



CITY OF MISSOULA

MISSOULA COUNTY



June 30, 2020

Ellen Leahy
Health Officer
Missoula City-County Health Department
301 W. Alder St.
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Ms. Leahy:

On behalf of the City of Missoula and Missoula County, we're writing to formally request you issue a health officer's order requiring the wearing of masks or cloth face coverings in businesses licensed by the City-County Health Department or City of Missoula. We'd also urge you to call a special meeting of the health board, as necessary, to review the order.

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge in Missoula County and data suggest that masks are among the measures that can limit spread of the virus, this step seems reasonable and timely. And while an ordinance requiring face coverings is an option for local government, a health order allows for enforcement through licensure in businesses accustomed to enforcing health standards to operate.

Such an order has our strong support, along with that of what we believe to be a strong majority of the Missoula City Council, Missoula County Commissioners, businesses and residents.

Because we know you're inclined to pursue this action, we wanted to formalize our support through this letter and strongly encourage haste in putting the order in place. Letting another half-month pass would be a shame. We know too that your staff is fully committed to addressing COVID-19, and we are willing to assist you with any additional resources you might need and believe the Emergency Operations Center could provide resources to ensure success by providing a resource the public could direct their concerns to.

Thank you for your efforts to date. We look forward to our continued work together in ensuring the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

John Engen
Mayor

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Josh Slotnick, Dave Strohmaier and Juanita Vero
Missoula County Commissioners