subject to change as additional information is gathered. Some data may have a lag time based on completion of case finding at the time of this report. ** Probable case counts added to the data as of 4/14/2020. ***Cause of death has not yet been determined.		

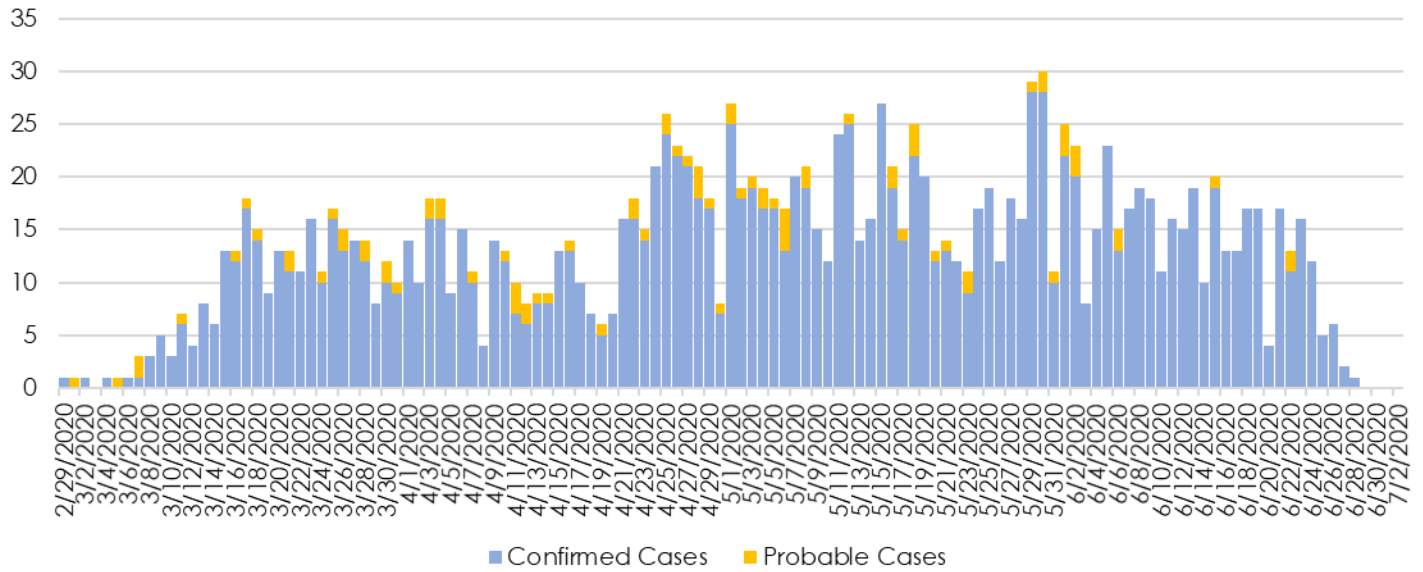
Cases in Franklin County Public Health Jurisdiction Residing in Another County

Franklin	2,064
Union	7
Fairfield	158
Delaware	39
Licking	123

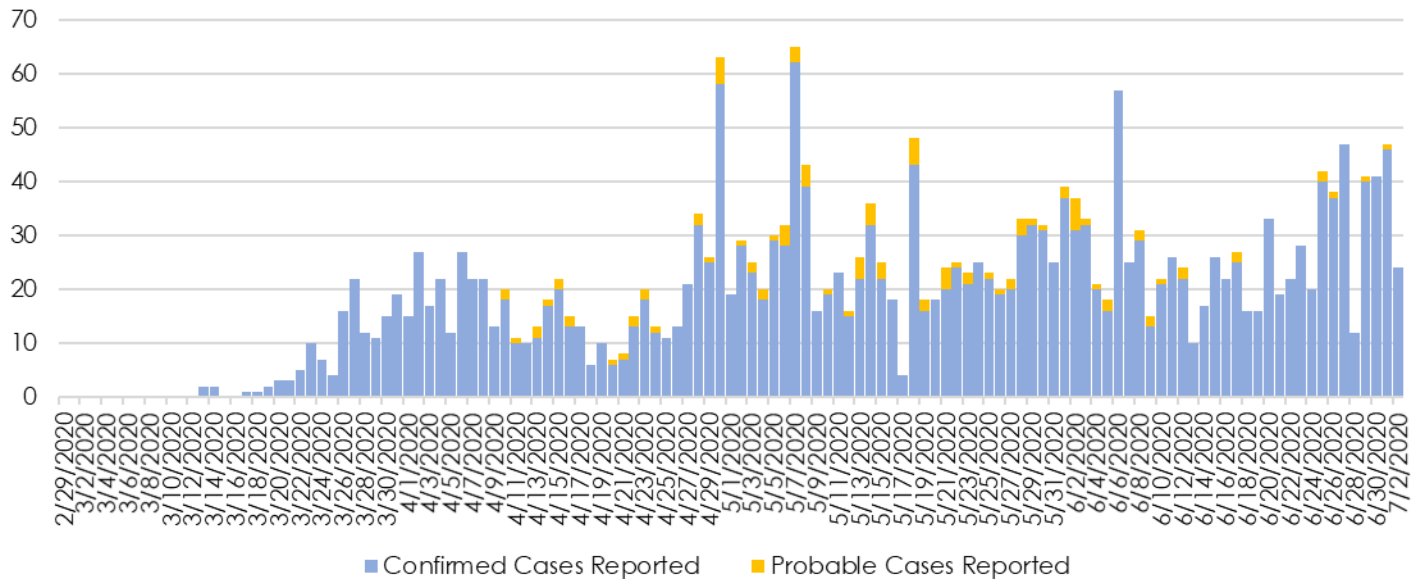
Cumulative Total Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19
by Reported Date, Franklin County Public Health (N=2,322)

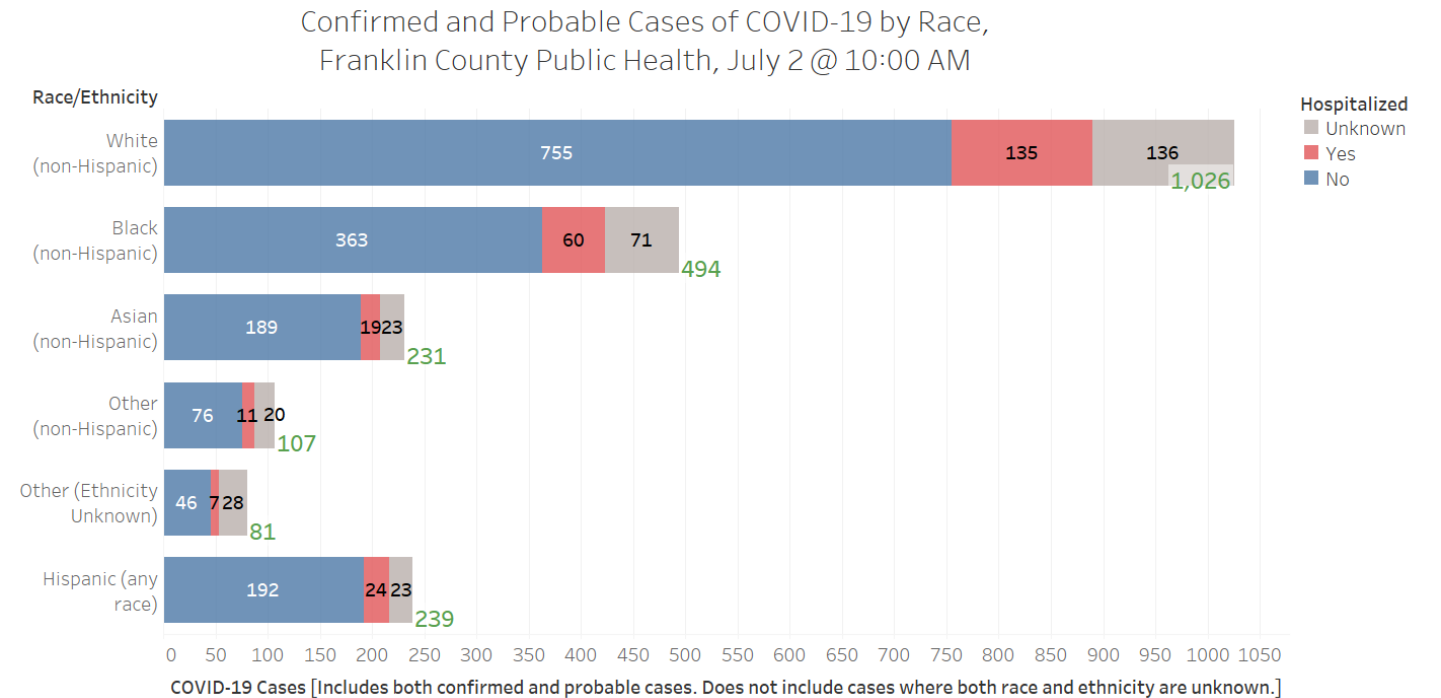
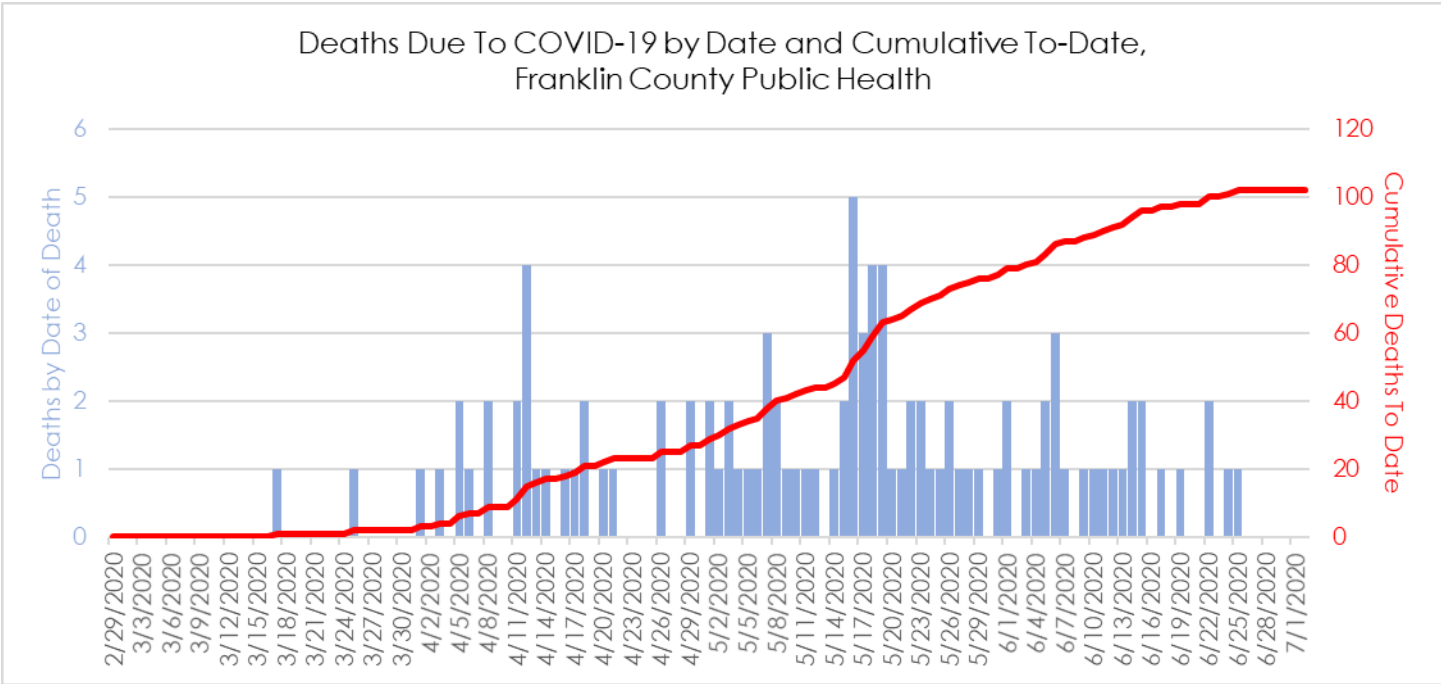


Epidemiological Curve of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19
by Onset Date, Franklin County Public Health (N=1,642)

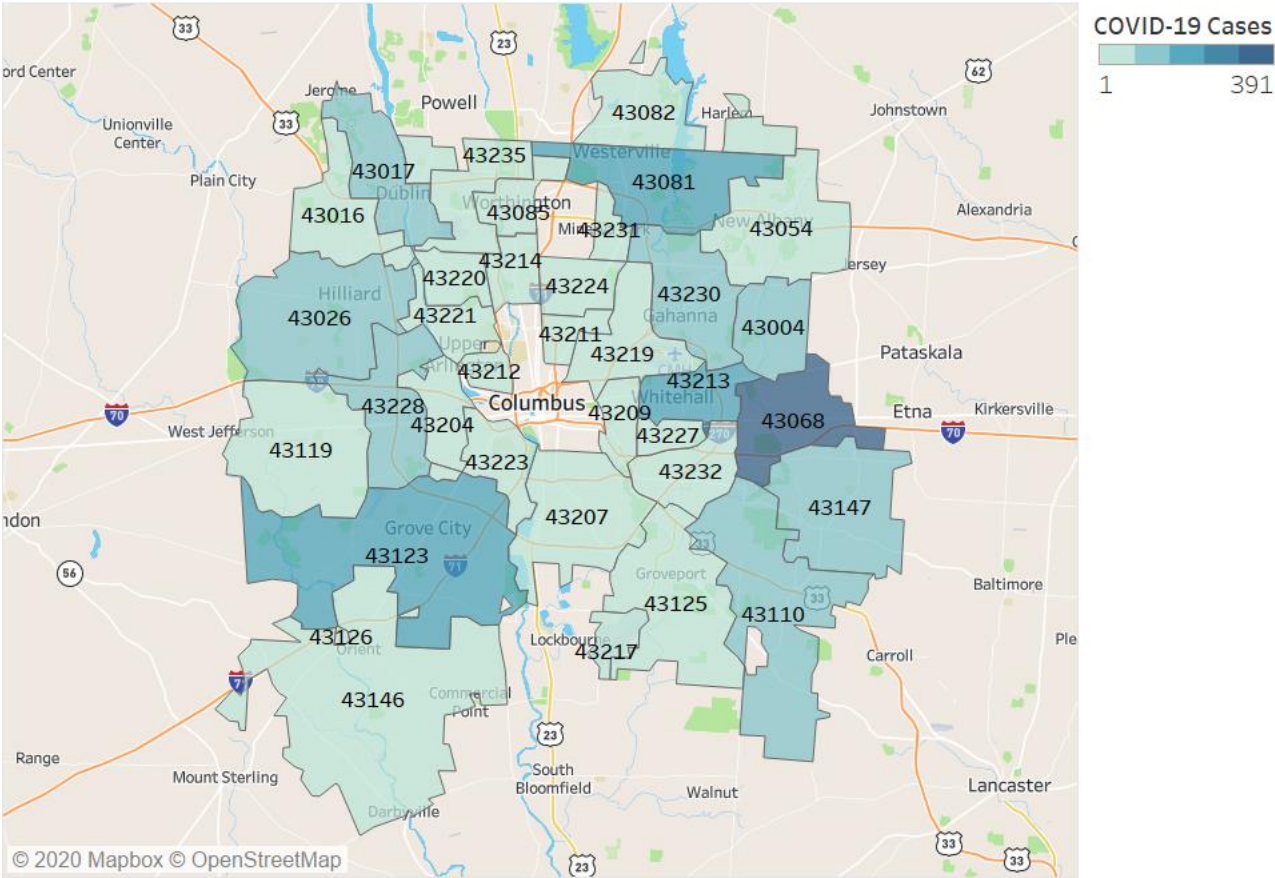


Epidemiological Curve of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19
by Reported Date, Franklin County Public Health (N=2,322)





COVID-19 Cases per FCPH ZIP Code, July 2 @ 10:00 AM



Attachment: COVID-19 Epi Report 7-02 (Mandatory Face Mask)