

BOH 10.15.2020 (updated 10.15 at 11:29pm)

In favor of additional restrictions	Opposed to additional restrictions	Other
105	162	3

I urge the Flathead County Health Department to revise and increase masking and social distancing restrictions. While many people are following existing guidelines—masking, 6 ft, handwashing—too many people are NOT. Schools are trying, but it’s insanely obvious that many businesses, specifically box stores and convenience stores(including employees), are not enforcing the Governor’s mandate. Restaurant and bar parking lots are full. Just repeating the guidelines is not enough to change behavior. The Governor will not do anything from his office that could cost him votes. Two Commissioners have even said it’s okay to ignore the Governor’s mandate.

The Health Department has indicated, due to tracing, employees are tired and burned out. Totally understandable. But have you requested funds to hire additional employees for tracing so you aren’t days behind? Have you been kicking and screaming that the virus is out of control because mandates are not being followed or enforced? While an “A to F” rating on covid management would be impractical for all Flathead businesses, why couldn’t a separate covid management rating be included for bars and food establishments already in the program? Indoor weddings, concerts, lectures, even funerals, need stronger regulations or postponements.

Other counties with increasing covid cases are stepping up restrictions. Flathead County needs to be more proactive in dealing with community health. Your flu clinic is good, but you do that every year. NOW is the time to initiate and enforce actions that will prevent the lockdown that nobody wants.

Thanks for listening,

Jerry Smalley

Columbia Falls

I support the proposed control measure plan. I seems to have reasonable criteria and responses. I am a parent of two children age 6 and 3. Mu 6 year old is able to follow the rules and wear a mask all day at school and I don’t think it is too much to ask grown adults to do the same. Fact: The virus has killed more people in the county in 6 months than the flu has in the last four years. Don’t believe or give into those who say it isn’t a big deal. We need to make some modest sacrifices in the short term to get back to normal in the long term.

Tony Powell
Columbia Falls

Hello,

I am writing in support of the October 9 Flathead City-County Health Department proposal.

I attend church. This proposal will impact churches; however, the churches have a role in caring for our community. Abiding by these restrictions will allow churches to both continue gathering in-person (a landmark of our faith) and care for our community.

Economically, it is vital for our schools to remain open. When a class has to quarantine, it impacts both families and businesses. Someone from the family has to stay home from work to be with the child. Especially for hourly workers, a quarantine is also a tremendous economic hit. Further, every time a worker has to stay home on quarantine, the business is impacted in their productivity, revenue, and, depending on the business, expenses.

This proposal is a wise and thoughtful approach.

Thank you,

Chany Ockert

Flathead County, Bigfork, Montana

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to voice my opinion on the proposed Covid restrictions that you will be discussing during your board meeting.

This virus has a 99.97% survival rate and you've no right no shut down anyone's business as a result of that data. It is unconstitutional. You are ruining the Flathead valley. Stop testing and stop reporting active cases and start reporting deaths.

I doubt that you'll have any concern over anything that I've said or any of the data. You care only for yourselves. That much is clear.

Thank you for your time.

Kate Galarza
KalisPELL, MT

Thank you for addressing the Covid spike that has happened in our valley. I only wish that these restrictions could go into effect sooner than the first of the month.

You have my support and many others who I know.

Thank you.

Donna Emerson.

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife and I own a home in Whitefish and we are concerned that the increase of Covid in Montana is reaching a dangerous level. As infection rates rise and hospitals beds fill local government has an opportunity to stem the tide and save lives.

I would strongly support the implementation of limiting gatherings to no more than 25 people and halting alcohol sales at 10pm.

I would reluctantly be supportive of reducing indoor capacity to 25%.

We hope the spike in Covid will convince all Montanans to be extremely diligent about masks and social distancing to ease the spread.

Thank you,

Douglas Newton

Dear Board of Health,

I'm a pediatrician in the valley and am very alarmed by the rapid rise in cases we are seeing. The proposed restrictions to gathering sizes, restaurants/bars are long overdue and likely should have been in place while we had large numbers of out of state tourists bringing in their germs. I fully support these measures.

Sincerely,
Lynn Dykstra MD
Sunny View Pediatrics

Hi there,

I am emailing to show my support for the newly proposed restrictions that would take effect November 4.

I have been concerned by the handling of COVID-19 in our community and fear for the health and safety of my family (including elderly grandfather) and community in general if we do not take action. I think it is time to stand up for our medical community and flatten the curve before our county spirals.

I support everything proposed in these restrictions and hope you will take this email as public comment in support of restrictions.

Thank you,

Danyal Wendt

To Whom It May Concern-

Please implement additional coronavirus restrictions to keep our community safe. There is absolutely no need to have large gatherings when our positive rate and caseload is so high.

I think 50 percent restaurant capacity may make more sense to balance business needs with safety but I agree with all of the other recommendations. Mask wearing has become highly politicized in the valley. They work but people simply will not follow the rules and more must be done. My family members have preexisting conditions and we need to do more to keep them safe. Listen to the doctors and nurses begging you for help.

Please also remove the embarrassing Annie Bukacek from your board. We need real board members who believe in science.

Best
Amy Johannes
Whitefish, MT 59937

Hello,

I want to voice my support of the proposed COVID-19 restrictions. With cases spiraling out of control, we need to implement safety measures to keep our healthcare facilities from becoming overtaxed, which could lead to more deaths.

Thanks for your time,

Spencer Tracy

With all do respect .. this is insane . Limiting the amount of gatherings at restaurants and church is insane. I understand bars and I don't think they should even be open if we are that worried about it but the fact is that business in Kalispell already are struggling like mine for instance and in the winter things slow down so dramatically that it would just further harm our local business causing them to close their doors. This is insane and we can't take people's right to work and run a business away from them! Everyone is responsible for themselves and until there is a valid solution shutting down people's business by limiting captivity is a death sentence. I'm sorry but it is what it is and how convenient you guys want to do this now that summer the busy time has already passed its almost like you want family business to fail! Insane and this will be met with protest if this goes through. Enough is enough. People need to work and make a living and no one has the right to take that away from people.
Thank you .

Gabriela Allen

Please implement the additional COVID restrictions discussed in the Flathead Beacon's article published today. Our COVID case numbers are out of control, and the sooner you can limit gathering sizes, bar and restaurant capacity the better.

The county's nonchalance with regards to mask wearing is reflected in our soaring infection rates. Please consider stricter mask enforcement policies, as well.

Thank you.

Marti Brandt

I think it's time for new restrictions! Schools are being affected as well! This virus is out of control here in the Flathead! Please vote these new restrictions in and also start them the day after your approval don't wait till November.

I think it's time for restrictions as cases are getting so high. It's affecting schools-students and teachers. No subs are available to help! I think you should support mask wearing as it's proven to help. So many anti maskers and protests in the valley which aren't helping to slow the spread.

Thank you, Joan Sipe

This a great idea. Being that my wife and I are seniors anymore would be great. There are far too many non maskers in the Flathead County. Thank for finally doing something.

Rich Sipe. Kalispell

To whom it may concern,

My name is Liz Hoveland and I am a resident of Bigfork. I was recently sent home from Harvard (I am a junior there) due to the pandemic, and it is unknown when I will return due to the COVID outbreak. I am very grateful for the mask mandate here in MT, and I really approve of the FCCHD proposal!!!

Thank you,

Liz

I urge you not to wait until November 4th to impose these new restrictions. It has been clear for the past two months that the virus is spreading uncontrolled in Flathead County and additional measures need to be taken. I would love to see this proposal, or a stricter one, go into effect immediately. If the new restrictions do not result in the desired drop within two weeks, do not hesitate to fully shut us down again.

I live in Fortine but work in Kalispell -- for an employer who does not believe in allowing work from home, and is determined to remain as far open as the county and state allow. We need strong action from you.

Gordon Bower

Dear Flathead County Board of Health,

I just read of your proposed new restrictions that would go into effect in early November if Flathead County doesn't see a big decrease in the number of new cases of COVID-19 by then. I strongly APPROVE of these restrictions, because so many people do not follow and in fact flaunt the governor's mandates. A lack of common sense and consideration on their part does not give them the right to endanger others.

Thank you very much!

Yours truly,

Susan Stadler

Kalispell

Dear Board of Health members,

I am very concerned about the exponential growth of COVID-19 in our Valley. I support you in whatever measures you need to take to slow the spread, knowing that you will not take these measures lightly. I am sad that too often your work of protecting the community has been treated with disdain and disrespect. Thank you for serving.

Can something be done to ensure greater mask compliance? I understand that the community is balancing tensions over masking with getting people to comply. Can we fine individuals if they don't

comply or do something else to enforce the order? How will you enforce the group size requirements? That everyone feels entitled to their own idea of the facts rather than the actual facts is deeply frustrating. If we could only follow the recommendations, we could get this thing under control. I'm sure this is your frustration as well.

Thank you for serving our community in these challenging times. I know there are many things you are attempting to balance. My prayers are with you.

Rebecca Miller

Please consider enacting the proposed measures restricting gatherings and restaurant activity in the valley. The spike in cases is extremely concerning, and residents are suffering. We need you to take action now.

Thank you,

Amelia Urbanski

Whitefish

Dear Flathead County Board of Health:

I was delighted to just read of a thread of common sense. I strongly support your proposed restrictions to slow these escalating numbers. Unfortunately, we cannot wait until November. You must act now. I realize you are trying to give the community a chance to do the right thing and get the rate of spread down without regulations first. If these almost unbelievable infection rates have not convinced Flathead County to do the right thing, your carrot won't work either. I urge you to do as Yellowstone County has and also have some measure that must be met or restrictions will go in place immediately. Three days averaging over 75 cases and restrictions start the next day?

My previously very healthy 70 year old husband contracted COVID in March. Two months later, after a couple fainting episodes, a full cardiac workup revealed cardiomyopathy. He had only mild COVID symptoms but his cardiologist says the only explanation is that COVID significantly damaged his heart muscle. We are praying the damage is not permanent. It may well be. **AND HE HARDLY HAD SYMPTOMS!!!** We have no idea the damage that is happening to those that are sick, even without notable symptoms. We **MUST** stop the spread now.

I am just off the phone with a friend from Frenchtown that had a vendor booth at the Northwest Montana Fair. She reviewed the Fair Board's plan for safety and judging those to be adequate, decided to attend. She spent the whole time terrified. There may have been good plans but there was **NO** enforcement. As a small business person, she could not afford to just pick up and leave after paying \$700 for her booth. She left thinking "watch out Flathead County, you are in for **BIG** trouble."

And here we are.

Do the right thing.

Rachel Potter

Columbia Falls

You have a duty to enact the proposed measures restricting gatherings and restaurant activity in the valley. The spike in cases is extremely concerning, and residents are suffering. We need you to take action now.

Thank you,
Lindsey Hromadka
Whitefish

Thank you!

We need this to slow the spread.

Andrea Goff

Bigfork

I feel that why shut down everything else but keep schools open? If my vote matters I think it's totally not fair to all us hard workers! What are we supposed to do how are we supposed to pay the bills? My vote is NO!

Waneeta Guzman

Dear Board of Health:
Please use whatever regulatory tools are available to you to reduce the spread of Covid in Flathead County. It is way past time for existing measures to be enforced, and for additional restrictions to be put in place. Our family is extremely grateful for the difficult work you're doing.

Alice Biel
Columbia Falls

Hi local government officials,

I am writing in support of the additional measures proposed by the health department in October to control the community spread of COVID in Flathead County. As a small business owner and mother, I would like to see the proposed health measures endorsed by our local government. With these additional actions, it is my hope that our kids will be able to continue to attend school in-person. I also hope that we can take these steps to avoid another stay-at-home lockdown so that local businesses can continue to operate and not close their doors.

Thank you,
Julie Beede
Kalispell, MT

Adding restrictions is the only way to curb the spike in Covid-19 cases. It is the smart thing to do...the only thing to do. I support this proposal. A former member of the Flathead County Commissioner's , the City-County Health Board, a senior citizen.

Sharon L Stratton

Columbia Falls. MT 59912

Please listen to medical science

I am writing the board in support of the governor's mandate to make every effort to mitigate this new and recent spread of the coronavirus in our county. The medical experts who are giving advice nationwide really feel that we may not be in a second surge but that this continual viral insult is like a forest fire that wax and wane's with the winds. Right now the winds have changed and the fire is burning more and more out of control and it demands that we listen and react in a wise way. I am working on the front lines every day and every day seems to be getting worse. We need strong direction from this Flathead County Health Board to help put this fire out. The medical research is very sound and supports the use of masking and social distancing as a way to battle this virus. We need to listen to medical science to save lives.

Ken Graham M.D. Sunny View Pediatrics.

Given the persistent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Flathead County, new restrictions are clearly required. If the trend is not reversed before the onset of winter, the county could be faced with an epic health crisis.

Best regards,

Roger Sievers
Whitefish 59937

Dear health board,

My name is Jennifer. I work in a local Flathead restaurant. I have been a bartender/server for almost twenty years with the same company. Another shutdown or taking back to 25% is extreme. I'm already down to 6 tables with 50% capacity. My restaurant never got above this percentage for now on seven months. I have my own family to take care of and 25% is going to make that even harder. Three tables will not feed my family or pay my electric this winter. I'm writing to keep us at, at least , 50% if not more. I'm working on almost a year with shortened income and unemployment only goes so far. Please consider the troubles this will cost me, my family, and many others in the future.

Jennifer Haslem

To whom it may concern,

There is a 99+ percent survival rate for those with covid. A positive covid test often does not equate with symptoms of illness associated with the covid virus. We are going to tighten restrictions for 50 cases out of 100,000 people? This does not make good sense! The response to covid has been way more harmful than the virus itself. Why not allow those who are at most risk to quarantine and allow those who are healthy to live normally and thereby develop herd immunity?

So many people's lives have been upended by this ridiculous response to a virus that is no worse than the flu.

Masks do not prevent covid, if that were true our numbers would not be on the rise as most people in our valley have been wearing masks everywhere they go since March.

I believe it is time to dispense with a mask that prevents nothing and allow people to choose what risks they are comfortable living with just as we do on a daily basis with everything else we choose to do or not do in our lives.

Thank you,

Kim Nelson

I wanted to voice my support for the restrictions the health department is talking about implementing. Our county's rise in Covid cases are concerning. Over the last several months some people in our community have chosen to make masks divisive and have conjured up fake controversy where none exists. Because of these things, we are at an all-time high with covid cases and must put restrictions in place — this must be done sooner rather than later. Mitigating the spread using data and science is most important. I want to thank and encourage the board for their thankless and tireless work and urge them to continue to operate and make decisions with those two things in mind: data and science.

Thank you for your time.

Katie Freeman

Kalispell

Thank you for doing the hard work for our county and making the right choice to tighten restrictions to help get our numbers down. The commissioners are not doing their job and are politicizing this virus.

Melanie Cross

Kalispell

I support the new restrictions. They are too lenient for my taste. Let's lock everything down and get this pandemic over with.

Andy Hurst

The public is entitled to more transparency on the data you are basing these financially and emotionally devastating covid rules your trying enforce. What is the testing accuracy exactly. To you retest everyone to prevent false positives and negatives. Do you actively follow up to accurately and expeditiously report recoveries. The 23 deaths, how were they impacted by preexisting conditions and age. How many of these new cases are requiring hospitalization. Are you being forthcoming to the public about the survival rate in respect to the fatal economic and psychological impact that your extreme measures will undoubtedly bring. Is any of this constitutional at all. You must address all these issues with complete transparency and honesty. I refer you to the WHO, they are no longer supporting lockdowns due to the poverty its causing. These measures impact people's livelihoods. Do you want to be responsible for my family going hungry, my family not being able to pay our bills. Are you going to tell thr public exactly how many covid hospital bed there are total and how many of those are occupied.

S.C. Allen

As a citizen of Flathead County, I am deeply troubled by your lack of concern for your residents. You leave mask-wearing optional; you don't enforce the state mandate; you allow visitors to totally disregard the mandate; and we're getting sick. You leave the restaurants and businesses to police mask wearing which has led to business closings.

Make masks mandatory!!!! Don't put the owners and workers who are trying to stay open and make a living in this position.

Mandatory means MANDATORY...its not optional. Paying Bill's and taxes aren't optional...but you are making it very difficult. Man up. Take care of your citizens.

When the Germans were bombing England, the government told people to turn off their home lights so it would be hard for the Germans to bomb. No one said "it's optional." Everyone did it to protect themselves and their neighbors. Do it!

What in the world does a 10pm close time for bars have anything to do with COVID?

We're already operating at 25% occupancy...but sports and school events can be larger?

These measures will make no difference to the increase in cases. Enforce mask wearing. Period. Or more businesses will close and you'll lose revenue and we'll be out of jobs.

Get it together.

Kim Grieser

Whitefish

I just wanted to state my support for the proposed restrictions if our COVID numbers continue to be so high. I even suggest stronger proposals, like mandatory mask usage. We need to get it together.

I appreciate your time.

Scott Brown

Board of Health,

I see you're looking at making tighter restrictions for masks in Flathead County because of rising numbers. I want to say I'm all for it because we as a society have gotten to lax in the severity of this pandemic. The great thing was when the pandemic started our numbers stayed low because of restrictions with restaurants, bars being closed or only open for take out. With the rise of tourist season and people throwing fits about how wearing masks are "Un American" our numbers rose to a number that may be hard to come back from without a vaccine. While working at the hospital I wear a mask all day long and have for the past 17 years, it's really not that bad. I'm use to it and know that by wearing one and doing my part that I'm protecting the part of our community that is vulnerable to this horrible disease. I understand that people can make their own minds up about this pandemic, but most people that don't believe in science and think this is just the "flu" will be the first ones complaining about a loved one dying from this and why we didn't do more. I hope you do the right thing and don't buckle to the pressure of facebook MD's and people that follow conspiracy therorys and take a stricter stance on mask wearing for the good of our community so we can limit the amount of people that get sick.

Mark Nixon

Kalispell MT 59901

Dear Board,

After reading the recent article in the Flathead Beacon regarding your proposed restriction to combat COVID-19, I AM IN TOTAL AGREEMENT with your actions. I would like to see more done sooner, however, I understand some of the delay.

Additionally, I support more stringent enforcement of the state mask mandate. I have witnessed numerous businesses in the county where employees and customers (multiple) DO NOT wear masks or any attempt at face covering. Perhaps a warning to the business with follow up enforcement if necessary, including shutting them down should be done.

This a very serious and deadly pandemic and letting "Montananans to make choices about personal protection for themselves and their families" is just completely inadequate. and irresponsible.

Thank You for Your Attention

John Melius

Kalispell, Montana

thank you for all the hard work you do trying to keep our community safe. i think the increased restrictions are necessary .many businesses are not following masking and distancing rules - Hansons true value , perfect cuts in columbia falls .employees and customers all blatantly with out masks and distancing . i know it is hard to enforce these rules but there are many whom continue to be virus spreaders

thank you
johnny alamilla

I am in total support of these new restrictions! It's an embarrassment to have Flathead County be in the national media because of our denial of science and irresponsibility in handling the pandemic. This is not who we are as a community! This is how a few individuals, blinded by their "don't tread on me" ideology are endangering us citizens. People are writing thank you letters to the Health Department because we know how hard you are working to do the right thing, as our "leaders" tie your hands. Thank you. Rebecca Bauder, Bigfork MT.

I strongly support the proposed new restrictions on gathering size, and bars and restaurants. I would even suggest going further. With the recent dramatic growth in Flathead County cases, we should be limiting such spreading activities or soon schools will need to be closed as well.

Craig Christophersen

Kalispell

Hello Mr. Burg and Board of Health members,

As a nurse and concerned community member I am in full support of the proposed restrictions for Flathead County if COVID case numbers do not decrease.

Brynne Leftridge, RN
Kalispell, MT

To the Board,

It is way past time for you people to do you job and enforce masks and social distancing. It may not be popular but

it is obviously necessary to save lives of our fellow citizens.

This pandemic is going to be overwhelming to the populace,the economy,and to our health care system. It is clearly going to get worse this winter. Stop playing with fire and get serious.

Bruce A. Young

Lakeside,Mt.

Good morning,

I have been vocal in my urging of the county to take bolder steps, so I want to be equally vocal in my support of, and gratitude for, the recent proposal.

I understand the desire to give people and businesses time to respond, but the time for grace periods has passed. I urge us to move up the timetable. And for the record, Annie Bucacek should be removed from the board. Her actions and words are completely antithetical to best public health COVID practices.

Todd Lengacher

To the Flathead City-County Board of Health Administration:

As a resident of Flathead County, I couldn't have been more proud of the way that the people of the Flathead Valley banded together to stave off the Coronavirus during the early months of the pandemic. We all sacrificed for the greater good, and it worked — for a while.

In recent weeks, the sharp rise in Covid cases here is alarming. Equally appalling is the apparent indifference of certain County officials to enforce the well-known Covid prevention protocols as recommended by the CDC (such as mask wearing, social distancing, reducing large gatherings, etc.).

In light of these developments, I fully support the proposal from the Flathead City-County Health Department to tighten restrictions for crowd sizes at bars, restaurants, churches and other social gatherings. You all have the data that shows that these community mitigation efforts work. I needn't remind you that the health and welfare of our communities is at stake — and yes, that includes our economy, too, which requires healthy communities in which to flourish.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Donna Holmstul

Whitefish

As a fifteen year registered nurse and Montana resident. Stop punishing our children, our small businesses, and our residents. Your first round of restrictions had no effect on controlling an out of control virus and neither will a second round. The long term impacts of what your restrictions have already done to our children will be staggering.

R. Todd Wharton

Whitefish Montana

I fully support the restrictions proposed by the County Health Department and am grateful for the work they do, The Board of health and commissioners should follow their guidance they are the experts. Meanwhile I suggest you remove MS Bucacek from the board she is nothing but a hindrance.

Thank you,

Debra Bond

My name is Jessica Schwaderer and I am a resident of Whitefish, Montana. I am writing in support of implementing new restrictions in the Flathead Valley. We have seen the number of positive Covid cases continue to surge in our valley. The Flathead Valley is continually in the top three Montana counties with new Covid cases each day. The Harvard Global Health Institute reports that Montana is one of 13 states where full stay at home orders are now necessary. In fact, Montana has the third highest infection rate per 100,000 people in the country. This is not a statistic to be proud of. Something needs to be done and done immediately.

Our state and local leaders have continually urged Montana residence to do the right thing by wearing masks, social distancing, using proper hand washing techniques and limiting social gatherings. It has become quite apparent that our local citizens are not willing to implement these measures on their own. It is time for our local leaders to step up and do the right thing. Implement more restrictive measures to help curb the spread.

I have read the proposal that the board will be reviewing. It is a good start but I think you need to go even further. Why wait until November 4 to implement the new restrictions? Waiting just allows for the spread to continue to increase exponentially.

In addition, I do not understand why you would not include schools or school events in the new restrictions. Covid is spreading in our local schools and school activities have been linked to outbreaks. Restrictions need to be implemented and enforced in all areas of our community. There are numerous instances where local families have had a family member test positive for Covid but they choose not to test their school-age children because they do not want schools or sporting events to be shut down. This puts our citizens, students and teachers at great risk. This is unacceptable.

I urge you to implement new stricter restrictions immediately. Let's take the politics out of this. Do the right thing, save lives! Thank you for your time.

Jessica Schwaderer

Flathead Board of Health,

I am writing in strong support of increased restrictions as a result of the increasing numbers of positive cases of COVID 19 in our community. I strongly support such restrictions, which have the ability to reduce increased cases and deaths resulting from COVID 19 exposure. I feel that such restrictions will ultimately have a positive impact upon our community, and allow businesses to continue to operate at some capacity. I realize that some business, bar and restaurant owners may be fearful about the effect of this on their business, but feel that it is the correct course of action given the dramatic rise in cases. I worry that without such restrictions, our community will continue to see increased cases and deaths from COVID 19. An unchecked, continual rise in cases will increasingly impact schools, business, and the health/safety of all community members.

Thank you for your time,

Chrissy Boysen

Whitefish MT

To the board of health members, I strongly urge you to put restrictions on bars and restaurants in our county. I reside in Whitefish and notice that many of these establishments do not practice any of the CDC guidelines.

Thank you,

Jan Mazurkiewicz

Whitefish

To the Flathead County Board of Health:

It is not only possible but it is often the case that measures taken for the best of motives have unintended consequences. An economic impact report from Yelp released last month reported that more than 60 percent of businesses on the platform that closed as a result of restrictions imposed beginning in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be reopening. Without even addressing the incalculable psychological harm wrought by the isolation of individuals and families resulting from the restrictions on churches and taverns and other venues where people socialize, the hard data in the Yelp report should give local governments pause before they undertake a repeat of the March shutdown.

Of course it is your responsibility to seek means to curb the spread of the virus in the face of the spiking numbers of new cases we are experiencing in Flathead County. I do not pretend to expertise in this area. I simply want to urge that in advocating restrictions on local businesses, houses of worship and other gathering places, you proceed with caution and an awareness of the potential harm such restrictions may do to the health and welfare of the very people you are endeavoring to protect.

Lee W. Smith,
Somers, MT 59932

Dear Board of Health,

I sent this letter last week to Phil Mitchell, copying the other commissioners. I have received no response, except an automated response from Randy Brodehl, informing me that he was out of the office until sometime in September, although I sent the letter on October 9.

Since I have received no response from the commissioners, I submit this letter to you, in support of your efforts to take additional measures to contain the spread of COVID in the Flathead. Please include this as comment in the public record. Thank you for your diligence in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Nelson

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marilyn Nelson <marilyn@nelsonhardware.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 3:48 PM

Subject: COVID Statement

To: pmitchell@flathead.mt.gov <pmitchell@flathead.mt.gov>

CC: pholmquist@flathead.mt.gov <pholmquist@flathead.mt.gov>, <rbrodehl@flathead.mt.gov>

Phil,

Let's talk about Constitutional rights.

"Montana Code Annotated 2019

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

ARTICLE II. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Part II. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Inalienable Rights

Section 3. Inalienable rights. All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. *In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.*"

I don't see anything here that says that I can do whatever I want, even if it threatens the health and well-being of my community.

One hundred, thirty-six new cases today. Over 1000 active cases in Flathead County, including vulnerable residents in elderly care facilities and little kids in schools. Twenty-three of our citizens dead and our hospital near capacity. Rampant community spread of COVID disease, meaning NO ONE is safe from a virus which will kill some of us. Clearly, the "choices" of your constituents in pursuit of their personal freedoms are not working. And their lack of responsibility in making these choices is infringing on the Constitutional Rights of those of us who ARE making responsible choices. So why are you encouraging more of the same?

I am so disappointed in the stance taken by you and your fellow Commissioners following the Governor's press conference on Wednesday. Your defensive statement shows a complete lack of leadership in the face of the biggest threat to the health and economic stability of Flathead County residents and businesses that has occurred in my lifetime.

Our business has already had to close its doors to customers for a weekend due to a positive employee COVID case (our staff stood outside and helped customers curbside, but we lost over 50% of our normal volume for those two days). Many other Whitefish businesses have also been repeatedly affected by closures due to the irresponsible behaviour of some. We have been enforcing mask wearing for months, with little push back from our customers. For us, it's not political, it's practical. We just want to keep our business open. We want our employees to feel safe enough to come to work. Most customers appreciate our diligence and have rewarded us with record sales during this pandemic. The few who don't? They are emboldened to harass our employees and thumb their noses at sensible actions when elected officials pander to them about their personal choices as though they don't endanger everyone else. It's making our job so much harder.

I implore you to do more than thank the health care community. You need to express support for businesses that are doing their part, and encourage those that aren't - to step up. No one wants to go into lockdown again, close bars and restaurants, or limit business capacity. But these things are happening on their own as the situation deteriorates. The best way to avoid massive business closures is for everyone to just wear a flipping mask and take ordinary precautions to stay safe. If they refuse, the County should step in and enforce more drastic measures. Montana Code 7-5-2102 gives you the authority. But if you want to relegate your leadership role to the health department, they certainly have the authority to take whatever action is necessary to protect the community. They are in the best position to determine what our community needs to do to NOW to contain this crisis. A coordinated response is far more effective than mixed messages. You need to quit undermining the health department and act decisively to support and encourage them to take the actions for our county that would actually make a difference. They will not act without your support.

Marilyn R Nelson, Retired Owner

Whitefish, MT 59937

Cell: (406) 250-6424

Dear Flathead County Board of Health,

COVID case numbers have surged in our county. Governor Bullock's directives are ineffective if our county is unwilling to support them at the local level. We need additional restrictions on bars,

restaurants, and gathering sizes. In addition, our health department must show support for wearing masks, a proven strategy to stop the spread of COVID.

Please implement these measures before additional lives are lost.

Cheryl
Owner of Bookworks
Whitefish, MT

To the persons responsible.

It seems that another round of possible lock downs is being considered. I guess it does not matter that the financial impact on all businesses in our county will again be drastically affected. Unfortunately, you can't convince anyone that the Covid death numbers are accurate and that they are not deaths associated with any other health issues. The numbers are skewed and inaccurate. Shutting down businesses will not reduce the chance of people contracting the flu. The WHO just came out stating that they were wrong to think that lock downs worked and have completely reversed their stance. You are also attempting to violate my constitutional right to gather and worship.

Please consider these decisions carefully

Tom Kennedy
Bigfork
406 249-8825

I am writing in reference to the meeting you have scheduled for this coming Thursday, October 15, 2020.

I am opposed to the implementation of restrictions of business capacities as a response to the recent increase of positive tests in the county. Many businesses are permanently closed already as a result of the 'lock-downs' we experienced earlier this year. These proposed restrictions will be the final blow to many of the businesses who have barely survived to this point, only hanging by a thread. When businesses close, people lose their livelihoods, and are then at greater risk of many other negative consequences including lost insurance coverage, inability to feed their families, and etc.

This entire issue has been very difficult to navigate for many leaders. However, I believe we have enough data available both across this country as well as in other places in the world to support the continuation of encouraging people to stay home when sick, wash hands and to make common sense decisions about their own activities and exposure in public places.

Respectfully,
Patricia Grant

Kalispell, Flathead County resident

I am writing to encourage/plead with the Flathead Board of Health to immediately take the necessary steps to curb the spread of Covid 19 in Flathead County and Montana. I read the article in the Beacon and feel like what is being considered is good but I definitely think we can't afford to wait until November 4th to do this. In the article it is stated that if we reach a certain level of cases in late October then these measures would be implemented on November 4th. It seems like if we look back for the last few weeks, it is apparent that our cases are increasing at an alarming rate and I don't think it is wise to wait another 3 weeks to see if the people of Flathead County can get this under control themselves. It is very apparent that we can't.

My husband and I are very diligent about wearing masks and we order our groceries online and pick them up curbside. If we have to go to a store, we go during senior hours and we haven't been out to eat since March. Even though we are doing everything we can personally do to stay safe, it is concerning to us that the rest of the Flathead County must not be taking this seriously.

I am also appalled and disgusted with the stand that Dr. Annie Bukacek has taken by supporting the antimask wearers. If that is her belief, I believe she has no place on the Health Department Board and would ask for her removal immediately. She certainly has the right to her views but when she speaks as a member of the Flathead Health Department, it is disturbing and not in the County's best interest.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Linda Erfle
295 Highland Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-261-0530

I feel, at this point in time, opting to close things down at this point is foolish. Those getting tested now are doing so because they are scared. They have been told for months that this will kill them. The truth is that they have a 99.95% probability of survival. Our hospital is not being overrun. I understand that you need to protect people, however this should have been done months ago.

Thank you
Darrissa Cowden
Kalispell, MT

I can't believe that with all the new cases of covid in our county that you are not acting IMMEDIATELY to do something, Restrict the amount of people allowed in bars and restaurants NOW !!! How many more people have to get sick or DIE from your lack of action. Why come up with a plan and then wait THREE

weeks to put it in place,(as stated in the Inter Lake) IDIOTIC in my opinion, YOU NEED TO ACT NOW. I have seen first hand what this disease does to people, I lost an aunt to the sickness and know a family that is now in quarantine (they were NON maskers). I thought your position was to look out for the health and welfare of the people of Flathead county. NOT take a wait and see attitude. I am very disappointed in all of you as a group!!! Rick Hoylman (native) Kalispell {69 years}

from Francine Roston, Whitefish, MT

I want to first express my gratitude for the hard work and dedication your team shows every day. It is clear you are all doing your best to communicate about the causes, risks and impact of COVID19 on our community and I hope the county will support your work and strengthen your team so that you can meet the challenge. It is clear you need more staff and more support from local government.

I strongly support your recommendations to reduce capacity at bars, restaurants and *houses of worship* (that is a more inclusive term than "churches"). I also support limitations of crowd size for large events. As the spiritual leader for Glacier Jewish Community/B'nai Shalom serving the Jewish community of the Flathead Valley, I can tell you that our congregation just celebrated all of our High Holy Day services online rather than gather indoors and possibly expose each other to COVID19. We had two short drive-in experiences in September at which we strictly enforced mask-wearing and physical distancing.

We, as a community, must do everything we can to reduce the spread of the virus before we get into the winter months, people are confined to indoors more often, and the virus can flare again. Our healthcare workers and facilities will soon become strained beyond capacity. Lives are at risk. Every human being in our community is precious and we can not continue to gather indoors and put so many people's lives at risk, including the healthcare workers' who must care for the sick.

As a person of faith, I believe in doing everything we can to protect the life and well-being of our community. This pandemic is not going to miraculously disappear and I will do all that I can to follow and support the guidance of our health department, scientists and healthcare professionals. I will continue to pray that my neighbors are safe and take to heart their obligation to take care of each other by following the safety protocols. I will continue to pray that you all are strengthened and comforted as you do your work and that all our medical professionals are inspired to save lives and fight back this pandemic.

With respect and gratitude,

Francine Roston

Wife/Mother/Neighbor/Rabbi of Glacier Jewish Community/B'nai Shalom

Please don't implement another lock down or restrictions if the number of covid (flu) cases rise. Let people have their freedom as they've always had.

Thank you.

Greetings to all,

I write to you today as a clergy person, and the pastor of Columbia Falls United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls, MT. **One of my primary duties as a pastor toward my congregation is to Do No Harm.** We have taken exceptional steps to keep our congregation safe from harm during the COVID-19 pandemic, and have been worshipping in person for 12 weeks with no issues. However, as the virus numbers increase, we know that broader changes need to be made to alter the course of community spread.

I believe one of your primary duties for your community is also Do No Harm. I wholeheartedly endorse new and more strict limitations on public gatherings - including the gatherings of churches and places of worship - because I believe the virus spread in Flathead County is spiraling out of control.

While new restrictions will likely not allow my congregation to continue meeting in person, **we can use technology creatively to meet our needs and fulfill the mission of our organization.** We welcome your leadership, even if it goes against the wishes of the broader community. You know the science, the circumstances, and you can see the big picture. **Please make the right decision to stop the increasing COVID-19 cases in our community.** Our prayers are with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Jared Stine

Hello,

I completely support the Board's directive to make additional restrictions to try to minimize the spread of COVID19.

I think indoor sporting activities for schools should also be restricted moving forward for the winter months. School /academics should be the priority and the ability to keep the kids in the classroom utmost importance. With airborne transmission, indoor unmasked sports is a recipe for disaster.

I continue to see businesses not adhering to the mask rules. Please consider fines for non-compliance.

It is far beyond time for unified leadership to get this situation under control based on science and our capacity to care for our people due to surging numbers. Do more, not less. I hope the County Commission will support your decisions.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

Jen Elden

Whitefish

Good day to you at our county board of health. I give thanks for the work you have been doing and want to acknowledge your hard work at helping to safeguard our community and help promote policies, procedures and advice that will save lives.

As a leader of a faith community for over seven years in Somers and a Pastor for almost twenty years now, I can say that the closing or restricting of worship related experiences is something that I do not take lightly. It is simply vital to members lives and the well-being of those in the community to be able to access the ways they receive spiritual support. And yet, given today's technology and the ways in which we are able to communicate, we have been working for the past six months or more at finding additional ways to provide such care.

At Eidsvold Lutheran, a congregation with almost 125 years of service in this valley, we have only met for worship, since the initial closure, in June and July. We developed policies and procedures and thought we could be relatively safe however on July 19th one of our leaders came to worship pre-symptomatic and we realized that there was no reasonable way to keep the virus out. Our procedures did help keep the virus from spreading, thankfully, but given the rising numbers and that early scare we have not opened for public worship since that time. It is simply prudent not to. And yet, our ministry and community continue to thrive and find new ways to live faithfully with one another.

I support the restricting of public worship service attendance in our valley and strongly support the important work you do in helping promote the welfare of us all. I would only ask that there be some discretion shown – for instance we are aiming at having occasional outdoor worship experiences with people in their cars – I would like the freedom and flexibility to still have such gatherings but I will understand if that also needs to be addressed.

Thank you for your care and thank you for your work.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy

I'm a resident of Whitefish, and the situation is getting out of hand. Stricter enforcement of the mask and social distance policies needs to happen. I work in retail, and I've noticed a big uptick in people not masking. And my coworkers are paying the price. We need leadership sooner than later.

Pete Ellsworth

I ask you to please not put any more restrictions on the flathead county residents. The WHO came out and even stated locking us down (limiting the people) is not beneficial and actually detrimental. We have been through enough, mental health is also becoming an issue due to all of this.

I ask that you actually lighten the restrictions. The virus is not going any where and we need to push thru it. The flu, which has a vaccine, still sickens and kills many each year. Why would it be any different with this virus. Testing people with no symptoms, using a test in a way that it was not made, is just making this a case-demic. The only numbers that matter are who is sick/being treated, how many

hospitalized and how many have died. The CDC just came out with a study that states 70% of people wearing masks are contracting the virus vs 3.9% did not. So clearly the masks are not working and actually making it easier for people to contract the virus.<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6936a5.htm>

We need to open up and let the people make the choice. People respond much better to options than to force. The government doesn't control our individual health, each person does; otherwise they wouldn't allow the sale of junk food.

Thank you and please consider what this would do to the people.

Please allow us to live our lives.

Lynsi DeWaard, The DeWaard Team

Board of Health:

I am writing to beg you to implement STRICTER covid restrictions in Flathead County, and to do it SOON. Nov 4 is too late. The faster we act, the more illness (with its associated serious risks of death or permanent debility) we can prevent.

I work at Kalispell Regional Healthcare. The mood is stressed and somber. Our coworkers are getting covid. Staffing is stretched SO THIN. I regularly get messages from administration begging for extra nurses to work additional shifts (I'm not a nurse, I work in imaging). The consequences of such exponentially increasing #s of positive covid cases are:

- the hospital eliminating any elective procedures again. When this happened earlier in the year, it was extremely difficult for both community members AND staff. The delays in care are both a mental & physical stress on patients health.
- more local businesses will close due to lack of healthy staff. This has already been occurring but I expect the numbers to rise as more of our employees get this terrible disease.
- the long term effects of this virus are largely unknown. There are studies showing damage to heart, kidneys, lungs, brain, etc. The impact to the health of our population as a whole cannot truly be known at this time, even when patients initially recover from this illness. I feel like this consequence has not been discussed very clearly or loudly locally. I hear people blow off this disease by stating the "death rate isnt THAT bad" (which is appalling) or "so and so had it and it wasnt that bad, its not a big deal." If you get ill, YOU DO NOT KNOW what the short or long term outcome of this disease will be. I feel like its the Health Departments job to stress that more clearly.

Its also the job of ALL our local leaders to support mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. Our county commissioners blew off their opportunity to speak up in support of these VERY BASIC

TENENTS earlier this week, and that angers me very much. ITS SO FRUSTRATING for people who work in healthcare to see such a poor example set by our "leaders." Pathetic.

Again, please, for the sake of our community, implement stricter restrictions SOON.

Thank you, Heather Ellsworth

To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to request that Flathead County Board Of Health vote for tighter restrictions across Flathead County to help stop the surge of COVID-19. Our current case numbers continue to grow daily. As of today we have the 2nd highest number of confirmed cases in the state. I'm concerned for the health and wellbeing of those that live and work in Flathead County.

Thank you for considering this request.

Tara Fincher

Kalispell Montana

I am writing regarding the proposed increased regulations related to our current dramatic increase in COVID 19 cases in the Flathead. I manage 4 food service locations and am concerned about the rise in cases as well as the lack of compliance with mask regulations.

I support increased regulations though, without additional stimulus, I do not know how businesses like mine will survive. Ultimately we need to see the case counts decrease, flatten the curve, and get back to being a healthy and supportive community. The biggest issue that I see is total lack of enforcement even of the current regulations, which make them ineffective and slowing the spread. How would any additional regulations be enforced?

Even in the spring when we were in lock down and phase 1 of reopening many businesses were blatantly ignoring the regulations and no one did anything about it. To this day countless businesses ignore the mask mandate completely. The only method I've seen to report a business is to give your full name and contact information so you can act as a "witness" to the non-compliance. I ask you, can any one of you imagine putting a target on your back by causing a local business to get fined or shut down? I don't know anyone who would. As much as people might be angered by the lack of compliance we still live in a small enough community that calling another business out isn't feasible and, in our current political climate, could be down right dangerous. My teams get abused over the mask mandate alone daily; I can only imagine what would happen to me if I put my name on a complaint about another business not complying. I would be afraid for the safety of my family. So you are suggesting reducing to 25% restaurant capacity, which I support, but only if ALL restaurants comply which requires enforcement support. Our community members do not go around checking to see if restaurants are storing their meat properly or keeping their refrigerators at proper temp and for good reason. This issue

is way more divisive meaning there has to be strong and clear enforcement supported by our local governments.

Jessie Farnes

I Very Much support additional community restrictions to slow the spread of COVID 19 in our area! The Daily Interlake article said you would take comments on October 26 for a one week review. I hope this email will be included for that comment period.

However, I feel that this is waiting much too long to take action - that date is more than an incubation period way from now. The number of local cases could be much worse by then. The time frame has to be shortened for a decision!

I would like to see a mandate requiring masks in all public areas! It is NOT someone's liberty to infect me or my family! People should also be reminded to Stay Home if they are ill!

These measures are for the public good.

Thank you,
Carly Williams
Bigfork

Dear Flathead City-Council Board of Health Members,

I question the wisdom of these proposed additional COVID-19 mandates.

This fall marks one year since China introduced this virus to our world and no amount of tweaking, restricting, dialing, or legislating by government bodies like yours has proven effective at stopping or even mitigating the spread of SARS-CoV-2. What government agencies have done effectively, though, is destroy countless businesses; exacerbate domestic violence, alcoholism, and drug addiction; atrophy our public education system; and traumatize a disturbingly large portion of our children over a disease for which they're at little-to-no risk.

As a local small business owner, my preference would be that you take this meeting as a moment to reflect on the many failures of centralized planning in 2020 and bend back towards our founding principles of liberty and individual responsibility. That failing, please channel your instinct to make things better into the many tools at your disposal which don't have direct negative counter-effects, such as:

- 1) A public health campaign on strengthening our immune systems via better diet, exercise, rest and supplementation.
- 2) Concentrate testing resources on employees and visitors at long-term care facilities, where almost all of our worst healthcare outcomes from COVID-19 are occurring.
- 3) Focus public-facing health communication on hard data in a rational, calm and educational manner. Try to avoid emotional language like "dramatic," "exponential" or "disturbing" unless those terms are objectively appropriate.
- 4) Trust Montanans to sort through the data and make decisions that are best for our families, businesses and communities.

Best wishes,

Marcus Esmay
-Columbia Falls

I have read your proposal for reducing the spread of the Covid-19 virus dated 10/9/2020. I appreciate your ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of all citizens in Flathead County and the extra efforts that have been required from all of your staff. I also applaud your willingness to make difficult decisions because of the trust that has been given to your position. The governor's mandates have been welcomed by many, and many others have disagreed. But the mandates in Montana have been applied fairly and evenly across the board, with the restrictions being generally applicable to all. Until now.

I am seriously concerned with the proposal singling out places of worship for increased restrictions. Churches are placed in the same category as bars and restaurants (two categories without specific constitutional protections under the first amendment), capped at 25%. I can't understand how the risk of the virus is not important enough to reduce the gathering of teachers and students every weekday, plus additional school activities, plus additional sports; yet it is too great to allow for the spiritual care of people on Sunday morning. This discrepancy is alarming.

If a policy or principle is generally applicable to all similar kinds of gatherings or events then it can be seen as reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory. When policies are seen as singling out or targeting religious services more severely than similar kinds of secular gatherings, it is a patently unconstitutional act by government at any level.

Concerned,

Bruce Smith

Kila

To the Board of Health:

As a physician working on the front lines, I am writing regarding the restrictions proposed in response to the COVID case increase in the Flathead Valley and surrounding areas. Frankly, these are too little and quite likely may be too late. I would implore the Board to considering several immediate measures:

1. Begin restrictions immediately, certainly no later than the 19th of October.
2. Limit gatherings to 50 people or less.
3. Limit restaurants to take out only for a month with review at the end of that time.
4. Limit bars to 25% capacity for a month, again with a review at that time.
5. Limit gyms to no more than 50% capacity, again with a review in a month.

Our health care system is in danger of being overwhelmed; our health care providers already are. There is no more caring profession, towards not only patients but each other. However, as providers, we need desperately our local Health Board to support us with restrictions that acknowledge the science and help protect our residents. This is not an infringement on personal freedoms, as I have heard suggested, but helps protect people from each other in the same way as seat belts and drunk driving laws. Pandemic restrictions protect ALL citizens including those who stand to lose their lives from this virus.

Please step up to the plate and protect the residents of Flathead Valley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Daniell Hildner, M.D., F.A.C.P.

To the Board of Health Members,

My public comments regarding the proposed new restrictions due to COVID are thus:

- 1) CASES DON'T MATTER!!! CASES DON'T MATTER!!! CASES DON'T MATTER!!!
 - I can't stress this enough. Never before in the history of epidemiology have we ever counted CASES. This is madness!
 - In disease outbreaks and the science of epidemiology the only thing that matters is serious illnesses and deaths.
 - Dr. Scott Atlas, member of President Trumps Coronavirus Task Force said in August 2020 that, *"The goal of stopping COVID-19 cases is not the appropriate goal. The goal is simply twofold, to protect the people who are going to have a serious problem or die, that's the high-risk population, and to stop hospital overcrowding."*
 - Our current illnesses and deaths do not warrant any restrictions on the healthy.
- 2) Hospitalizations for COVID are only taking 10% of the available bed space in the 2 hospitals in FH County (KRMHC and North Valley Hospital) per the states own data.
 - Our current illness and hospitalizations do not warrant any restrictions on the healthy.
- 3) FH County COVID deaths so far in 2020 = 23
 - For comparison from data from the DPHHS:
 - In 2018.....FH County All Accidents (not just motor vehicle) = 54
 - In 2018.....FH County Suicides = 24
 - In 2018.....FH County Influenza/Pneumonia Deaths = 20
 - Nearly all COVID deaths in FH County are in the elderly population in care facilities.
 - COVID-19 is just a disease that exhibits similar symptoms to influenza and pneumonia. It mainly affects those 70+ years old and those with co-morbidities. State data shows this.
 - Restricting the assembly of healthy people is not warranted.
- 4) MCA 50-1-105(2)(e) states, *"The purpose of Montana's public health system is to provide leadership and to protect and promote the public's health by.....striving to ensure that public health services and functions are provided and public health powers are used based upon the best available scientific evidence;*
- 5) New restrictions will go into effect if more than 50 cases per day in FH County.
 - Where did that THAT number come from?

- Show me the SCIENCE per MCA 50-1-105(2)(e)!
- 6) Proposal #1 – Social gatherings limited to no more than 25 people.
 - Show me the SCIENCE per MCA 50-1-105(2)(e)!
 - What about the 1st Amendment to the Bill of Rights? (Freedom to assemble)
- 7) Proposal #2 – Capacity at bars, restaurants and churches limited to 25%.
 - Show me the SCIENCE per MCA 50-1-105(2)(e)!
 - Businesses will have less customers, less revenue, have to lay off staff, unemployment, depression, possible domestic violence or even suicide is possible.
 - What about the 1st Amendment to the Bill of Rights? (Freedom to assemble, freedom of religion)
 - What about the 5th Amendment to the Bill of Rights? (Taking of property (sales) without Due Process of Law)
- 8) Proposal #3 – Immediately limit the size of events to less than 500 people.
 - What about the Holiday Extravaganza in mid-November at the Majestic Arena? Many vendors rely on a huge crowd to spend money so they can survive economically through the winter months.
 - What about the 1st Amendment to the Bill of Rights??? (Freedom to assemble)
 - What about the 5th Amendment to the Bill of Rights? (Taking of property (sales) without Due Process of Law)

Please do not let your emotions and the emotions of the public interfere with your critical thinking skills. Please don't let the cure be worse than the disease.

Please Follow the Data.

Please make decisions based in Science.

Thank you,
Tom Millett

CASES DON'T MATTER!!! CASES DON'T MATTER!!! CASES DON'T MATTER!!!

- > • I can't stress this enough. In disease outbreaks and the science of epidemiology the only thing that matters is serious illnesses and deaths.
- > • Our current illnesses and deaths do not warrant any restrictions. The figures and numbers you raise, WHERE is this proven statistic? Where is it coming from? Lockdown for a Virus that next to ANYTHING we experience daily has the lowest Death Rate! Cars? Drinking/Alcohol? have we stopped the sale of it? Something is rotten in the Flathead and this must stop...Small businesses are truly getting stressed!

Linda and Russell Johnson
Kalispell, Montana

I read the article in the Flathead Beacon and am very concerned that the proposed restrictions are not going to be enacted until November. Tougher restrictions need to be put in place NOW! How many more people need to become seriously ill or die before someone has the guts to do something in Flathead County?

I also would like to encourage Dr. Annie Bukacek to step down from the County Board of Health as her political views are obviously interfering with the boards ability to make decisions. I am a former patient of Dr. Bukacek and have the upmost respect for her, but her views on public health issues are clouded by her own personal belief system.

Georgia Saverud

Kalispell

I would like to express my concern over more restrictions being placed for Flathead county. I do not agree with more restrictions

Cathy Hanson

I am opposed to restrictions being placed on business operations due to an increase in recent positive Covid-19 tests. According to The Beacon, there have been more than 65 new Covid-19 cases per day this month, and there are 22 currently hospitalized. If these statistics hold true for one month, .01 percent of people who contract Covid-19 are hospitalized. This hardly seems reason to shut down businesses. Businesses shutting down affects people's livelihoods and increases the likelihood of some businesses not surviving. This would be tragic.

We definitely have enough data to support businesses remaining open, while encouraging the public to use good common sense decisions to protect their own health.

Respectfully,

Shelley Dodd (Flathead County Resident)

As a Flathead Co. resident I support the proposed restriction measures for November as outlined in the Beacon article.

Pat Grant
Whitefish

While the citizens of Flathead County continue to become seriously ill (and some die) from the Covid Virus, the Flathead County Commissioners are more concerned about hurting people's feelings and "supporting the constitutional rights of Montanans so they can make choices about personal protection for themselves and their families." Its time the commissioners did something for the good of the members of the community and put some strict rules and regulations regarding the Covid virus into place.

It's also time the FC commissioners listened to Gov. Bullock when he said that Flathead County is not doing enough to implement his mask directive.

It's also time the commissioners get the health department's act in gear so they can handle the urgent situation that they obviously are not capable of handling. If nothing is done, the situation is only going to get worse, yet Flathead County officials have done next to nothing to help stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Commissioners, have you lost any one from this virus yet? If not, you will soon (as we all will) if you don't IMMEDIATELY take action on this serious issue.

Kimberlee Vierra

Kalispell

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my thoughts on the proposed new restrictions in regards to COVID-19.

I am NOT in favor of any restrictions, and, in fact, would like any and all restrictions removed. While it has been declared we are in a "pandemic" - this has been a gross exaggeration. A pandemic is measured by serious illnesses and deaths. The CDC and WHO have stated that most people (up to 80%) experience either zero symptoms to only mild or moderate symptoms.

Out of 23 deaths, most of those deaths in Flathead County were elderly who have been isolated in nursing home care facilities. This does not equate to the general population as a whole since this is institutionalized living and infections spread much easier. I will also highlight the word isolated, with mask requirements for caregivers. Further, many of those elderly are frail with serious underlying health issues. While their lives aren't any less meaningful or expendable, they are more susceptible to any illness, be it complications from a fall or a severe UTI. I will also point out that many most likely had DNR orders in place as well.

In regards to mask requirements, not only has this been a gross overreach by government entities and trampling on civil liberties, but the CDC this week updated their website to state that 70.6% of people who became infected with COVID-19 were those who wear a mask while only 3.6% of those were people who never wore a mask. In addition, there are many experts (outside the CDC and WHO) who disagree with the efficacy of masks. Further, mask manufacturers have stated that their masks do NOT protect against a virus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6936a5-H.pdf>

Additionally, I am deeply offended by your attempt to usurp and prohibit our 1st Amendment rights of religious practices and our freedom to assemble. These are guaranteed under the Constitution. There is no clause in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights that state those rights are suspended for a "pandemic."

Lastly, no one seems to be talking about the impacts of social distancing and isolation. Medical News Today has an article about the effects and toll isolation has on humans. Law enforcement can confirm that suicides and drug use are up during the last 6 months. This correlates to the article linked that isolation can cause a range of mental health problems including depression, anxiety, anger, self-harm, suicide ideation, etc. Where is the concern for those people who are experiencing distress? They may not necessarily be in a hospital, but they are suffering as well.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/solitary-confinement-effects>

Our country has been severely impacted, both mentally and economically by the lockdowns, as well as the social distance and mask requirements....and the death numbers have not warranted such drastic measures.

You are unelected officials who, although no doubt serving as nobly as possible, I feel are not qualified to make broad reaching decisions regarding conducting business and/or closures, restrictions on assembling in churches, or other economic impacting decisions for the community at large. This has lasting impacts, not only for businesses, but also for people's ability to pay mortgages/rents, put food on the table for their families, and otherwise have some financial security.

Final thoughts: I am not sure how you plan to enforce any measures you would want to implement, but I assure you that Montanans are fiercely independent and lovers of freedom; I have no doubt that there are many who would not comply. Freedom and liberty are worth fighting for - "pandemic" or not.

Regards,

Rachael E. Neumann

Dear Flathead County Health Board,

Thank you for giving your attention to this email.

It has come to my attention that more "severe" restrictions are being recommended by the Health Department to the Health Board of Flathead County in the event COVID cases count out at an arbitrary number of 50 (who came up with that?) per 100,000 people per day (averaged). What is the science behind this number? MCA 50-1-105 (2) [e].

First of all CASES DON'T MATTER. Only SERIOUS ILLNESS and DEATHS matter – and even those numbers are skewed as they are "COVID-related" indicating there was a preexisting disease or immunocompromise in the patient. How many flat out deaths from COVID have been recorded in the state of Montana? Where a healthy person contracted COVID and then died? According to Montana state data, COVID-related hospital admissions are occupying only 10% of bed capacity at both Flathead County Hospitals. This percentage is way too low to consider enforcing further restrictions.

COVID-related deaths in Flathead County so far in 2020 are 23. Statistics show that MVAs have taken lives over twice that amount, with a tie for influenza and suicides. How do you justify this as an emergency? Additionally, nearly all of the COVID deaths cited above are in the elderly populations. Restricting the gathering of healthy people is unwarranted. And I might add restricting the elderly from seeing their loved ones, isolating in small rooms in their golden years, and dying alone is more of a travesty than the numbers COVID-related deaths (shame on Governor Bullock).

Proposal #1 – Social gathering limited to no more than 25 people. Again, where is the science for this? MCA 50-1-105 (2) [e]. In addition to not having science-backed data to implement such a restriction:

- implementing such a restriction is a direct violation of the 1st amendment, The freedom to assemble.
- Implementation of such a restriction is a direct violation of our constitutional rights.

Proposal 2: Capacity at bars, restaurants and churches limited to 25%. Implementation of this proposal infringes on freedom of religion, and right to assemble. Not to mention you will put many establishments out of business for good. Is this the direction you want to see our community head? Vacant storefronts and eating establishments? Main Street will become a ghost town. There will be more job loss which can and will lead to depression, domestic violence and suicide. All for what? A virus with a 99.4% survival rate?

Proposal 3: Immediately limit the size of events to less than 500 people. Once again, I ask you to consider those who make their living from large events such as a Holiday Extravaganza, the Chocolate Affair, etc., all the things that made Flathead County the greatest place to live in Montana.

What are the real reasons you would consider such draconian measures? This is not about health, it is about unhealth; the unhealth of our citizens who are forced to wear filthy masks, the unhealth of our economy with unemployment, the loss of independence and inability to support ourselves, the loss of our liberties, our freedoms? Do you not think the community, the state, the country has not suffered enough? Let the virus run its course. We cannot hide from it. As a health board, why are you not educating and endorsing people on healthy living, vitamin supplementation, getting outdoors, healthy exercise – all things that help to promote the immune system and combat not just COVID for all illness, and yet we hear nothing from you on these measures.

With every restriction you place, every liberty you remove, every freedom you dash, you place a brick on the shoulders of your constituents. We are laden down and weary of being issued mandates and measures that make no sense and hinder, at the least, and destroy our quality of life.

Please, I am asking you to stand against all additional restrictions to Flathead County and let the citizens rest easy knowing they have a Health Board who truly has their best interests in mind.

PLEASE, VOTE AGAINST ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. KEEP OUR VALLEY FREE.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Noble

Kalispell, MT

Masks

The idea that it is not the governments job to protect the people and the society of our state is Ridiculous. Until the end of summer people were wearing masks and our numbers were low. When wearing a mask somehow became political instead of medical, our numbers skyrocketed. How is it not possible to see this. As far as I am concerned you can let the anti mask mob have the bars, the restaurants and the casinos. These are places I don't have to go to. But grocery stores and medical clinics should be absolutely mandatory. We have a right to pick up food and get medical care. No has a right to punish us for that by giving us a disease that is completely unpredictable. The latest symptom is deafness. If you are too scared to stand up to the Montana Machos let someone with courage take your job.

Sandra Chafin

Dear Board of Health,

I fully support the proposal and hope the Board of Health approves this at its October 15th meeting.

Throughout the summer, we residents of Flathead county tried to place the blame for the covid cases on visiting tourists, despite the statistics showing this was not the case.

Now the tourist season is over, and our cases are skyrocketing; it is clear to all that we residents are the cause for this, and so it is up to us to get this disease under control. The only way to do this is to restrict public gatherings, which is mainly what the proposals try to do.

I only wish these proposals could be adopted immediately, as they would surely save lives. Sadly, politics wins out so we will have to wait until after the election.

I believe most residents of the Flathead are reasonable people and will understand that these restrictions are necessary and will support you as I do.

Thank you for reading this.

Kind regards,

William Kantor

Whitefish

October 13, 2020

Dear Elected Leaders:

The time to lead is now.

- A 4% positivity rate represents a major concern to community health and safety. Flathead County's positivity rate was at 21% and climbing when last made publicly available at the end of September.
- 4 of 7 indicators on the County Dashboard were in the red when last updated 10 days ago. Since then, things have gotten worse.
- Our County Health Department has publicly announced that your contact tracing and data analyst staff are not able to keep up with the caseload.
- Montana currently ranks in the top 5 in the nation for new COVID-19 cases per day on a per capita basis.

The spread of Covid-19 is rampant. Locally too little is being done to slow the virus spread.

If we want to keep businesses open and protect citizens of our community we need restrictions NOW. Waiting until Nov 4 will be a mistake. Restrictions should be enacted and should take effect immediately following this Thursday's meeting.

Some restrictions will be better than none; some restrictions will help slow the spread. Governor Bullock has invited YOU to step up. Specifically he has called on local leaders to "step up and do more" to protect our community. Some examples include:

- Limiting capacity of bars & restaurants to 25%
- Requiring establishments that serve alcohol to close by 10:00 pm
- Prohibiting gatherings larger than 25 people, even if social distancing is possible
- Prohibiting short-term rentals and hotel stays

Restrictions in the spring did drop our cases back to zero, making a convincing case for the effectiveness of community action. Cases are exponentially higher than they were when the stay-at-home order was enacted. It's past time to establish & enforce restrictions once again.

This time, rather than setting restrictions with a calendar end-date, benchmarks based on data relevant to health and safety must be established and used to determine reopening. While uncertainty about the spread of Covid in MT cannot be removed, a cause and effect data-driven decision-making tree will help as we take each tentative step forward in a rapidly changing environment.

I applaud your leadership in April when you required restaurants to reduce capacity.

With cases skyrocketing in our community, it is time for our leaders to lead once again. Please "step up and do more" by establishing & enforcing restrictions that minimize community gathering, minimize influx of visitors, and prioritize the long-term health and safety of our community members.

We the citizens of Flathead County are counting on YOU to help guide us at this time of crisis.

Thank you,

Megan Chaisson,

Concerned Community Member and Science Teacher, Whitefish, MT

Flathead Health Admin:

The effects of Covid 19 on small business has been drastic. We have already seen the results of limitation on business, especially restaurants -- not limited too, that have caused reductions of money causing layoffs and in some cases closure due to not being allowed to operate fully. This has not been due to sickness/virus but to the restrictions from the State/County.

How do these proposed new measures protect the small business?

Most small businesses can not undergo more limitations without causing serious economical problems.

The regulations from Covid 19 on places of Worship are unconstitutional and must be removed from any state/county ordinance/regulations otherwise it suffers not having separation of Church and State - legal risk.

“Congress* shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” (First amendment).

(*"Congress" and its subsets, i.e. the governing authority).

The risk that the county runs by including religious organizations (aka places of Worship) is a high risk that can end up in a legal battle against the Constitution and Amendments of the United States of America.

For Consideration and Discussion:

Daniel from Bigfork

Dear Board,

We do not want or need anymore overreach by the health department. We the people are done. We do not consent, we do not comply with your overreach of the civil and personal rights of each man, woman, boy and girl. We want our freedom over your FEAR. We don't want to be sold out by the people who say they are our leaders. The community at large doesn't want this. We've petitioned, we've rallied, we've spoken, we've put in public comment. It's time to listen to us.

Thank you,

Ray - Flathead valley

Hello,

I am writing to express my extreme anger with how this health department is handling the current situation with the Chinese virus. As well as the threat of further restrictions.

I would like to express how sick and tired I am of the ridiculous mask mandates that you are all trying to enforce.

I was part of the group that went around and gathered three thousand signatures to stop this forced masking. Yet, you are all choosing to ignore the people of this county. I ask you, Why?

I am fed up with stores and schools trying to tell me what is best for MY health. The sheriff department has stated that these mandates are not enforceable and they will not try to enforce them. This is unconstitutional! The masks do not work- washing your hands, staying home when sick, all general hygiene tasks do work. The trespass law you are trying to use to enforce this mandate is an extremely low blow, and all it has done is cause further division between the people of the Flathead.

What gives you the right, to try to tell me or others in this community what is best for their health? You Do NOT know me or my health, I am still a citizen of a free country, and I have the right to make my own health decisions. This health department has egregiously over stepped and are violating my civil rights as well as others. It needs to stop. I urge to say no, to more restrictions.

I would like to Strongly suggest that you listen to all three thousand residents who signed the petition to stop forced masking. Why are you overlooking the fact that the boxes for masks clearly state that they do not protect from COVID or viruses? These masks do not work and will cause further health issues to people who are wearing them.

Also, if this virus was so dangerous, and contagious, where are the biohazard bins for disposing of used masks? If this is so deadly, why are you able to walk in to a store wearing your own underwear? Or a mask with holes in it? If this was truly a pandemic, there would be one universal mask that everyone had to wear and there would be biohazard bins for disposal! Also, has it been proven that COVID cannot travel to others when you are sitting down at a table? Or playing an instrument? These so called guidelines for this virus are so inconsistent, and absolutely insane, I ask why you are promoting this? I ask you why isn't any of this considered? I urge you to wake up and start looking at what is really going on here!

Further, I will NOT stand for further uncalled for shut downs and mandates. I will not be forced to wear any mask for any reason. This is a virus, with many people only exhibiting mild symptoms, as one would with a flu, this is not a pandemic. I demand that you stop trying to force us to believe that it is anything more than a virus, with an extremely high survival rate.

I, as well as, other Montana's in the Flathead are sick and tired of your overreach. Let Montana's think for themselves and do what they deem best for themselves and their families. I demand you recognize our freedoms under the constitution, that are God given, and stop trying to encroach on and remove those freedoms. I will not stand for this any longer.

I will not stand for further shut downs or restrictions or mandates.

I urge you to really look at those three thousand signatures of Montanans who are done with this nonsense. We the people demand you uphold our rights under the constitution and stop trying to force your views or thoughts of what is right or best on everyone.

I urge you to listen to your fellow board member, Dr. Annie, when she explains why this is not a pandemic.

I sincerely hope you understand, how angry We the People are at your handling of this situation. I urge you to listen to us, and make the right choice. Please do not try and pass more restrictions, let the people decide on their own health and leave the rest of us alone!

I will not be controlled and I will not be emotionally manipulated. This is NOT my new normal. I deserve to breathe fresh air and I will not cover my face for any reason.

Sincerely,

Jean Howard

Marion, MT

I am writing to support the Control Measure Plan of FCCHD to limit the size of gatherings of people in our county including social gatherings and gatherings at bars and restaurants, and also I support the 10pm closures of establishments that sell alcohol. Covid 19 cases are climbing rapidly, we need the county commissioners to act in support of our county health department. Marilyn Bruce Higgins, Whitefish, MT

To whom it may concern,

I think the health department needs to come up with something else besides restricting people from living their lives. Our constitution says we are a free people able to govern our own bodies. I don't believe that forcing businesses to close or limit the amount of people in their establishment is the answer. We are going to be hurting financially and have a bankrupt valley if we keep doing this. Let people decide.

Maisie Roberson

Kalispell

I am adamantly opposed to any restrictions being imposed upon the citizens of this county due to the so-called covid "pandemic". I implore you to not only refrain from imposing new restrictions, but to lift any that have already been imposed. Trying to use business to enforce your restrictions is absolutely appalling. Threatening them with the consequences of limiting their hours, the number of customers they're allowed to serve, or outright closure is nothing short of tyrannical and needs to stop NOW! If it weren't for the media and the constant covid fear-mongering I wouldn't even be aware of the "pandemic". I have seen nothing out of the ordinary this year in regard to the number of people being sick or the severity of illness and I work at a school. What I have seen, that is unprecedented, has been the government imposed restrictions and the harm caused by them!

Again, I implore you to lift any and all restrictions and requirements related to covid 19 that have been imposed upon the citizens and businesses of Flathead County.

Sincerely,

Tresa DeLaughder
Marion, Montana

Dear Health Board Members,

Please vote NO on items # 6 and 7, linked to meeting agenda, flatheadhealth.org/agenda/.

We need to maintain our First Amendment rights of free speech, to assemble, for religious expression, and to petition our government for grievances.

- 1) We have crippled our economy, almost behind repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The death rate does not even come close to a pandemic.
- 4) Masks have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our older folks. Children are suffering, and I know people suffering from the required mask mandate, whose chronic conditions have worsened.

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more liberties taken away?

Montanans are smart enough to see through the double standards and hypocrisy, and you have the opportunity as officials, to maintain the trust of the community, or lose it.

We can be an example of a legitimate response to Covid and a strong and free state, against draconian measures.

Montanas have had enough of lockdowns and loss of employment and small business.

So once again I urge you to vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Ming Lovejoy Munzing

Kalispell, MT

Dear Flathead City-County Board of Health,

Thank you for reading my letter and for the opportunity of addressing all of you today. I am writing regarding the vote today to possibly increase restrictions related to the latest alleged COVID-19 - positive tests in Flathead County, specifically agenda items #6 & 7. I say "alleged," because if you read the last paragraph on page 39 of the first attachment regarding the CDC report on PCR testing, it acknowledges, "no quantified virus isolates of the 2019-nCoV are currently available," meaning they actually aren't even able to isolate what they are supposedly testing for.

The second attachment is the CDC study report from July of this year regarding analysis of infection rates in masked vs. unmasked individuals. In summary, if you see page 1261, "never worn" had a total of 3.9% vs "always" having a total of 70.6%. It does not take a rocket scientist to see the statistical significance of this. A child could figure it out. I would submit that the vast majority of the current increase in numbers you are reporting in Flathead County are related to mask-wearing individuals being tested. If this doesn't convince you to stop the mask and other restrictions and actually allow TRUE herd immunity to take place, I'm not sure what will!

Speaking of children, I continue to find it highly interesting that children and homeless people both have basically no significant statistics related to alleged COVID-19. The homeless do the exact opposite of the "recommendations" - they do not socially distance, wear masks or practice even basic hygiene, in most cases. By your "recommendations" and cautions, the homeless community should be absolutely devastated by alleged COVID-19, yet one hears absolutely nothing in this regard. If it were significant in any measure, it would be all over the media.

In light of these facts, along with many other factors, none of you can in good conscience support items 6 & 7 that are on your agenda for today. The only acceptable vote is a NO vote.

This brings me to my comments to specific health board members:

Ronalee Skees - your husband, Derek, is doing an excellent job leading the initiative in the legislature to put an end to Governor Bullock's emergency order. You publicly state on numerous occasions your support of liberty and the Constitution. Based on these things, I'm sure we can count on you to not support any measures that would continue the emergency order and/or continue to trample on our liberties and first amendment rights.

Ardis Larsen - I enjoyed meeting you and speaking with you during the primary election when we were watching the polls. You expressed your disbelief in the COVID-19 narrative and especially in wearing masks. I hope those views haven't changed and you will not support more measures that will harm our local businesses and trample on the liberties of the citizens of Flathead County

Roger Noble - as a professional and business owner, you probably understand more than most the grievous impact these measures would have on businesses who are already struggling after the restrictions thus far. Many are struggling to stay afloat and this could literally be "the straw that breaks the camel's back" for many/most of them. Anything but a "no" vote would be a betrayal of your fellow business owners, residents of the Flathead Valley and their families.

Commissioner Holmquist - you and your fellow commissioners just courageously came out with the statement on Thursday, October 8th that included, "the Constitutional rights of Montanans to make choices about personal protection for themselves and their families." I hope you will stand by this

statement and not support any further action that would trample our Constitutional rights and undermine personal choice.

Bill Burg - in the last meeting, you courageously questioned the alleged COVID-19 statistics, particularly relating to the hospitalizations. You appear to be quite objective and listen to both sides of issues. I hope you will continue this and reject any attempts to further restrain our community from conducting business and citizens returning to TRUE normal, especially prior to and during the holidays.

Councilman Waterman - you represent the people of the city of Kalispell and are also campaigning to represent them in Helena. Your citizens expect you to represent their constitutional rights; including the statement in the Declaration of Independence regarding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; all of which would be in jeopardy if you support tyrannical orders that will only continue to cause devastation to each category. A vote otherwise would definitely show if they cannot count on you to support them here, they most certainly would not be able to count on you supporting them in Helena.

Dr. Heyboer - before receiving your degree, you would have recited the Hippocratic oath, which included the statement, "First, do no harm." I would hope that while keeping that in mind, you would not support doing actual harm to the citizens of Flathead County and their businesses by further trampling on their liberties and harming their businesses.

Thank you for your time and attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Martin, RN, BSN, CAN

Dear Health Board Members,

Please vote NO on items # 6 and 7, linked to meeting agenda, [flathead health.org/agenda/](http://flatheadhealth.org/agenda/).

We need to maintain our First Amendment rights of free speech, to assemble, for religious expression, and to petition our government for grievances.

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We can be an example of a legitimate response to Covid and a strong and free state, against draconian measures.

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So once again I urge you to vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Kimberly Jones

Hello Health Department:

My husband and I live in Bigfork. We can't believe the number of businesses that aren't wearing masks even though their signs out front say "masks required". Where is the enforcement? They need to be warned or shut down! Missoula is shutting down places! The following are replies from just a few of my friends who have been very frustrated within the Flathead of Montana as cases are rising:

1. I went into Able Body yesterday to get the estimate on my car repair and they wore no masks and had no plexiglass up or anything. Called me into their tiny office to wait while they got the estimate together.

2. NO masks at Napa Auto Parts in Bigfork MT.

3. NO masks at Chain Saw Sales in Evergreen MT.

4. Family of FIVE at Costco in Kalispell...no one wearing masks.

5. Super One in Kalispell - very few people wearing masks.

6. Harvest Foods in Bigfork - employees not wearing masks and most patrons not wearing masks.

7. I have to rant about masks one more time. Today at the Kalispell airport when we landed, at least half of the people in the upstairs were not wearing their mask or had it on with their nose uncovered. Very different mask culture than the NE US. I was a little ticked to see it given the high incidence of Covid we now have. No one feels like it's their responsibility to enforce it.

What can we do? I'm reporting them...that's all we can do. I'm afraid to do any face to face confrontation at businesses because things could get very nasty or violent. We can't really "ban" a business when you need an auto part, when your car needs repair work, when your chain saw breaks, when flying back home or when you need groceries.

Please do what you can starting with official warnings!

I have also sent this to Gov. Steve Bullock.

Thank you for your time.

Peggy Brewer

Bigfork MT

To whom it may concern,

Your obvious lack of business acumen creates more of the knee jerk health department decisions with regard to levels of business allowed. As, even the WHO, and other health agencies finally see the devastating results from their draconian lockdown and reductions of business function, I worry you will turn a blind eye. Almost no business can operate at a 25% level. The destruction of your decisions will not be able to be ameliorated for those who lose their business or home and you on the other hand will never even miss a paycheck while you avoid contact with those you are hired to serve.

Drop your lockdowns and reductions and begin to assist all of your constituents to follow as, good as possible, procedures.

Thank you, Bill Lincoln

To whom it may concern,

Everyday I am seeing more and more posts, news and media coverage of covid-19. A virus with a 99.98 survival rate is the 'new news' of the county. Why?

More importantly, with all the science and statistics out there now, why are we still 'mandating' mask? There is tons of science showing that they aren't effective for preventing the spread of the virus, as well as tons of science proving it is detrimental to our health and our children's health to be wearing a mask for a pro longed period of time.

Small businesses that have been the heart of the flathead for years are struggling to stay afloat, struggling to hold on to their dream that they have put their blood sweat and tears into. The very same business that supports their families and has for years. Our children are forced to either risk their health by wearing a mask all day at school or 'learn from home' which might I add, is a joke.

When is this going to stop? When can we get back to our lives and stop trying to make everyone afraid of a virus? A virus with a 99.98% survival rate. A virus that is always going to be around. We will all come into contact with it eventually so why are we prolonging that natural process and at the same time compromising our natural immune response in the process by telling everyone to cover their face all day, only making it worse when we DO come into contact with this virus or any other virus? When will this ridiculous idea of a pandemic and its 'precautions' that make no logical sense stop?!

I say NOW...stop it now. Let business go back to normal, let our kids go back to school normal. Let people resume their lives as normal. Clearly the masks don't work, new cases (not deaths, CASES) are still occurring even with this mandate. Cases determined by testing that has time and time again been proven to not even be accurate...We are being told cover your face or stay home. Cover your kids face or stay home. Everyone living in fear of a virus and the government and the media and it needs to stop now. If people choose to wear a mask, great, thats their right to choose, but the mandate needs to STOP. Its been about 7 months and they originally said 6 weeks. So when will this stop if we the people don't stand up and say enough is enough?! Help all of our voices be heard and stop the mandate. Enough is enough give flathead county their lives back, as many counties all over the country are doing.

Sincerely,

Brittany Ensign-Conklin

Flathead County

Hi,

I am Becky Opalka from Columbia Falls. I am in favor of having more restrictions placed to increase our safety with regards to Covid 19. There should be some mechanism to either fine individual people for

not wearing masks within the public, specifically stores where I see the most of non-mask wearers. Or, fine the business for every non-mask wearing individual. As a "high risk" asthmatic, for me to shop for my family is a game of Russian Roulette. My family has taken every precaution by choing to do distance learning, not working my job as a substitute teacher, not traveling, not eating out, wearing our masks every time we go out, and to have us get sick by shopping in person because other customers refuse to wear a mask would be horrible. Perhaps covid patients should be able to sue the non mask wearers for the medical bills due to covid infection.

Every case matters because each case is attached to a human. Every driver is expected to not drink and drive. Every bar tender is responsible for not allowing the patrons from getting drunk and driving. Looking at the drunk driver as a non-mask wearing citizen, and the bar tender as businesses like Walmart, Target, Super 1 and Costco, the Board of Health should be responsible for giving the businesses the authority to either reject customers (cutting off the drinker) or the authority to call someone to intervene like the police (like calling the cops for the bar tender). Please enact the safety measures for the ones who can't speak up, who have no choice but to shop in person, for those at high risk.

Thank you.

Becky Opalka

Using the last week in October as a basis for further restrictions is a poor choice. Letting the public know this will be a measure for further closures gives the citizens of Flathead County a strong incentive to not get tested and keed then numbers down. The purpose is of course to give the public an incentive to be more careful but I'm afraid the opposite is too easy and lucrative. The consequences of this could be costly and make the current situation much worse.

I'd also like to comment on the current casino and bar closure at 12:30 am and the proposed 10:00pm closure time. What is the medical reasoning behind this? It makes no logical sense and is insulting and discriminating against an industry. Limit our capacity, but don't set arbitrary restricted times with no logical reasoning.

Jake Hoover

After 24 years of being married to the sweetest happiest man anyone has ever known, it was time to enjoy retirement together. Bob and I had counted down the days....

March 2nd we hit the road to chase the sunshine together. Just a few short days later Covid lockdowns began shutting everything down around us and every smile we looked for began to hide behind a mask. Bob loved nothing more than to see people smile. If they weren't smiling when he walked up to them, they certainly would be before he walked away. Covid stole that happiness. My best friend could no longer see that one day he would see the smiles again or that one day we could comfortably enjoy going out to dinner with friends and family. He believed his dreams of a happy retirement were gone. June 4th

my best friend took his own life. No, he did not suffer from mental illness. Like many others, what he did suffer from was the disappointment and hopelessness that came along side the political Covid hoax. 3 months after retiring my beautiful husband and very best friend on June 4th drove out to Kila and took his own life. Please don't ever forget his name because I certainly won't. His name was Bob Radabah. He was 63 years old. He had worked his entire life. He retired from Knife River. And now he's gone forever. He was a husband, father, grandfather and best friend to many. He could no longer see the smiles covered so tightly behind the masks.

Covid Kills but not the way they say!!!! Please do your part because guess what, this could easily be your best friend, husband, child or father. Please do your part and stop the lie, the political hoax, the fearmongering.

Michelle (Mikki) Radabah

Kalispell, MT

I urge you to mandate tighter restrictions to curb the rise in Covid19 cases here in Flathead County. Its become obvious that there are people who wont take this seriously and are endangering the rest of us. We need your leadership to take a stand and protect our healthcare workers, essential workers, and all vulnerable residents. I have been isolating since March and it upsets me that it seems to be in vain. Please step up and help those of us who are trying to do the right thing. Its going to be a long lonely winter if we dont get this under control.

Sincerely

Jean Weiskotten

Whitefish, MT 59937

I'm writing to urge the Flathead County Board of Health to support the proposals submitted by the Flathead City County Health Department to help stem the catastrophic rise in cases of COVID-19 in our valley. The number of active cases in the Flathead has surged dramatically over the past few of weeks. Per the active case count reported October 13, Flathead has the second highest number of active cases in the state, just behind Yellowstone County. When adjusted for population, Flathead County has the highest number of active cases per capita in Montana. The White House Coronavirus Task Force released a report October 13 stating that Montana has the second highest COVID-19 test positivity rate in the country, and that Yellowstone, Flathead and Missoula counties make up 41.1% of new cases in Montana over the last few weeks.

- The staff at the Health Department are overwhelmed. Contact tracing is delayed due to lack of staffing.
- Hospitalizations have increased locally, and hospital and medical clinic staff are overstressed due to increased numbers of patients, as well as by lack of staff who are out due to COVID-19 infections. If hospitals are overwhelmed, our local population's ability to get needed medical care is compromised.
- Local schools are struggling to stay open as increasing numbers of staff and students become infected.

- Businesses are seeing increased numbers of employee absences due to illness and quarantine.
- Long term care facilities continue to see employees and residents with new infections. With rampant community spread, employees are very likely to become infected, which threatens the very vulnerable residents.

What we as a community are doing right now is not working, as evidenced by the rapid increase in cases. This endangers all of us. Please adopt and fully support the measures put forth by the Health Department as they work to mitigate this situation.

Respectfully,

Shelley Graham
Kalispell, Montana

Dear Flathead County Board of Health,

The restrictions the Health Officer proposes to put in place as a result of more COVID cases being discovered are out of line with the purpose of her job! First of all, a little common sense... If you increase the overall number of people being tested, then of course you should see the numbers increase for those testing positive for COVID, especially since the testing is known to show false positives quite often when the person actually does not have the COVID virus. It is a known fact that, at best, the testing is very inaccurate.

Secondly, a so-called case does not constitute a need for action. Only when a person is actually physically at risk is there need for any action. By placing the various restrictions she is planning on putting in place she would be denying the general populace the opportunity to develop herd immunity, thereby, making us all more susceptible to COVID as well as every other virus and disease out there.

Thirdly, to further ruin our local economy eliminating jobs and destroy businesses, creating fear and depression, and spreading false narratives purporting to be in the best interests of citizen's health when both the WHO and CDC have recanted their positions on wearing masks and social lock-downs, is nothing short of a crime against humanity! Creating fear, depression and in many cases the likely outcome of suicide is a reality of such restrictions already. If you allow her to enact the restrictions she proposes, further financial ruin and many more deaths will be the result.

The so called "Flathead County Health Department" is in existence to promote the health of the citizenry both mentally and physically. Fear mongering and trying to impose unhealthy and unconstitutional regulations is not why the Health Department was created. I have heard from several businesses and people at the local Farmer's Markets who had booths, that the Health Department has threatened to shut them down or revoke their business licenses. You should be reigning in such behavior and the Health Department should be made to apologize for such unwarranted and unenforceable actions. Neither the local police or the County Sheriff will enforce their threats. It would appear that they are either kowtowing to the Governor's unconstitutional directives or that they are on some sort of egotistical power trip.

Whatever the case, PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19, And, NO on the Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size!

I beg you to truly consider the health and wellbeing of the people you are supposed to serve and rather than impose any new unconstitutional and unenforceable restrictions that will create more tension, strife, and physical suffering, allow common sense and free choice among the people of Flathead County to reign.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Jim Weber

PLEASE VOTE NO - - - on the COVID-19 restrictions of today (Issues 6 and 7) - as we NEED our immune systems! If you look at the research in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway (even JAPAN!!!) ---- where they have had NO MASKS and NO LOCKDOWNS, they are doing better than anywhere. They know about our immune systems, and HOW IMMUNE SYSTEMS NEED OXYGEN OVER EVERYTHING ELSE, and HOW IMMUNE SYSTEMS NEED EXPOSURE WITH MANY PEOPLE for being strengthened not decreased!!!

If anything - this will all come about - as **discrimination** to those who have disabilities OR who are even healthy. Did you know that **it is actually ILLEGAL to mandate putting a mask on someone without a doctor's orders?**

AND, I remind you - this is a DIRECTIVE from Gov. Bullock, not a Mandate.

Not only that, but the latest release of U.S. GOVERNMENT updates of survival rates from Covid-19 (if infected) are the following:

0-19 99.997%

20-49 99.98%

50-69 99.5%

70+ 94.6%

PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE do not ruin our economy and lives over something with less death rates than the flu. We do not want to be another California or Colorado here. Montana is the last best place - - - for FREEDOM - - - and SHOULD BE - - - for HEALTH, too - - - - with all of our outdoors and physical activity. Do not shut us down especially in the churches. THAT IS VIOLATION of EVERYTHING we stand for here in America, and **we need the CHOICE ourselves - of how we are to stay healthy.**

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

M. Suzanne Weber, Naturopath and Certified Classical Homeopath

The county commissioners have no authority to restrict church attendance. Check out the constitution. If the county was really concerned about people gathering they would've restricted or canceled the rodeo. This would be a very bad, politically correct move. The county needs to ease its restrictions related to Covid. The entire population does not need to suffer for a few who are vulnerable. The county needs to bring an end to contact tracing and close contact quarantining as well. These are not working and only hurting the people of our valley.

Jeremy Taylor

Bigfork

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in regards to the upcoming meeting of the health board to discuss restrictions that would impact churches in the Flathead Valley. As a pastor, I am deeply concerned about the impact of COVID in our community. It has been devastating to the families who have lost loved ones. It has been life-disrupting to those who have been ill and hospitalized. People are increasingly feeling isolated and alone. In seeking to protect physical health, we have to acknowledge the role of our spiritual and social health and how that impacts our physical bodies. People need people.

During this pandemic I have been so amazed at the adaptations of each one in our community to respond, and this includes churches. We have utilized Zoom, physical distancing, masks, drive-in services, increased cleaning and sanitation. We've spaced out the seating. We've rearranged how we do our service to reduce contact. We've shut down the nursery during this time period. We are constantly seeking to adapt and change to keep our members safe. Fortunately, we have yet to have COVID spread at our church, but we are constantly on the alert. Our desire is to honor our civil authorities but there comes a point where we must obey God rather than man. (Acts 5:29)

Montana Constitution Article 2, Part 2, Section 5 specifically states that the state shall make no law

Please know that pastors care about their churches and are doing everything they can to keep people safe. I ask you not to restrict the size of our meetings to 25%. Our people need fellowship with one

another. Our church services make up only 1 hour per week, but this short period of time is critically important to people of faith. Please consider the spiritual and social needs of people as you make a decision on this health order.

We are praying for you. Thank you.

Pastor Jon Ellingson

First Baptist Church of Bigfork

Dear Flathead City-County Health Board Members,

First, I thank you for your service to our community and recognize the challenge and import of your role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am an Intensive Care and COVID unit RN at KRMC and have been experiencing first-hand the impact of the virus on our community and on our hospital. I also possess a Masters in Public Health from Yale University and, as such, have a strong understanding of infectious disease epidemiology.

In short, I am writing in support of the proposed Control Measures Plan. I believe the plan is in alignment with evidence-based public health practice and will serve to mitigate the impact of the virus on our community. I applaud you for taking these steps to support the health and safety of our community as well as to preserve the capacity of the regional hospital to serve the entire community.

I also want to provide some context and fact to contradict several statements made by Dr. Bukacek in her open letter to the Board (published on her FB page):

First, Dr. Bukacek stated, "The numbers of positive COVID tests has increased because the number of people who are being tested has increased due to contract tracing done at a feverish pace, routine requirements for work (at some workplaces, employees are tested weekly), medical procedures and hospitalizations." While the daily testing rate in the County has not been made public, I believe it is reasonable to use the state-wide testing data as a proxy. The [Johns Hopkins Center Corona Virus Resource Center](#) has published daily case positive rates. As shown in the graphic below, the test positive rate (smoothed by the 7 day average) has increased substantially since mid-late September. The conventional wisdom in public health has been that if the test positive rate is above 5%, we are actually not testing enough individuals to have an accurate picture of incidence. All to say, the number of positive cases in our county is unequivocally NOT simply due to increased testing.

Additionally, Dr. Bukacek suggests that poor test sensitivity and specificity are to blame for "meaningless cases". Though we continue to be uncertain regarding the exact sensitivity and specificity of RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 (the current gold standard), and there is a valid concern for the both the health and economic consequences of both false positives as well as false negatives, PCR testing is an invaluable tool (coupled with contact tracing) that can help us collectively identify where and how cases are spreading. To point to poor test sensitivity as the rationale for our increased case count is both misguided and dangerous.

Finally, Dr. Bukacek offers some footnotes for consideration including COVID mortality, PCR testing cautionary tales via a FB video produced by TheHighWire.com, which is owned by the Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN), an anti-vaccine nonprofit based in Texas (not an evidence-based scientific source), and raising the question regarding 'actual' COVID deaths. To these points, I want to include that while most COVID cases are, in fact, mild to moderate and patients recover fully, we cannot simply rely on mortality as a measure of disease impact; the morbidity of this disease should not be underestimated or overlooked. The rampant conspiracy theory that hospitals are somehow manipulating COVID deaths to make more money must simply stop.

I will be virtually attending the meeting tomorrow and am happy to answer any questions or follow up on any of the points raised above.

Again, I thank you for your time, dedication, and work to support the public health in our community.

All the best,

Erica Lengacher, RN, BSN, MPH

Whitefish

Dear Flathead Board of Health,

Please in your deliberations take into account the new information from the CDC about airborne transmission (link and excerpt below). I support the measures being considered at your Oct. 15, 2020 meeting, partly because of this recent change to the CDC's guidelines. Thank you for your efforts to protect the health of Flathead County residents and visitors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

Excerpt (with highlight added):

COVID-19 can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission

- Some infections can be spread by exposure to virus in small droplets and particles that can linger in the air for minutes to hours. These viruses may be able to infect people who are further than 6 feet away from the person who is infected or after that person has left the space.
- This kind of spread is referred to as airborne transmission and is an important way that infections like tuberculosis, measles, and chicken pox are spread.

- There is evidence that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 seem to have infected others who were more than 6 feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising.
 - o Under these circumstances, scientists believe that the amount of infectious smaller droplet and particles produced by the people with COVID-19 became concentrated enough to spread the virus to other people. The people who were infected were in the same space during the same time or shortly after the person with COVID-19 had left.
- Available data indicate that it is much more common for the virus that causes COVID-19 to spread through close contact with a person who has COVID-19 than through airborne transmission. [1]

Ned Cooney

Bigfork, Montana

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a local venue-based Wedding Planner in the Flathead Valley and would like to share my concerns about social gatherings during the pandemic in Flathead County.

My venue has submitted a detailed plan to the health department to allow us to hold wedding, corporate and other group events under the current reopening plan. Sadly, we have found that our various groups, but specifically weddings, are rarely if ever compliant with social distancing, wearing of facial coverings or other safety measures that my venue has agreed to enforce. I myself contracted COVID-19 as a result of working with these many groups even though I was incredibly careful and strictly followed guidelines. While I was, they were not.

My employer, desperate to reopen and recapture revenue, has instructed employees NOT to police or strictly enforce the safety precautions which they agreed to in our application to the health department to have social gatherings over 50 people. When I participated in the contact tracing phone call after my COVID-19 diagnosis, the contract tracer told me, "Weddings are the worst offenders and it's impossible to contact trace the entire group." I 100% agree. I have been witness to no less than 20 weddings where not one person complied with safety guidelines.

How will we ever contain this virus if citizens of the county aren't complying with recommendations, employers are telling employees to not to enforce the restrictions in order to recapture lost revenue and tourists from all over the country are driving/flying here and not being compliant at social gatherings?

So here is my ask... Please put into place any additional safety measures or new restrictions that will keep us safe and flatten the curve, even if it means I lose my job due to lack of social events. It will be worth it.

Thank you for your time and efforts in fighting the pandemic.

Stay Safe,

Allison Standiford

Dear Flathead County Board of Health,

I am very concerned about the mixed messages received by our community from Flathead County's Board of Health. It's time to get serious about ending this pandemic. Had we all adopted reasonable health measures in March (masking, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings), this pandemic would be a distant memory by now.

Winter weather, coupled with poor choices, has the potential to cause thousands of new cases of covid-19, along with many more deaths.

My family is making good choices, but it's very difficult to completely avoid a pandemic that is out of control, even with masking and running only the most necessary errands.

Please provide a consistent message that this pandemic is serious and covid-19 causes death and long-term health issues. Our medical facilities are close to capacity, our health department is overwhelmed and covid-19 is costing millions in unnecessary medical costs. What has to happen for everyone to take this pandemic seriously?

Please impose new restrictions and fire Dr. Annie Bukacek from the Board.

Cathy Cooney

Bigfork, MT 59911

Everyday we live with government rules and regulations that exist to protect the community. They are set in place so that an individual is not allowed to harm others or the community and that a society may thrive. An obvious example is of the regulations on how we are allowed to drive our vehicles and the insurance we must purchase to do so.

So why, in the face of a pandemic that is killing or causing long term illness for many and ripping our economy apart, did the Flathead County commissioners respond by stating it was an individual's right to ignore the government mandate of wearing masks? Because it has been proven all over the world that wearing face covering hugely decreases the spread of infection, in effect the commissioners were telling people it was their right to spread this deadly virus.

When considering the consequence of allowing this virus to ravage our community unchecked, the commissioners are negligent to say the least. To me this is extremely reckless and deeply disturbing.

Christine Russell
Martin City

Dear Board Members:

As you well know from the DPHHS numbers, our daily positive COVID tests have averaged 88.5 between 10/6/20 and 10/12/20. It is timely that in 2 days you'll discuss implementing further steps to slow the infection rate in our 103,000-plus population (Flathead County, 2019). It is crucial to enforce the state mandate for wearing of masks indoors when you are outside your home. It is irresponsible (and not accurate) for people to cite the U.S. Constitution as giving them a "choice" to wear or not wear a mask. It is their social and legal responsibility to wear the mask and to wear it appropriately. In addition, if someone "claims" a health reason for not wearing a mask there should be a documented statement from their health care provider stating so (no reason has to be disclosed but the documentation should be required). This is a pandemic, and a health care emergency – our resources cannot handle more cases that require hospitalization.

In addition, the new steps for safety should be implemented in a week, not waiting until November. There is no valid reason for waiting any longer, and it is your responsibility as our Board of Health, to provide protection to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Anita Beach, FNP-C

Family Nurse Practitioner

Whitefish

To the County Health Board: I understand you have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 and I am writing in regards to that meeting.

I desire to express my deep concern and opposition to imposing a lock down of businesses and organizations in response to the current condition of Covid cases in the county. Earlier this year, when restrictions were imposed, it meant the end to many businesses, and for any others that are barely making it and trying to come back from the losses of this year, another lock down will finish them off as well. When businesses are shut down and lost permanently, people suffer in ways that ripple out much further than simply having to put a "permanently closed" sign on their front door. The consequences are far reaching, and spreads as far as serious permanent ramifications such as domestic violence and a rise in child abuse, mental health declines, and the marks these experiences leave on a person and family unit for their lifetime, etc. All these things are connected in one way or another, or in an eventual outcome. The list is long....and

dangerous – as to how a lock down on a community does more than cause people to lose their livelihoods, which in itself is a serious enough blow.

Please know you have my empathy as this issue is not an easy one to navigate on any level. However, there is enough statistical and respectable data available to support the continued encouragement for common sense solutions: encouraging people to wash their hands, make wise decisions about their own activities in and out of public places, and most importantly – encouraging those that are ill to stay home, so only their life is effected on a short-term basis of a few days, rather than imposing ways of life that entire families and communities will be paying the price for long term as we watch these ripple effects take their full toll on multiple layers.

Respectfully,

Carlene Prince (Kalispell, Flathead County resident)

I was pleased to read that the Flathead County Board of Health will be meeting this Thursday, October 15 to address the startling increase of COVID cases in our county.

My husband and I are both 75, and although we are quite healthy and fit, our age alone puts us at higher risk, and I am a breast cancer survivor as well. For months now, I have been distressed at the failure of our residents to abide by the simple precautions of mask wearing and social distancing. It is a tragedy that politics, rather than science, has been the primary influence for so many here in Flathead County.

My beloved Bigfork grocery store has been among the worst offenders. After unproductive phone calls to the manager and then the owner, I reported their lack of compliance, even after the Governor's mask mandate, to the Health Department twice. For a few weeks, things were better, but no longer.

I read today that Governor Bullock will be encouraging local Health Departments to take strong steps for businesses and other associations that are lax in compliance.

Day after day there are wonderful ads from hospitals and physicians, urging our citizens to take responsibility and turn this spike downward, yet there are still those who just don't get it.

Thank you for all you are doing. Meanwhile, we are hunkered back down at home because it feels unsafe to be amongst those who still believe that this terrible virus is a hoax.

Sadly,

Jeanne and Jerry Southwood, Bigfork

Mrs. Holmquist,

I'm opposed to any further restrictions that would be placed on people, businesses, churches, etc. Every person should be able to conduct him or herself in regards to exposure to others and their own choice of personal protection, i.e. mask etc. Yes, some people that are exposed, a very small percentage, do get very sick due to age and poor health. Others, like 6 friends and 2 family members that tested Covid positive (ages 16-80), only had mild symptoms

and returned to complete wellness in short order. If you make the decision to further shut down society again, it'll only make matters worse than they already are considering the public hysteria already at play. BTW, I do wear a mask and social distance out of respect for others and in compliance with the Governor's directives.

Respectfully,

Eric Osterberg

Dear Commissioner Holmquist ,

It has come to my attention that there is talk going on of more restrictions or mandates due to covid . I am writing you because I am concerned that our economy and businesses cannot take any more loss . Please consider letting people live their lives in a unrestricted, normal way.

Respectfully, Flathead county resident, Nathaniel Jensen

> Ms. Holmquist,
> First, I would like to thank you for your recent statement in support
> of the Constitutional rights of Montanans.
> I would also like to state my vehement opposition to any restrictions
> on our Constitutional rights due to the fear of covid 19. The
> restrictions that have already been imposed upon us are unnecessary,
> unjust and unconstitutional.
> To consider further restriction is unacceptable. I would ask you to
> look around, observe life going on around you here in the valley and
> tell me, if it weren't for the media and the daily onslaught of covid
> fear mongering, would you even know there was a "pandemic"? I know I
> wouldn't. The only things that I have observed being highly unusual
> this year have been the government mandated restrictions and
> requirements being imposed on us. I haven't observed any unusual rates
> or severity of illness and I work at a school!
> You, as one of our elected County Commissioners, appointed the members
> of the Board of Health and hired the County Health Officer. You may
> say that the Governor's directive was to them and not you, but you
> have the power to influence their decisions and actions. I sincerely
> hope that you will express to them the opinions of your constituents,
> such as myself, who are fed up with these seemingly never-ending
> restrictions.
> We are now eight months into this, when will it end???
> Thank you,
> Tresa DeLaughder

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

My name is Shawna Steele. My husband Willie and I own the Desoto Grill in Kalispell.

My father is in a long term care facility here in Kalispell. I absolutely understand the need to control the spread of Covid.

However, I'm not sure that the board had considered the mental and physical health of all the workers that may soon be laid off without the federal unemployment that supported their families last spring.

I was able to lay off all my employees last spring, look them in the eye and tell them everything would be okay. I helped them get their unemployment benefits and then applied for a PPP loan in order to bring all my employees back to work as soon as possible.

This time there is no safety net for the employees!

When we closed for take out only, we were open one day a week with 4 employees getting one shift each. We didn't make much money, but we broke even and stay active.

The last week we were "take out only", our PPP funded and I began bringing back my employees. Our business would have lost a great deal of money that week if I had to pay the labor incurred.

I have been speaking to other restaurant owners and they echo my concerns. If we keep our employees, we lose our business. If we lay off our employees, we can most likely keep our businesses alive however, we will have to watch our faithful employees who are like our family struggle to pay rent, utilities and just the most basic expenses.

Here are a couple of suggestions to avoid this disaster.

1. ENFORCE COMPLIANCE of all restaurants and bars in the county. Most places I or others go, there is little or no compliance to the current guidelines and the non-compliant businesses are already stating that they will continue their current practices even if the new regulations are put into place. (Why should I lay off my employees if other restaurants and bars are going to continue to ignore the guidelines and spread the virus?)
2. While immediately enforcing compliance, quickly work with the state and the federal govt. to set up funding for workers in the industry who will be laid off in the coming weeks if compliance enforcement is still not an effective method of quickly dropping our new case count.

I would also recommend setting up a committee that included local bar and restaurant owners, Montana Tavern Assn. and PAC's to help push these issues through in a quick but streamlined way to maximize the results of compliance and dollars spent.

Thanks again,

You are always welcome to contact me!

Sincerely,

Shawna Steele

I think that restrictions should be implemented as soon as possible! I live in Kalispell and have three school-aged children as well as a newborn in our house. We have older family with underlying health conditions that assist with child care and I worry for the safety of all of them.

Kim Johnson
Kalispell

My name is Terry Williams my voting address is 217 E. Evergreen Dr., Kalispell I have looked at the proposals that you have made for locking down further businesses in Kalispell I have been in business in Kalispell since 1976 small business is a struggle for all people but it is their dream to be successful whatever it takes Our county commissioners said they would prefer to allow residents to take care of themselves and the health department chooses to lock down more business I disagree with that and I believe it will cause more damage than the alternative business owners will lose a great percentage of their income . I think social distancing and good general hygiene would be the options to take all things cannot be cured with the lock down all things may not be cured with all the precautions that we take sometimes things are inevitable but I believe locking down businesses and creating hardship for employees and employers is wrong I would hope The board could come up with a solution that does not create great hardship for people that have worked hard all their life for their business and their dream I don't have all the answers but there's got to be a better way thank you

Dear Flathead City-County Board of Health,

The profile of newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Flathead county is a steep curve where the cases are doubling every three days. The positivity rate for tests for COVID-19 in Flathead county has been over 10% for three straight weeks. We have an epidemic out of control.

Masks have been shown to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Governor Bullock has implemented a mask requirement.

The anti-mask group of residents has been loud and mask wearing resistant. They enter places of business like Costco or grocery stores with masks and then remove them after the door. Perhaps they believe that COVID-19 is a hoax due to mis-information. COVID-19 is a deadly disease that has claimed 23 residents lives to date.

The anti-mask group is not only impacting our health, it is impacting our local economy. Those of us that feel threatened by the behavior of non-mask wearing populace are not shopping or patronizing restaurants. We are avoiding businesses because of these folks behavior.

I have my own business. I am a licensed massage therapist. My business was closed for half of March and all of April due to COVID-19. I re-opened in May, but after the state removed the two week quarantine, I had to close again as the length of time with a client even with masks in a small room is too much exposure. My business has been closed since June 15th. Anti-mask wearing behavior is threatening my livelihood and my health.

We need more leadership on this issue in our community. Our lives, and our businesses depend upon

it. **I urge you to vote in favor of the recommendations of the Flathead County Health Department to mitigate the spread of this disease.**

Thank you for your time and your service to Flathead County,

Margaret M. Henderson
Kalispell, MT

Please cancel ALL mask mandates and lock downs because they DO NOT work.

Thanks

Sam S

To Whom It May Concern at the Flathead County Health Department:

I am emailing you ahead of tomorrow's board of health meeting.

It is my understanding that you will be addressing the possibility of further lock downs and disruptions to our life here in the Flathead.

I have been a resident of Flathead County for the last eight years. I have put down roots with my family and, as a native Montanan, this is very much my home. I have also been a small business owner for the last five years here in the valley.

The Covid restrictions and lock downs have not only been detrimental to the mental health and well being of this community, they have decimated small businesses (mine being one of them) and our local economy.

Playing politics and turning a virus with a 99.97% survival rate into a political football is not only irresponsible, but it is a dangerous overreach. Furthermore, you are not elected officials and you have no governing abilities so I am failing to understand how you plan to enforce this. If the elected county commissioners do not have legal grounds to mandate masks or other health mandates, then what exactly is the legal precedent here for the board of health? If the county sheriff is not going to enforce the arbitrary mandates, then how do you LEGALLY propose to do so?

Also, as a concerned citizen, when do the Governor's mandates expire? Was it 30 days? If so, that has come and gone. And that also needs to be reconciled with the public. I think there is a lot of honesty and transparency lacking with this issue as people's lives are being ruined based on liberal 'science'.

The 'cure' cannot be worse than the virus, but the lock downs and restrictions certainly are, by not allowing us to get back to our way of life. If you want to follow the science on that, then I suggest that you check the CDC website. They are also now saying that lockdowns are more detrimental to communities.

I implore you to resist playing politics with people's lives and do not bend to the mob on this. We do not need more restrictions or lockdowns in this community, no matter what the Governor

may suggest (it is an election year for him after all). Please consider all sides of this and make an educated, not political decision, about how this type of further overreach will have very real consequences for this community and the people who live here.

Thank you,

Megan Weber

Kalispell

Dear Board Members,

As a responsible Flathead Valley citizen I believe that I am most capable of critical thought and making my own decisions concerning my health protocols outside the scope of political manipulation as modeled by our governor and some members of our local government.

I am strongly opposed to any additional restrictions currently under consideration. In spite of all the “sky is falling” hyperbole, the half truths and misleading statements currently circulating in the press and media we are not spiraling out of control in regards to the virus. The recent so called COLOR CODED report by our governor on the impact on our medical facilities is dishonest and is intended to have us throw up our hands and run around screaming in panic. I do not view 10% of the beds in local hospitals utilized for covid as a crisis raging out of control and demanding immediate government action. The truth is the corona tests are inaccurate, were “never intended for the purpose for which they are being used” (a direct quote from the developer) and a positive test is not a iron clad indication of the disease. CASES DON’T MATTER! Misleading, deliberately manipulated and inaccurate information is being used to justify the additional draconian measures that are being considered and have been implemented in the past. Let’s pull back the curtain and see the Wizard for what it truly is and respond appropriately.

The measures that have already been implemented to date have irreparably damaged our community and our relations with our neighbors, either destroyed or damaged many businesses in our area, and affected countless lives forever. Further, you cannot restrict small businesses while allowing the national chain, big box, corporations to function without restriction. The U.S. Constitution cannot be ignored when someone tries to assume overriding authority.

One final note. Every time we express an opinion contrary to what our intolerant “Love Lives Here” hypocritical, alt-left, ‘Big(ger) Government is the answer’ counterparts believe we are labeled as ‘militia’ members in a attempt to stereotype us all as paranoid camo-clad, gun toting, storm troopers. I, for one, am tired of this characterization and would like to see reason and rational thought, not political mind manipulation, prevail. I do not need the government; local, state or federal making my health care choices unilaterally.

Thank you,

Ted D Valentiner

Whitefish, MT

Mask mandates, shut of business are unconstitutional! I hope that you were watching confirmation of Supreme Court it would be a great civics lesson for you. People are getting very fed up with people who

think we the people are not smart enough to make our own health decisions. Please consider how any action to impede our rights may have negative impacts. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation,

Regards,
Shelley Lustman

Hi Bill

I trust you are keeping well!

I received a note from a group we belong to and am very concerned about the implications of proposed measures, subject to approval of the Health Board.

This seems to be an across the board attempt to prevent gatherings and freedom without any real focus on those most at risk and actual impacts.

In my opinion far too much attention is being given to increase in case numbers and not the seriousness of the impacts (age, health, hospitalization, respirator requirement, etc, etc).

We now know far more about CV-19 now than in the early days and should have a more focused approach to ensure that "the cure is not worse than the illness".

Happy to discuss.

Best of luck in your deliberations.

Regards
Dennis and Katie Gibson

Whitefish, MT, 59937

Dear Board of Health,

Please accept this public comment as an enthusiastic endorsement of additional restrictions to attempt to slow the massive spread of the virus in Flathead County. I believe the restrictions need to be implemented immediately and must be enforced to be effective. I also believe that continuing to allow mass gatherings of more than 25 people will needlessly increase the rate of infection and thus should be banned until the rate is substantially lowered.

I was diagnosed with cancer this summer and thus have been spending a lot of time at KRH. I assure you there is an extremely high rate of concern among doctors, nurses and other hospital staff regarding the huge surge in Covid 19 infections and the simultaneous commencement of flu season. There is a real fear at KRH that healthcare facilities will be overwhelmed if the rate of infection is not slowed dramatically.

In addition, I and many of my friends had started to visit local businesses in August and early September, but we have all stopped doing this because of the rise in infections. If we are to ever get our local economy going again, and keep small businesses from going bankrupt, we have to stop the surge in cases and make it safe for people to go out and shop and dine at local businesses.

Since the County Commissioners have abandoned any leadership in trying to slow the rate of infections, it is up to you to make the tough decisions that will help our community stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for your service,

Jane Hamilton

Kalispell

To the Flathead City-County Board of Public Health,

Please consider this as public comment on behalf of Whitefish Mountain Resort. We understand the need to address the rapidly rising cases in the County and appreciate the hard work and diligence on your end.

For the purposes of this comment, we are assuming that these additional restrictions, if put in place, would likely last longer than a month and would therefore reach into ski season.

As one of the largest employers in Flathead County for the months of December through April, we feel the additional restrictions being proposed would adversely affect us and thus the greater Flathead County economy. We respect the current restrictions and the reasons they are in place. But it is important to note that the current plan of operating our indoor facilities at 75% capacity will be financially damaging enough as it is. Not just in the missed revenue for Food and Beverage and other retail outlets but also for the loss of visitation that will no doubt accompany current restrictions. Reducing capacity to 25% effectively renders our indoor facilities useless.

We understand the importance of getting this right this winter, but also the importance of providing our services this winter. In our case, it is worth considering that not only are we a major contributor to the regional economy in the winter months, but we also offer a rare winter opportunity to be outside in fresh air recreating/exercising. The physical benefits our business offers over 12,000 local residents are not likely to be questioned, but it is probably also worth reflecting on the enhancement of the mental wellbeing of our residents and balance that against what it might look like to withstand a long, cold, dark Montana winter with COVID hanging over our heads without the safe services the resort has to offer.

We believe we have a plan in place to operate in a way that keeps the community as safe as possible based on the guidelines currently set by the Flathead County Health Department. We feel our track record for employee safety for the summer speaks to our ability to operate safely and with good care and responsibility.

In addition to the advantages of outdoor recreation in a pandemic (wide open spaces, standard gear, slope spacing etiquette), we have a plan to implement additional strict measures for winter.

Here are some highlights of our strategy this winter based on current restrictions.

- Face coverings will be required and enforced in lift lines while loading and unloading.
- Face coverings will be required and enforced in public buildings.
- Disposable face coverings will be available upon request for any guests that has forgotten or misplaced their mask.
- Guests will be asked to put on a face covering (mask or face shield) in required places if seen not wearing. If an individual is medically exempt, they must go through a formal submittal and risk review process with our management team. Those who refuse with no medical exemption will not be provided our services. If further issues arise with these individuals, we will not provide our services to them.
- Restaurants will be host driven with capacity managed to 6 ft separation between tables.
- Guests will be limited to sitting in restaurants for 45 minutes.
- Ski Well, Be Well – Mask Awareness Days will be hosted throughout the season, including opening weekend. Inviting guests in a fun and welcoming way, to wear their mask so we can all keep skiing and riding this winter.

Our complete winter operations strategy is very extensive, we are happy to meet with the FCHD and share the entire plan.

With the utmost respect, we have worked tirelessly to meet the current requests of FCHD. We have worked tirelessly to keep people employed. If these additional restrictions trickle into December, it will be a devastating loss to our employees as well as the community members who want a place to access wide open natural space, a retreat to enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation.

Elyse Knudsen

Whitefish

I want to start by thanking you for all of your hard work during an extremely difficult time. As you know, last spring it was our local businesses that needed our help and support to get through the pandemic. I'm guessing by the large amount of tourists that are still in town, most of them must be back on track and I bet some of them have had their best summer yet.

I went to the Bulldog to pick up takeout last weekend, and was extremely disappointed in what I saw. It felt like mid July during a pandemic free summer. The place was packed shoulder to shoulder. The staff had masks, but because it is a place for food and drink, most of the patrons were maskless. The entire

downtown area was packed. It is time for this town to start putting our schools first instead of tourists, bars, and restaurants. We need to take back our town and get the spread of the virus under control.

I work at Whitefish Middle School and have watched all of the school district administrators working desperately to try and keep our students safe and try to keep our schools open. They have given up their summers and most of their weekends. Despite their efforts WMS had to switch to 100% remote learning this week because of the large number of Covid cases among our students. All of those students contacted the virus in the community, not at school. We can not keep kids in school without help from you and the entire town.

It's not just about academics for some of our students. For some, school is the only place where they find a good meal and the support they need to be successful.

Please consider putting restrictions on bars, restaurants, and hotels. I think our children's education and well being should take precedence over giving a tourist a good time.

I have nothing but respect and gratitude for each and every one of you and the sacrifices you make in order to serve on the Council. Thanks again for all that you do.

Suzi Stagg

Whitefish

To Whom It May Concern,

that is, To All Residents Of Flathead County, and in particular to Those Charged With Providing Leadership And Counsel in the current crisis,

Greetings.

Having been made aware of the Health Department's most recent proposal regarding new restrictions that it recommends be implemented in light of an increased number of COVID19 cases, I have deemed it worth my precious time to communicate my thoughts on the matter.

Public health, it must be remembered, is a multifaceted concern. While the physical aspect is what naturally comes to mind when we think of health, one must not forget the spiritual, psychological, societal, and economic aspects. All of these have been heavily impacted since the statewide quarantine this spring, the end result being a general state of uncertainty, instability, and even volatility (which, it might be noted, did not achieve the purpose of stopping the spread of the virus). While not negating the risks imposed by the virus itself, it is important to recognize the critical nature of maintaining the "non-physical" aspects of public health. It has been scientifically proven that anxiety and stress render one more prone to physical illness. At a time when immune system strength is a most valuable asset, it would be unwise to compromise it by implementing measures that further increase its risk of being laid

waste. In plain English: Public health involves more than just the possibility of catching germs. The quarantine did not ultimately work, and created huge amounts of stress. Stressed people get sick. If we are trying not to get sick, do not increase stress levels.

It seems illogical to assume that reducing the capacity of restaurants, bars and churches to 25% would be effective in slowing the spread of the virus when schools are not expected to do the same. It is curious that outbreaks have been linked to certain events, such as weddings and trade shows, when the case might as easily be made that most of the people in attendance at those events also have children in school. While it seems completely impractical to consider restricting the schools, it begs the question of whether restricting churches and restaurants would actually prove effective, or merely exacerbate the socio-economic agony already underway. In plain English: The idea that restricting restaurants, bars and churches, but not schools, seems flawed. Public events may have sparked outbreaks, but maybe the opening of schools played a part in it too. There is no plan to restrict schools, even though viruses of all kinds circulate there freely. Further restricting churches, restaurants and bars seems like it will do more harm than good in the long run, from a social and economic standpoint.

And of course one could always expound upon the topic of our Constitutional rights. It does not bode well when authorities treat and reprimand free citizens as if they were children. In plain English: Allow people to make their own decisions, to choose whether or not to open their dining rooms or attend an event or church service.

In closing I will enumerate some of the ill effects of the current situation that have been suffered by many, and that have had nothing to do with being actually infected with the virus: divorce, domestic abuse, depression, suicide, unemployment, bankruptcy, anxiety, isolation, bereavement. It is rather a long list. Many and great are the ramifications of any measure you may consider implementing, and I do not envy you the responsibility. I truly am sorry for any and all who have been impacted by the reality of COVID, either directly or indirectly. My sympathy goes out to all who are sick. But I do not believe that we will be able to adequately provide for their needs by placing further restrictive burdens on our community.

Strength and health come from hope and joy and peace and love. Let us do what we can to foster them.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Kayla M. Fender

Kalispell, Montana

Dear members of the Board of Health,

1. This medical issue has been turned into a political issue. The politics count “cases” and ramp up the numbers to scare us. The only thing that matters is serious illness and death. Our current illnesses and deaths do not warrant any restrictions.
2. Yes, we need to protect the most vulnerable, ie those in our nursing homes, but the rest of us need to live, and develop our immunity.
3. Many Doctors, even in our own county, don’t think restrictions are necessary. I will repeat the words of a retired MD I heard just last week: “If you’re going to get this, you’re going to get it. All this nonsense, lock downs, masks, ect are just going to keep it going. When we’ve reached 85% of the population getting it, we’ll have Herd Immunity.”
4. Why aren’t you looking at immunity? Dr. Scott Atlas, google him if he hasn’t been censored, talks about B cells and T cells. Building up immunity is good for us individually and as a society. He also states, “There is not one documented case, in the world, of a kid transmitting this to an adult.”
5. We Americans are smart enough to do what’s right for ourselves. We are Free & Liberated people; we are responsible and respectful. And we have a Bill of Rights and Constitutional rights that nobody in elected office should be denying us. The bottom line, you don’t have the science behind you to shut us down and put limitations on us. Look at the real numbers behind auto accidents, suicides, other infectious diseases, ect in comparison. Again, the Covid, only, serious illnesses and deaths do not warrant any restrictions. The percentage of Covid, only, serious illness and deaths are a mere fraction of the number toted out there.
6. Masks: Our recent fires and air quality: Fire particles can get through masks. The Covid19 virus is even smaller. And recent news, is that the greater percentage of people getting sick with Covid wore masks.
7. Let freedom ring; we the people are intelligent enough to do what’s in our best interest.

Thank you,

Mary R Burgess

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Flathead County I strongly urge you to not restrict businesses at this time. With the recent release of the CDC research article showing increased virus rates among mask users and the recent statement from the WHO indicating closures are ineffective I strongly urge to not restrict businesses/gatherings at this time.

Thank you in advance for supporting small businesses through this already very challenging time.

Kristin

As a healthcare worker currently working in the Flathead Valley, I strongly support all mitigation measures proposed by the flathead county health department to try to help slow the spread of the coronavirus in order to help reduce community infection. The current growth of infection in the flathead is terrifying and the exponential nature of the spread of this virus means that it can easily grow so quickly and get so out of control, we will not be able to help people who become sickened. Please strongly consider enacting all necessary measures before winter arrives in full force.

Thank you--

Jillian R. Nail (Whitefish)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to say that this mask and lock down idea has been proven to not only be ineffective but also more dangerous than COVID. Being the health department, I would think that you would be relying on scientific facts and not the media, but-here we go. I will first address this mask farce, and then lock downs and ham-stringing businesses by restricting access.

THE CASE AGAINST MASKS, by Dr. Judy Mikovits and Kent Heckenlively, JD.

1) "Human beings need to breath oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Oxygen is 20.9 percent of the air we breath in, but only 16 percent of what we breath out. OSHA regulations state that any oxygen level below 19.5 percent is dangerous. Carbon dioxide is only at 0.04 percent in the atmosphere, but 4 percent of the air we breath out, a hundred-fold increase. Carbon dioxide toxicity begins when those levels are around 10 percent. Masks lower oxygen levels and raise carbon dioxide levels."

****KALISPELL'S ALTITUDE IS 2,984 FEET WHICH PUTS US AT AROUND 18 PERCENT EFFECTIVE OXYGEN.****ADD A MASK TO THAT AND YOU ARE IN TROUBLE****

2) "SARS-COV-2 spreads mainly through respiratory droplets from infected individuals who are coughing, hacking, or sneezing and in close, sustained contact with others. It does not appear to spread through regular breathing from people in typical social situations."

3)Masks have varying degrees of effectiveness, but the more effective they are at blocking airflow, the lower your oxygen levels will be, and the higher the carbon dioxide. Studies have shown that masks raise complaints of shortness of breath, headaches and dizziness, suggesting lower oxygen and higher carbon dioxide levels.

4) You do not need to be 6 feet apart from a person AND wearing a mask. The WHO (World Health Organization) does not recommend a 6 foot distance, but only a 3-foot distance. Reputable publications such as The Lancet have reported there is "scarce" evidence that masks provide effective protection against respiratory infection.

5) Masks disrupt the patterns of airflow, leading to pathogens being deposited on chin, cheeks, and near eyes. A study from South Korea showed that COVID-19 easily passed through several different types of masks.

6) Unless you are close to someone singing or speaking very loudly, such as in a choir, the risk of airborne transmission is very low, especially since it is difficult for coughing people to sing.

7)Nursing homes are dangerous for spreading SARS COV-2, as the residents normally have lowered immunity.Te lowered immunity makes them most susceptible to developing COVID from exposure to SARS COV-2. Consider 42 percent of COVID-19 cases have come from nursing homes, even though they only account for 0.06 of the population. Having heart disease, diabetes, or chronic lung disease also increases your chances of disease development from any respiratory infection.

I must also add the findings of 34,000 Health experts. Published by the EPOCH News.

"OVER 34,000 HEALTH EXPERTS SIGN DECLARATION AGAINST COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS, PETITION BY EPIDEMIOLOGISTS CLAIMS"

"Coming from both left and right, and around the world, we have devoted our careers to protecting people. Current lock down policies are producing devastating effects on short and long term health," reads the petition.

The article continues on, "Instead of shutting down until a vaccine is available, the doctors say focus should be minimizing mortality and social harm until herd immunity is reached. Herd immunity refers to when a population becomes immune to an infectious disease, which the doctors say will be eventually reached for all populations, and can be assisted by, but not dependent upon, a vaccine.

Fortunately, our understanding of the virus has grown. We know that vulnerability to death from COVID-19 is more than a thousand-fold higher in the old and infirm than the young...

The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and the benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at risk."

The other argument of course is our rights are being trampled here. What ever happened to being responsible for one's self. If a business is not doing what you think they should be doing, or you are not comfortable-DON'T GO THERE! Very simple.

Use logic, my friends, and don't politicize people's lives. They are smart enough to figure this stuff out. Masks, lock downs and dismantlement of our businesses is a slap in the face to every Montanan. You are basically saying we are stupid and don't have the capacity to think for ourselves and taken personal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Mary Weidner

Kalispell

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. We understand you are holding a meeting tomorrow to further restrict Flathead County in the matter of Covid.

We're hoping you have followed the most recent recommendations by the CDC, WHO, and the 6000 doctors who have all agreed that lockdown has no effect on containing this virus. People who always wear masks have now been statistically known to be 80% of the Covid infected, while only 4% that never wear masks have caught Covid.

As we are all aware-mandatory mask laws are unconstitutional per the 10th Amendment. Yesterday, the Michigan Supreme Court overturned all Covid restrictions, including lockdowns and mandatory masks ordered by their governor as unconstitutional.

The Michigan Supreme Court on Monday denied Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's request to delay the effect of an opinion that ruled her executive orders on the coronavirus pandemic are unconstitutional.

Ten days ago, the court ruled Whitmer, a Democrat who is a former prosecutor and a first-term governor, had no authority to issue or renew executive orders relating to Covid-19 beyond April 30.

As appointed by local voters, We would expect all of you to be true to the constitution. Any further restrictions or mask mandates are a violation of our individual rights. We ask you to please follow constitutional law and to stop further harming our local businesses and families with these unconstitutional restrictions and masks.

Based on these things, We're sure we can count on all of you not to support any further measures that would continue this unconstitutional emergency order or continue to infringe on our liberties, first and tenth amendment rights.

We appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Theresa and Brad Chabot
Kalispell

Dear Flathead City-County Health Board Members,

Regarding the proposed restrictions by the health department:

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm under the section titled "Comorbidities," we learn the following: "For 6% of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned. For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death." So the virus is only a contributing factor for 94% of COVID-19 deaths. This, along with the age group breakdown in Table 3 in the same section, confirms what has been observed and experienced in Flathead County, which is that the majority of deaths occur among elderly individuals who are already approaching death. Therefore, the health department's claim in its "Proposal Submitted 10.9.2020" that "In the past seven months, there have been twenty-three deaths in Flathead County from COVID-19" without providing the context that other health issues were significant factors in most cases is deceptive. Unless the health department can prove that the 23 Flathead County deaths were an extreme statistical anomaly, the actual number of Flathead County residents who have died exclusively from COVID-19 (6% of 23) is most likely one or two people. Could the financial incentive to hospitals to classify COVID-19 as cause of death be a factor as well? It appears that the health department is proposing economically and socially devastating measures without even knowing the medical details of the situation, or is being intentionally dishonest and using mainstream media-style biased scare tactics in its "Proposal Submitted 10.9.2020." Either case implies

political motivation and disqualifies it from being considered a legitimate participant in the formulation of public health policy.

In its proposal, the health department displays as much ignorance, willful or otherwise, regarding Constitutional rights and protections as it does regarding comorbidities. The unacceptable First Amendment violations of freedom of assembly and freedom of religion make the proposal a 100% no-go from the start. Many of us will continue to worship God, not government. Freedom is not negotiable.

Additionally, MCA 50-1-105(2)(e) states, "The purpose of Montana's public health system is to provide leadership and to protect and promote the public's health by striving to ensure that public health services and functions are provided and public health powers are used based upon the best available scientific evidence." A lot of scientific evidence has been gained in the past several months that is being totally ignored by the health department, in violation of this section. The CDC comorbidity data cited above is one example. Once again, are the health department officials really this incompetent, or are their actions politically motivated?

As an MCA 50-1-105(2)(e) compliant and far more humane, effective, and less financially and socially destructive alternative, please consider adopting the "Focused Protection" approach described in the "Great Barrington Declaration" at Gbdeclaration.org. Repeating another unconstitutional, illegal, destructive lockdown in Flathead County would be a demonstration of Einstein's definition of insanity, which is repeating the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Please vote NO on the lockdowns recommended by the health department.

Regards,

Dave Swaim

Evergreen

Dear Flathead County Health Board Members,

The type of restrictions the health department officials are seeking to enforce have had immeasurable and catastrophic short- and long-term side effects worldwide. Lockdowns were first implemented not by altruistic and competent epidemiologists, but by Chinese government officials - members of a totalitarian communist government that brutally suppresses human rights. During the many months that have passed since then, scientists and doctors **without political agendas** (not Fauci!) around the world

have studied the behavior of the virus and determined far better responses that do not destroy national and local economies, small businesses, livelihoods, childhoods, life savings, etc., **and achieve better health results** based on the recommendations of infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists, rather than on raw government force. The "Great Barrington Declaration" (GBdeclaration.org) describes a "focused protection" approach that provides protection for society's most vulnerable members while allowing others to continue living relatively normal, productive lives.

Are we to believe that the Chinese government's initial knee-jerk humanity-crushing response is still the best we can think of after almost a year of experience and research by great minds all around the world, like Doctors Kulldorff, Gupta, and Bhattacharya? Apparently that's the best that the Flathead County health department officials can come up with. Implementing such devastating (and arguably ineffective) measures knowing the inevitable outcome while ignoring the availability of a far more humane and effective approach would be a crime against humanity, one that health department officials appear eager to commit.

Obviously our health department officials have prioritized political expediency over the welfare of the people. Members of the Health Board, you have a clear moral duty to protect the residents of Flathead County from the many forms of human suffering (economic, psychological, and otherwise) that will result from the actions that the health department officials are pressuring you to sanction. Please vote NO on items 6 and 7 of today's agenda.

Regards,

Paula Swaim

Evergreen

Dear Members of the Flathead County Health Board,

We are writing to address the 10/15/20 meeting of the Flathead County Health Board in which proposed restrictions in response to the COVID-19 virus will be discussed. We oppose these restrictions.

First, the proposed restrictions are based on an uptick in new COVID-19 cases in Flathead County. Scientifically, in disease outbreaks the statistics that guide decision making by epidemiologists are serious illnesses and deaths. The current COVID illnesses and deaths in Flathead County do not warrant any restrictions. For example, COVID hospitalizations in Flathead County are only taking 10% of the available bed space in our two hospitals (KRMCMC and NVH) as reported by the state.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now report that the survival rate for people aged 0-70 is 99%. For people over 70, the survival rate is 95%. (See CDC update published 9/23/2020.) Such statistics indicate that people at higher risk, those who have immune deficiencies or other complicating factors, would be wise to limit their exposure, but it does not call for restricting the activity or assembly of healthy people.

A few other statistics for comparison from data from the Montana DPHHS:

2020, Flathead County: COVID deaths thus far = 23

2018, Flathead County: All Accidents (not just motor vehicle) = 54

2018, Flathead County: Suicides = 24

2018, Flathead County: Influenza/Pneumonia Deaths = 20

MCA 50-1-105(2)(e) states: "The purpose of Montana's public health system is to provide leadership and to protect and promote the public's health by...striving to ensure that public health services and functions are provided and public health powers are used based upon the best available scientific evidence."

I understand that new restrictions will go into effect if there are more than 50 cases per day in Flathead County. There is a proposal that will limit social gatherings to no more than 25 people, and an additional proposal that will limit capacity at bars, restaurants, and churches to 25%. A third proposal will limit the size of events to 500 people immediately.

Where do these numbers come from? Are there scientific studies backing them up? They imply that if there is a gathering of 26 people, someone will contract COVID or that if a bar is operating at 30% capacity, its customers will contract COVID. These proposals are dangerous to our economy because they could result in businesses closing and people losing jobs. It is well documented now across the country that there is a rise in depression, suicide, domestic abuse, and divorce due to people having no income, losing their jobs, and/or staying home more than normal due to COVID.

Yellowstone County had recently planned to limit their businesses to 25% capacity, but the businesses responded by saying that they could go out of business at that low rate, and so the proposal was dropped. We hope Flathead County follows their example.

A good example of such "lockdown" measures not working is that of Peru. They have one of the strictest lockdown responses to COVID in the world, and their COVID statistics do not show any improvement as a result of the restrictions. In fact, since early April, the COVID death rate in Peru has surpassed the death rate in China. <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/comment/covid-19-peru/>

These restrictions violate the freedom to assemble and the freedom of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights.

While we desire safety for all residents of Flathead County, any considered restrictions need to address the good of the entire population, not just a few. A person who has diabetes should not expect a party host to serve no sugar. Likewise, a person in the high risk category with regard to COVID should exercise caution themselves without expecting extreme restrictions to be imposed on everyone, just as we exercise caution during flu season every year.

Respectfully,

Brian and Jennifer Hawken

Kila, Montana

I want to share how grateful my family is for the ongoing efforts your office has made to advise area schools, businesses, organizations, etc. and to work tirelessly (although you must be SO tired) to stay on top of contacting and investigating active cases and close contacts... We have 3 individuals within our immediate family who live daily with underlying conditions which could cause fighting Covid-19 to be extremely difficult. These health concerns, themselves, require MUCH of us daily and necessitate that we, as a family, make moment to moment decisions about what activities are safe during this pandemic. We are so thankful for your expertise and leadership in our community which provides our family with guidance as we make these decisions and our community with direction as we seek to function within safe precautions. I wish we could shout from a few rooftops the dire need for our community to selflessly consider those most vulnerable and consistently practice the precautions you set. Thank you for standing for us in your platform of leadership and service!

Emily Ort, Kalispell

I am emailing you to ask that you vote No on the proposal being presented by the Interim Health Director to further restrict our lives and our LOCAL economy because of alleged Covid-19 positive tests. These restrictions will only hurt our Valley. Possibly forcing more small local businesses to permanently close and cause more divisions in our community.

Our community is hurting and it's not because of illness. These mandates and asking people to tattle on one of other, is causing a tension that further restrictions will only amplify.

There is no scientific evidence to back the restrictions. There is strong evidence that hurting our economy and limiting people's daily activities is destroying peoples lives.

So please vote no.

Thank you for your time.

Julie Perchy
Whitefish

The past several weeks have made it abundantly clear that too many people in this valley are willing to sacrifice their health and everyone's safety to make a political point. They are like unruly toddlers and now they need a time out!

Please pass the new restrictions, help those of us who are being safe continue to stay safe by passing the restrictions.

Thanks for your time and service,

Amy Weeks

Columbia Falls

Please approve the more stringent restrictions on gathering and restaurants. The recent rise in cases is having dire consequences for restaurants and bars already as they are forced to close for exposures and positive tests among employees who serve the public.

In addition, please change the process for reporting violations of current state and local mandates. It is not appropriate to ask reporters to make themselves vulnerable to backlash from businesses and individuals by having to identify themselves public ally in order to make a report. I work in the service industry, and the daily abuse endured by service staff who try to enforce the mask mandate and social distancing has been deeply hurtful, disheartening, and at times dangerous. Expecting hourly workers in stores and restaurants to bear the burden of enforcement with no appreciable support or consequences from authorities such as yourselves is unacceptable. It makes an already difficult time much, much worse for businesses that choose to protect their workers and community by enforcing the mandated steps that all health professionals around the world encourage us to take in order to stop and control the spread of this virus.

Maggie Schwenker

Whitefish

To the Flathead County Board of Health:

To begin, I would like to commend the Flathead City-County Health Department for their diligent work to keep our communities as safe as possible during this unprecedented time. I understand that the Department is currently under extreme duress due to the recent dramatic rise in positive cases of COVID-19 in Flathead County. I do greatly respect the Department's guidance and advice, but would like to address the suggested capacity limit in restaurants and bars in the (likely) event that the average rate of cases meet the threshold to impose the proposed restrictions.

A capacity level of 25% for most - if not all - restaurants would limit business and revenue so drastically that it would likely cost more money to stay open than income generated from reduced sales. I believe it would be unsustainable for most food services businesses to stay afloat, even in the short term. The same initial capacity limit of 25% was suggested in Yellowstone County, and after working with their local food & beverage establishments, the County Health Officers came to the conclusion that this was not a sustainable number (Source: Flathead Beacon, Oct. 12, 2020). Yellowstone County Health Department changed the restaurant and bar capacity limit to 50% in the restrictions recently approved to be implemented in their county, and I urge the Flathead County Board of Health to amend the Department's recommendation and do the same.

I believe I can speak for a number of restaurant owners, managers, and employees (at least in my town of Whitefish) in saying that we are doing our very best to meet all guidelines set forth thus far by the both the State and County, keep our staff and guests safe, keep our businesses open, and meet the demand that an extended tourism season has brought. Furthermore, it is discouraging for those of us who are diligently following all protocols to see other businesses in town (three in particular on Central Avenue in Whitefish) flagrantly disregard directives with little to no consequence. I am still unaware of what the consequences of such violations are, how these measures are or would be enforced, and whether such infractions are made public. Clarity provided by the Department and made easily accessible to the public as well as methods of reporting I believe could be improved.

We are still amidst a period of dramatically increased visitation to our area with no current restrictions on hotel or vacation rental capacity or out-of-state travel. To me, significantly reducing services available to visitors without any accompanying travel or hospitality restrictions also does not make sense.

Please consider following suit of Yellowstone County and amend the capacity limit of restaurants and bars to 50%. I hope in keeping limits on group sizes to 10 or less, maintain the positioning of tables or seating six feet or more apart, reducing or prohibiting bar seating, and enforcing mask mandates at a 50% capacity will allow restaurants and bars to stay operational while also keeping individuals and our community at large as safe as can be during the current crisis.

Remember, this is not just about restaurant owners, it is about all the hundreds of employees and people who live and work in the Flathead County!

Thank you,

Paula Greenstein

Co-Owner

Wasabi Sushi Bar and Ginger Grill

Dear Members of the Board of Health,

I am writing today to implore you to impose more restrictions in Flathead County because of COVID-19. Our cases are so high and going higher every day. People are not adhering to the mask policy and following social distancing guidelines and keeping gatherings small as they should. It is clear that we need to do better. Lives are at stake.

This is not a political issue. This is not an infringement on people's rights, but rather doing your part to keep people safe, to keep people from DYING. It is beyond my comprehension that people think this is government trying to control things...this is a pandemic. A serious threat to all of us. The only way to see the other side and get life back to "normal" is to be restrictive NOW; follow the guidelines NOW. None of us wants to see businesses closed or people out of work. But we shouldn't want to see our neighbors sick and dying. Don't know anyone who has been seriously sick or died of COVID-19? Keep going the way we are going and you will. Is over 210,000 people dying in our country not enough loss? Each of those people had parents, siblings, sons and daughters that loved them.

As a parent, I had to tell my children to do things to keep them safe that they didn't like. As adults we should understand that we need to do the same. Protect ourselves and others. Forget all the rhetoric and the political noise...look at the big picture here. When we were staying home in March and April our total cases were 37 then 0 for almost 6 weeks. Now we are over 1,000. Clearly the "Everyone should have their choice to wear a mask" thing isn't working. We know what works and that's to distance, wear a mask, wash your hands and don't have large gatherings. We can do that. Is it always easy? No. Is not seeing my mother in the nursing home hard? Yes, it is! But I am grateful she is being cared for and protected by the loving nurses, doctors and aides. There has been an outbreak at the Vet's Home, where she currently lives, and they have been wonderful. As hard as it is to not see her other than through the window, I want her to not be sick and to not die. So, we've become creative

about how we keep her spirits up. It can be done. It's not ideal but she is safe and that's my job to take care of her the way she kept me safe as a child.

To those of you that worry about mental health. I do too. In fact, I am a social worker who works with high risk families. I'm very well aware of the consequences that isolation can have for those that struggle with mental health issues and those who already deal with anxiety, depression and even suicidal thoughts. Which is why we need to fund mental health/family support programs to continue, long after COVID19, to help all those that need it...now and in the coming months and years. But lives are at risk. This is the truth and all the talk of inflating numbers of COVID19 deaths and that the virus is a hoax is just maddening. It's not a hoax to the nurse that's worked a 14-hour shift on a COVID19 unit. It's not a hoax to the nurses and staff that are working tirelessly at the health dept. to contact trace, investigate cases, work with the schools, the nursing homes, the businesses and the monitors all of those on quarantine. It's not a hoax to the lab workers running all the tests and trying to keep up. They are weary. They are tired. And they deserve to be supported. We ALL need to be kind and do the right thing here.

Please impose stricter guidelines. What we do now will dictate how long this goes on. And please don't wait two more weeks. The numbers are rising now. I implore you. Take action.

Thank you,

Karen Weaver

Lakeside, MT

Dear Board of Health:

I support and appreciate your outlined proposals to add new restrictions if our community can not flatten the curve on infection rates.

Too many people and businesses are not taking this seriously and it's an unnecessary burden on those that are. Our essential workers should not bear this disregard of health safety and our medical personnel does not deserve this disrespect.

What will happen to enforce these guidelines? Will our county qualify for some enforcement funds from the state ?

Thank you for your sincere efforts to keep Flathead County safe and open as much as we safely can.

Denise Manning

Brian Manning

Whitefish

First I would like to thank the health care workers and public health advocates for the hard work you do trying to care for and protect the many people of this county. Your work is too often thankless, but there are many of us that appreciate your quiet diligence and efforts on all of our behalf.

Second, I would like to express my concern for the dramatic surge in COVID cases in our county over the past month; it is straining the health care system, the mental health of many individuals, and the workforce nearly to the breaking point.

For all these reasons and more, we must make a community commitment to taking better care of each other until we can get through this pandemic. Unfortunately there are many in this valley that are too wrapped up in their personal rights, and far too quick to shun their personal responsibility to consider what contribution they can make to the effort to steer us all through a difficult situation. I encourage you all to carefully implement needed public health protections, such as mandatory masks or decreased group size limits, that can help Flathead County navigate this crisis. Whatever you choose, clearly we need to do something. Ask not what your county can do for you, but what you can do for your county. You have many members of the community behind you, and you will never make everyone happy simultaneously. So perhaps it is better to make a few folks mad, but keep them alive, than to cave in and allow this virus to continue unmitigated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meg Gordon (veterinarian)

Bigfork, MT

Please flatten the curve. Ideally, this should have happened without mandates-but community leaders did not lead by example.. As a medical provider for 25 years, I have never seen such a blatant disregard by local "leaders" for the health of the elderly, medically crippled, and their health care colleagues in the trenches. Please listen to doctors, respiratory therapists, and nurses in the COVID units. They are my heroes. They deserve more than a modicum of respect.

Michael Schwaller MD

Kalispell

Flathead City-County Board of Health,

The level of COVID-19 community spread in Flathead county is unacceptable.

It is astounding that Montana had the third-highest rate of new cases per capita last week and the second-highest test positivity rate in the country.

It is your responsibility to provide leadership at this time.

Strengthen and enforce COVID-19 control measures.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Cummings

Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Elected Leaders:

The time to lead is now.

- A 4% positivity rate represents a major concern to community health and safety. Flathead County's positivity rate was at 21% and climbing when last made publicly available at the end of September.
- 4 of 7 indicators on the County Dashboard were in the red when last updated 10 days ago. Since then, things have gotten worse.
- Our County Health Department has publicly announced that their contact tracing and data analyst staff are not able to keep up with the caseload.
- Montana currently ranks in the top 5 in the nation for new COVID-19 cases per day on a per capita basis.

The spread of Covid-19 is rampant. Locally too little is being done to slow the virus spread.

If we want to keep businesses open and protect citizens of our community we need restrictions NOW. Some restrictions will be better than none; some restrictions will help slow the spread. Governor Bullock has invited YOU to step up. Specifically he has called on local leaders to "step up and do more" to protect our community. Some examples include:

- Limiting capacity of bars & restaurants to 25%
- Requiring establishments that serve alcohol to close by 10:00 pm
- Prohibiting gatherings larger than 25 people, even if social distancing is possible
- Prohibiting short-term rentals and hotel stays

Restrictions in the spring did drop our cases back to zero, making a convincing case for the effectiveness of community action. Cases are exponentially higher than they were when the stay-at-home order was enacted. It's past time to establish & enforce restrictions once again.

This time, rather than setting restrictions with a calendar end-date, benchmarks based on data relevant to health and safety must be established and used to determine reopening. While uncertainty about the spread of Covid in MT cannot be removed, a cause and effect data-driven decision-making tree will help as we take each tentative step forward in a rapidly changing environment.

I applaud your leadership in March when the City of Whitefish put restrictions in place for bars, restaurants and short-term rentals. I applaud your leadership in July when you unanimously set a mask-ordinance in advance of the statewide ordinance.

With cases skyrocketing in our community, it is time for our leaders to lead once again. Please "step up and do more" by establishing & enforcing restrictions that minimize community gathering, minimize influx of visitors, and prioritize the long-term health and safety of our community members.

Please use your power to help our county and our health workers survive. Thanks.

Tabitha Graves

Columbia Falls resident

Dear Sirs,

I understand there is to be a meeting of the Board of Health on October 15 and would like to record my comments as follows:

The wearing of masks, although may help a little, will not prevent the transfer of the disease, social distancing is what people should be practicing. It is ludicrous to have rules or guidelines regarding masks, or numbers of persons allowed to congregate, when exceptions are made, i.e. attending school, games etc. Even a meeting of three people could start a spread of the disease if one of them is a carrier.

The most ridiculous rule of all is the "obligation" to wear a mask when entering a restaurant with the obvious necessity to remove it while eating; so is the virus aware that it should not be looking for a likely victim while sitting at a table; no logic whatever? I read recently that a restaurant in Libby had to close because of the abuse the staff were receiving due to this rule with the unfortunate result that they have lost a lot of business. Perhaps your members might consider relaxing this rule for restaurants in the same way that it appears in order for 500 people to attend a public event.

Finally, I feel it is the responsibility of the individual to decide what is best for them, if they are afraid of catching the virus then they should take the initiative and keep away from places where people gather and not expect other citizens to abide by so many of these illogical rules.

Regards

Mary Gabb

Kalispell

I am writing to ask that you vote NO on Agenda Item 6 for all the right reasons.

Johnna Hiatt

Bigfork MT 59911

Hello there!

I am asking you to please Vote **NO** on agenda items (6 & 7).

Thank you!

Cindy Sanchez

Please tighten restrictions in Flathead county to limit the spread of Covid-19.

Please limit all public events, churches, restaurants, bars, gatherings and schools!
Thank you for taking the health and well-being of our community seriously.

Patience Burns

Hello,

Please vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7. It's clear to the majority that this is not about health. Do the right thing.

Respectfully,
Lynnelle Mellinger

Please be the voices of reason in our county and vote against these proposed tyrannical restrictions on our freedoms! Resist the fear And fraud being propagated by our state government, members of the media and medical community who are stripping our rights from us to make our own individual health and safety choices. Perhaps there was reason for concern earlier this year when the risks were not fully understood, but we will no longer comply with more directives and extreme measures including fraudulent testing, tracking, muzzling and distancing in our lives.

We are free people.

Let each and every individual and business owner make voluntary choices for managing their own personal health risks, as we have all done for decades.

Our legislature has a lot of work to do next session, but for now...

Vote NO x 8 today for freedom of choice!

Sue Manson
Kalispell

No
Brandy Klein

Loss of Freedoms by lockdowns is NOT healthy.

April Harrington

Kalispell

COVID isn't going anywhere. You have no right to shut down businesses make bullshit restrictions that go against we the peoples constitutional rights. No more government over reach NO to agend Items 6 and 7.

Krysta Mae

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a registered voter in Flathead County. I oppose any mandatory mask directives and limitations on group gathering sizes. Masks have been proven not to be effective in protecting people from covid-19. The government has no authority to limit size of group gatherings. Individuals can determine for themselves where their comfort level is and avoid large group gatherings if they choose.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stockham

We the citizens shouldn't even have to be writing letters like the following. The fiasco wouldn't exist if the response to coronavirus from ground zero (and even before ground zero) hadn't been connected to money and power. Obviously, please vote NO to items 6 and 7 on tomorrow's agenda. We do not want any more usurping of our God-given rights and personal freedoms--no more further restrictions or lockdowns. There is too much money, power (and misconstrued statistics) going on. Pattie Baer

Kalispell, Montana

Get your heads on straight!!! No way on agenda items 6 & 7.

Tiffany Ekern

To the Flathead County Board of Health Directors:

To begin, I would like to commend the Flathead City-County Health Department for their diligent work to keep our communities as safe as possible during this unprecedented time. I understand that the Department is currently under extreme duress due to the recent dramatic rise in positive cases of COVID-19 in Flathead County. I do greatly respect the Department's guidance and advice, but would like to address the suggested capacity limit in restaurants and bars in the (likely) event that the average rate of cases meet the threshold to impose the proposed restrictions.

A capacity level of 25% for most - if not all - restaurants would limit business and revenue so drastically that it would likely cost more money to stay open than the income generated from resulting reduced sales. I believe it would be unsustainable for most food service businesses to stay afloat, even in the short-term. The same initial capacity limit of 25% was suggested in Yellowstone County, and after working with their local food and beverage establishments, the County Health Officers came to the conclusion that this was not a sustainable number (Source: Flathead Beacon, Oct. 12, 2020). Yellowstone County Health Department changed the restaurant and bar capacity limit to 50% in the restrictions recently approved to be implemented in their county, and I urge the Flathead County Board of Health to amend the Department's recommendation and do the same.

I believe I can speak for a number of restaurant owners, managers, and employees (at least in my hometown of Whitefish) in saying that we are doing our very best to meet all guidelines set forth thus far by the both the State and County, keep our staff and guests safe, keep our businesses open, and meet the demand that an extended tourism season has brought. Furthermore, it is discouraging for those of us who are diligently following all protocols to see other businesses in town (three in particular

on Central Avenue in Whitefish) in flagrant disregard of the directives with little to no consequence. I am still unaware of what the consequences of such violations are, how these measures are or would be enforced, and whether such infractions are made public. Clarity provided by the Department and made easily accessible to the public as well as methods of reporting I believe could be improved.

We are still amidst a period of dramatically increased visitation to our area with no current restrictions on hotel or vacation rental capacity, as well as any directives regarding out-of-state travel. To me, significantly reducing services available to visitors without any accompanying travel or hospitality restrictions also does not make sense.

Please consider following suit of Yellowstone County and amend the capacity limit of restaurants and bars to 50%. I hope in keeping limits on group sizes to 10 or less, maintaining the positioning of tables six feet or more apart, reducing or prohibiting bar seating, and enforcing mask mandates at a 50% capacity will allow restaurants and bars to stay operational while also keeping individuals and our community at large as safe as can be during the current crisis, as well as meeting the demand for dine-in services.

I thank you for consideration of this letter and again express my gratitude to the Flathead County Health Department in all that is being done for the health and safety of our community members in such trying times.

Respectfully,

Sara Straka

Front of House Manager

Last Chair Kitchen and Bar

County Health Board Officials,

Please vote no on agenda items 6 and 7!

Please listen and represent us the people of Montana!

Sincerely,

Julie Bishop

It is unconscionable that we, in Flathead County, are STILL living under the notion that further lockdowns, muzzling of its citizens, and the allowing of the media to spread FEAR based on very ambiguous test data, is ANY kind of beneficial solution to our valley, our economy, or the freedoms of the people that make our community so great. We, by and large, have been fully masked up since July. The CDCs recommendations have been in place in every public place in our community (for those that want to argue or blame the non-masking freedom lovers for the rise in cases, this just simply is NOT the majority of the population and it's a LIE to say otherwise) and if anything has been proven during the last 6 months, it's that these draconian measures ARE NOT WORKING. The so-called solutions put in place are far superceding the negative outcome that this virus has had since the very beginning. The data even proves that. Your excessive testing of what is generally a common cold is the cause of the rise in "cases" we're seeing. The premise of the data you continue to put out to sow FEAR is based on an

over-exaggerated bending of the TRUTH. You are complicit to the killing of our economy if you entertain agenda items 6 and 7. This gross overreach HAS TO STOP. By your standard, It is clearly NOT WORKING anyway and is simply doing WAY more harm than good. Your community is watching you and hoping you will truly do what is in the best interest of the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Steffany Buck
Kalispell

Dear Board members,

I strongly urge you please vote NO on agenda #6 and #7.

To continue shutdowns or make them stricter is causing so much harm to our community. Businesses will be ruined, many sicknesses of other kinds from wearing masks, depression, anxiety, even a man I know personally returned to drinking which caused his death because what he loved was taken away from him ie playing music in bands and groups which have been outlawed.

Much evidence has been produced to show that wearing of masks do not prevent one from getting covid, but the masks do hinder breathing, carry germs and dehumanize us.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON AGENDA 6 & 7

Kathy Sipes
Kalispell

Dear members of the board,

I strongly urge you please vote NO on agenda #6 and #7.

To continue shutdowns or make them stricter is causing so much harm to our community. Businesses will be ruined, many sicknesses of other kinds from wearing masks, depression, anxiety, even a man I know personally returned to drinking which caused his death because what he loved was taken away from him ie playing music in bands and groups which have been outlawed.

Much evidence has been produced to show that wearing of masks do not prevent one from getting covid, but the masks do hinder breathing, carry germs and dehumanize us.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON AGENDA 6 & 7

Bert Sipes
Kalispell

I am writing to register my lack of support for the current proposals being put forth by the Flathead City-County Health Department regarding increased COVID restrictions as discussed in this Flathead Beacon article and request that you reject both proposals in full.

<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2020/10/12/health-department-proposes-new-restrictions-covid-19-outbreak-continues-spread/>

Thank you.

Suzy Danko

Kalispell

“According to a White House Coronavirus Task Force report on Montana dated Oct. 11, Montana had the third-highest rate of new cases per capita last week and the second-highest test positivity rate in the country, at 10.1%.” Flathead Beacon October 14th

Let me be clear. As a Pediatric nurse at KRH....we are bursting at the seams. Critical staffing shortages, bonus incentives to come in extra, phone calls daily to report areas that need staff desperately. Why....because a bunch of community members feel the need to go to weddings, and restaurants, and enjoy their freedoms while we watch our staff drop like flies due to quarantines and illness. Pathways is closed. Pediatric Infusion has been severely impacted by Covid, pediatrics is taking on extra patients to cover these other disciplines. And this is just my bubble of Pediatrics! Just imagine what the adults units are going through!

We are now being told if we are exposed to Covid, we won't quarantine....we will still come to work and then get tested in 3-5 days and go from there. (but report any symptoms if they form immediately). Staff continues to be exposed by asymptomatic people because not everyone gets that super special, super speedy Covid test!!

We are begging , as medical providers on the frontlines, for our community to respect the lives of all humans and do what skilled medical doctors and scientist are saying to do, wear a mask and socially distance.

Visiting the UPS store...not ONE mask. Visiting Montana Club to pick up to go order, a family of 7 sitting in the lobby with NO masks waiting to be seated. Remedies Pharmacy... all 3 employees stating they are medically exempt, and a large wedding in

Lakeside this past weekend at the Harbor Grill, where chairs were most definitely not socially distanced.

I fully agree with a vote to move forward with more restrictions. Many people in our community have proven they are incapable of following the science, doctors, hospitals, and expert recommendations. Due to their lack of following the guidelines, we are at higher risk of the cases continuing to rise. I would personally like to see places fined for not following guidelines that are set in place. Money appears to guide the actions of some, and since it has been proven that science and medical personal asking people to do basic precautions is not working, it is time to implement consequences for endangering other people's lives.

Tara Lee RN
Flathead County

Hello, I am writing to ask you to please vote NO on items 6 and 7, which I believe takes place Thursday.

I have a large mixed-race family and have known many people who have had Covid and recovered just fine. I've known many others who have lost more because of shutdowns. Please. Protect our Constitutional rights. Please protect small businesses and lead us towards the opposite of the restrictive and tyrannical "new normal."

This virus has a 99.7% recovery rate and current data from the CDC from their very own website states that:

70.6% of the people who contracted COVID wore a mask "ALWAYS"
14.4% wore it "SOMETIMES"
3.9% wore a mask "NEVER"

The CDC also updated their stats to admit that less than 10,000 actually died from Covid alone.

We closed down an entire country for something less deadly than the flu.

What is the cost in ruined businesses, poverty, depression, division, ruined relationships and suicide (with numbers in states exceeding covid deaths)?

CDC estimated deaths from #COVID19 vs annual influenza, United States, children ages 0-17:

COVID19	92
Flu 2018/19	477
Flu 2017/18	643
Flu 2016/17	251
Flu 2015/16	268
Flu 2014/15	803

Masks are now making people sick in addition to people being assaulted and harassed for not wearing

masks. Dentists report "mask mouth," and doctors are reporting increases in staph infections on the face, respiratory issues, thrush in nose and mouth and Legionnaires.

We have a basic fundamental right to breathe. Blood ph is controlled by the lungs. When you exhale CO2 and then inhale that same CO2 trapped in your mask you are increasing blood acidity. Viruses (and cancer) thrive in an acidic environment.

Anything that forces humanity to do something against their will is tyranny. We don't get many chances to stand up to it in life. You all have a chance now to be on the right and moral side of history. It takes strength and courage to do so. Please, vote no on items 6 and 7.

"CDC study based on 14 clinical trials shows face masks do not work."
- July 22, 2020

Sincerely, Donna Schoenrock (resident of Flathead county)

Good Evening,

As a resident of Flathead County I have been closely following the covid situation and have been so thankful for the Boards the freedom that has been upheld. I respectfully request that you please vote NO on Agenda items 6 & 7. Our county can't take any more restrictions or lock downs than we are already enduring. As American citizens we have the freedom to choose what is best for ourself and our families and I believe anyone who is at risk should be free to take whatever precautions they feel is best for them and, equally, those not at risk should not be punished out of the fear of the unknown. I thank you for standing for liberty during this time of immense pressure.

God bless you,
Jonni Ramatatolo

I am emailing in support of additional COVID restrictions. I agree with the vast majority of the local healthcare community in supporting additional restrictions, stronger enforcement and united support for common sense measures such as masks, social distancing and reducing medium/large gatherings in order to get this uncontrolled community spread under control. We want to keep the schools open and not overwhelm our hospital.

Seeing Montana in the national news as one of top states for new Covid cases per 100,000 is incredibly discouraging and disappointing. We can do better for our community.

Thank you,
Chelsea McKoy RN

Good morning,

My name is Jessica Bostock and I live here in Kalispell. I am greatly concerned with items 6 & 7. I ask that you vote NO on these items!

Thank you for your time! We as a community are counting on you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Bostock

Please vote NO on agenda items 6 & 7! We can't lose our freedoms.

Art VanDeraa
Kalispell

I am writing this email in support of the additional proposed restrictions for Covid-19.
We must do everything we can to get the continued community spread under control.

Thank you
Brian McKoy

To Whom It May Concern:

Please vote "NO" on agenda items 6 and 7. My children are counting on you to do the right thing and protect our right to remain unmasked. I know many others have sent eloquent emails with lots of facts and statistics, so I won't restate them. Thank you for reading my email and considering my request. I greatly appreciate it.

Celena M. Clarke

HB people PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!

VOTE NO on Agenda items 6 and 7! We cannot cannot come under more Unconstitutional Tyranny!

Please. Save our County from this evil.

Thank you,

Mrs. James Roskos

I am writing a short plea of huge importance. Please, please vote NO on items 6 and 7 of tomorrows agenda. We must be finished with this nonsense! We do not want further lock-downs and other restrictions. That little children are sent to school in a mask for the entire day is a crime!! This "pandemic" is killing people, but it's not because of a virus. Please stand up for our freedoms.

My mother, the sweetest woman in the world, fell ill during this LIE and I can tell you, the medical system failed her. They failed all of us and we're mad as hell about it. We just laid her to rest. These are crimes against humanity! I am happy to speak with someone should you be curious how covid has taken down our family, and I can't even imagine how many law suits will be rolling around every corner for years and years to come. Someone, is going to have to speak to this and stand responsible.

We the people!

Please, vote no tomorrow. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Kaspersen

Kalispell, MT

Please listen to the doctors, nurses, and public health workers who are asking for help to fight the spread of the virus. I am so tired of hearing about people's constitutional rights in regards to masks and restrictions. It is a public health issue and therefore science needs to be louder then people's opinions.

Please keep politics out of this issue and do what is best for the health of our community. My child and my parents are in the at risk category, and it is beyond frustrating to see such blatant disregard for others. When someone else's choice affects my family's safety, then it is my business. Please do not listen to the anti maskers. Listen to the MEDICAL EXPERTS (To clarify, I do not consider Dr Bukacek an expert. She should have her medical license revoked, be removed from our public health board, and is an embarrassment to this valley).

Thank you for your time,
Allison Rennie
Kalispell resident

Dear Board Members,

PLEASE... vote NO on Agenda Items # 6 and #7.

Marguerite Amstadt, Registered voter and...

tax paying property owner in Whitefish.

Please vote NO on agenda items 6 & 7! It's urgent.

Thank you.

Kathie VanDeraa

Kalispell

Good evening,

I'd like to share my support in favor of masks and other restrictions to help slow the spread of covid. Clearly, the way our numbers are looking currently, it is not the time to loosen things up. We need more people doing the right thing if we're going to be successful in keeping our community healthy.

Thank you,
Emilie Schulze

Dear Health Board Members: ,

Our individual liberty has been infringed on enough so far this year. We want the mandates, lockdowns, and tyranny to stop!

COVID19 has not been isolated, so any test for COVID19 is not a definitive test. ALL the numbers being reported for deaths and cases is speculation, manipulation and deception toward propagating fear and strong-arm tactics. Here's another fact: COVID19 has an over 99% cure rate for most of the population, even taking into account the numbers are all skewed in the first place.

Let me repeat this: COVID19 HAS NOT BEEN ISOLATED. Don't you know that it is impossible to state for fact that a person has COVID19 from any test that now exists? You are either ignorant or you are aware of the fraud and you are silent. Either way, the fraud and the tyranny against people in Flathead needs to come to an end. We do not wish all of this to turn

into mandated vaccination with the dangerous new COVID19 RNA vaccine technology, which can easily happen. We want to retain medical freedom which includes making our own medical choices, including vaccination. If you want the people to remain free Americans you will VOTE NO on your propositions 6 and 7.

To Tamalee Robinson, Health Officer: We don't appreciate your role as an agent of the Governor toward taking our individual liberty/freedom away. We know this is heading us toward forced vaccination. We wish to remain free Americans who choose to improve or implement our own healthcare choices for our own immune systems and bodies to ward off pathogens. We do not appreciate or accept the use of force of unproven means that affect our own personal healthcare or based on the reasoning that it is for someone else's healthcare. The free people of this county will no longer tolerate your tyranny.

Mary Patton of Evergreen

Good Morning,

I am emailing with some questions/comments regarding the proposed gathering restrictions being discussed today (10/15). As a parent of 4 school age kids, and on the board of a local church, we have great interest in the decisions being discussed/made. With regulations changing by the week/month, it is hard to know what to expect/trust/believe. The original mandate to stay home was to slow the spread to allow hospitals time to get ready. This was then followed by the mask mandate for a reason I am not aware of. We are now looking at further restrictions again.

For this reason, we have decided to homeschool our kids for the year and potentially longer. We did not feel like putting our kids through the uncertainty of changing restrictions. I know many others who are in the same boat. Being that kids are not impacted as much, why are we putting so much emphasis on the school aged kids?

Regarding the masks and limited capacity - The masks don't appear to be doing much to stop the virus (after all we are human and can't stop a virus, it will do what we do). I was in Dillon area in mid-September and not many masks were worn. I looked at their numbers and very few cases were reported. Meanwhile, in Flathead and Missoula counties, quite a good percentage of people wear masks in public (90%+??) and numbers continue to go up. I request that we continue to recommend masks but not require them. I request that spacing is encouraged and followed, but not restricting size limits. If we are restricting size, why not 50-75% rather than 25%? This seems quite restrictive and limits our ability to get the real human interaction that we need in this crazy world.

In summary, I request the following:

- ditch the mask mandate, but recommend it
- encourage spacing but don't get crazy (aka 75% rather than 25%), unless spacing is feasible

- work with individual groups to come up with reasonable solutions

Thank you,

Aaron Loukusa

I am a nurse at Krmc and we can not handle any more of this. Please but more restrictions on the valley and reinforce them. We can not handle anymore of this. Please!

Heather Riley RN

Dear Board

Please consider enacting the proposed measures restricting gatherings and restaurant activity in the valley. The spike in cases is extremely concerning, and residents are suffering. It is clear that the average individual is not able to take personal responsibility for the health of our community, and this is why we need you to take action now.

Thank you,
Rachel Grant
Kalispell

I am strongly recommending that there are NO voted to lockdown everything again with heavy restrictions.

I have been hearing/reading that 'cases' are so high that powers that be are calling for severe (unwarranted) measures against THE PEOPLE here in Flathead County. Cases do NOT mean squat. The only thing that matters (and only thing that made a difference in the past with the SWINE FLU, etc) was the illnesses and death CAUSED by the illness itself! We are NOT see that with this COVID-19 plandemic. Per medical research if someone has had a recent flu or cold, they can show positive results for CORONAVIRUS (as it is a baseline for most of our viruses). Now you have 1 active case. If that person goes to the doc and gets tested, now you have 2 cases. It is only one person but it looks better if you show more cases, therefore the 'numbers of cases' are climbing. Therefore data is inaccurate.

According to medical research the number of fault positives are just making the numbers inaccurately higher. Now people are being put in a panic again for less than accurate data and just because power that be can. It is widely known that for each active case an exorbitant amount of money is being forwarded to doctors, hospitals, counties, etc. If I was being promised a great deal of free money if I showed a large number of something, it is easy to find loopholes to make it happen.

The COVID deaths here this year are 23. Statistics show that accidents (not just MVAs) and suicides are higher than that yearly. Nearly all COVID deaths here are in the elderly population in health care facilities with some type of compromised health condition. If they get the flu and die does the death certificate state they died from the flu? Of course not, it is from age, the health problems they were there originally there for or something else. BUT if they test positive (even if false positive) for COVID,

death certificate states they died OF COVID instead of WITH COVID, thus now the scary numbers are climbing again. . . yet again inaccurately. They could have died of loneliness because of the COVID restrictions not to allow HEALTHY family members in to visit their loved ones, I guess you can say COVID killed them as well.

These restrictions that are being proposed have no substantial backing. The commissioners have it right that the masks should be OUR DECISION!. We were told masks if can NOT social distance, not you are wanting us to wear masks no matter what. We were told to wear the mask to protect others of the virus. I am NOT responsible for the rest of the world! According to medical research most viruses can NOT live in a HIGHLY OXYGENATED ENVIRONMENT and by wearing the mask we are depriving our bodies of the oxygen required to live and fight ALL viruses therefore now we are allowing our bodies to be a human petri dish for the virus to thrive.

By limiting people's gatherings at bars, restaurants and churches to 25% is only a way to take away our 1st Amendment rights. Especially Freedom to assemble, and freedom of religion. What else is questionable is that WE are expected to be punished and locked down again but school activities are exempt? where is the logic in that as well as showing that the whole concept of minimizing people gatherings is just a power control and not a health and safety concern.

Businesses are suffering less customers so they have to lay off people which is taking away lively hood for a lot of people, which then causes distention in homes and an increase in domestic violence, suicides, drug and alcohol use to deal with the stress, etc. Then you also have gatherings such as holiday craft shows where some people depend on selling their wares/crafts just to get through the winter months. Again impeding our 1st amendment right of freedom to assemble.

None of what is being suggested is in the best interest of WE THE PEOPLE! It is only power and control from those in power and making you do the dirty work for them so they can get big money but not want to be the bad guy.

Again I am strongly requesting you vote against the restrictions as stated and realize that all viruses have to run their course before it goes away. The masks are not allowing our body the required oxygen to help self-heal and not allowing people to gather is emotionally and spiritually crippling people which proves it is NOT for OUR health and safety, it is continuing to take our God given and Constitutional Rights away!! No man has the right to do that!!!

Thank you for your time,

Debbie Boultinghouse

Please no more lockdowns for our county. We need you to stand for freedom and vote NO on items 6 & 7 on today's agenda. These lockdowns are hurting our economy much more than helping. This tyranny has got to stop. Masking is not helping stop the spread of COVID-19 it was never proven to be effective from the start. Please stop this taking away our freedoms in the name of health. Kristie Poole

Dear Board of Health Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments about your proposed tighter social restrictions in response to the increasing number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the Flathead Valley.

My wife and I are both 71 years old so we are in the age group that is most severely affected by the coronavirus. Since my risk of serious illness or worse is greater than that of younger persons, I hope that my suggestions will be taken very seriously.

I understand the frustration we all share that our valley's COVID numbers are increasing. I understand that all citizens want to see the end of this difficult time. I understand that the members of the board are dedicated to protecting Flathead Valley residents. I understand all that, and do appreciate your dedication to finding a solution to these problems.

That being said I do not support the restrictions that you are proposing.

If I may state the obvious, this is a virus, a highly contagious one, and the truth is that your new restrictions will do very little to slow down its spread and to protect all our citizens. These new restrictions certainly will not serve to totally eliminate this threat. Short of an effective vaccine, this virus, like all viruses throughout history must eventually run its course. That is an unhappy fact, but one that none of us can change.

You on the board, despite your best intentions and efforts cannot simply make this nightmare go away. If you mandated a total shutdown over time, you would dramatically decrease the number of cases. We saw that in the spring of this year. But when would you ever feel confident that you could open the valley up again? Perhaps you would wait to open until that happy day when we have an effective vaccine that is readily available. When will that be? No one knows. How much collateral damage would be done in the meantime? An untold time of deprivation and suffering would be our lot until the lockdown was lifted. There would be unemployment, closed businesses, and empty shelves. There would still be suffering and even death under that scenario, but those afflictions would be caused by factors related to the lockdown, not to the virus. There

would be a loss of income, a loss of community and a loss of hope. We would suffer from deferred care for existing and new medical problems as well as the mental stress of living in a world where hope and optimism turns to dark despair. Instead of looking towards a brighter future, we would see new bouts of mental illness, physical afflictions; social isolation, drug and alcohol excesses; domestic violence; child neglect and child abuse; and possible civil disobedience and rioting.

I understand that a total lockdown is not the path that you are discussing now. However, I contend that what I have described will happen to a subset of our population that you are singling out to bear the heavy costs of your proposed restrictions. Why single out bar owners and patrons, restaurant owners and patrons, churches and worshipers, weddings, funerals, and political gatherings to bear the weight of these burdensome rules? Logically, are not schools, sporting events, retail stores and even grocery stores offering the same opportunity for the spread of the virus? Are not those who participate in the allowed activities likely to be exposed to the virus and to expose others to it in turn? Unfortunately approved activities do not confer immunity.

Isn't it your job to look out for the wellbeing of all of the citizens of our valley? Do you realize that you are picking who will thrive and who will be made to suffer? You probably do not think in those terms, but it may be time for you to take a look at what you are doing and who benefits and who loses.

Do we still live under our US Constitution? Do we still have the Rule of Law? Apparently we no longer retain those protections when your board can so powerfully act as accuser, judge, jury and executioner.

Do local churches no longer have the right to practice their religion? Do local political groups no longer have the right to assemble and speak freely? The Constitution was written to establish and to protect those very rights, but apparently these protections have now been silently repealed..

I understand that you feel that you must do something. There are options. Have you explored The Great Barrington Declaration? It was written by world renowned epidemiologists who propose that we protect the venerable and allow the rest of society live their lives. This Declaration has recently gained media attention and considerable support and from members of the medical community and would be a valuable resource as you make your decisions.

I ask you to please leave me, my family and our fellow citizens free to live our lives as we choose. We know the risks of the virus and we are capable of making informed, personal

decisions to act avoid those risks. We are also capable of accepting those risks where we see a greater good such as friends, family, religion and country. You can trust us and our fellow citizens to do what is right for ourselves and for our community.

Please make your decisions with wisdom, not from fear.

Thank you.

Joseph O'Rourke

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

I first want to thank you for your time and allowing me to speak my opinion. I request that this letter be included in the official meeting minutes and on record with the Health Department meeting on October 15, 2020.

I am a proud wife of a veteran who served as a United States Navy Seabee. For those that are unaware of what that means, he did not step foot on a ship. He was what the military calls "boots on ground". He deployed seven times for our country. Three of which were physically and emotionally exhausting combat tours; one year in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and two in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. He is now a highly decorated Veteran who is proud to have served his country and put his life on the line for yours. Every time I see his face, I am thankful that he's alive and by my side.

This year is upsetting for all of us, but especially our Veterans...when they get home from fighting in wars, they should be allowed to enjoy the simple things in life and feel proud of what they fought for. Whether that's watching a high school sports game, walking into a public place without a mask, their kids being allowed to attend school unmasked or an event of more than 25 people, etc. As of now they can't even go to their grandchild's or other family member's sporting events or graduation because of the rules you decided to put in place. Did any of you serve in the military or fight in a war? Do you understand how disgraceful to our Veterans your decisions are? America is supposed to be a free nation. This needs to change, not only for the family members who want to attend but for the students. They *need* to be at these social events and support their fellow classmates.

On another note - when a committee comes together and speaks of the long time rule of coughing and sneezing into your elbow and then in the same document suggests a new fad of elbow bumping, it makes me question the committee and school board. The mere lack of common sense and knowledge is why I don't have confidence in your decisions for OUR kids. I not only called Central Office but spoke to the health department in the past two weeks. Micah Hill hasn't returned either of my calls. The Health Department said it wasn't right that my daughter was kicked out of school for wearing the mask under her nose while having a panic attack nor that Remote Learning was the only option for kids with

a medical condition. However, I was hung up on when I brought up the elbow bumps.

At this point, I demand REAL answers with factual statistics. Last year I received an email regarding the excessive amount of absences in school district 5. The number of kids not in school was higher than this year with the so-called pandemic. Can you explain that to parents and students or would you rather continue to take their childhood away? Can you imagine not attending sports events as a teenager or choosing who gets to watch you participate?? Quite frankly, it's unacceptable and you are choosing to put more pressure on teens. Last year the world was pushing kids to get off social media and be more personal...this year you are pushing them in the opposite direction. You are forcing remote learning if a child has a medical issue and struggles wearing a mask. How is that providing the constitutional right to fair education? Not everyone can learn in a remote environment. It is discrimination, to say the least.

Less than 1% of FHS students have been infected with COVID. Did you threaten to shut down the school, restrict spectators at sports or require masks with the seasonal flu, MONO or strep throat running ramped in the past few years? Yes, people with underlying conditions are more at risk, as with any sickness. The strength of a virus depends on the strength or weakness of the host. Students and parents have the right to make their own decisions and live their life. Stop taking that away. Last time I checked, there is not a written Regulation in the Montana Annotated Code that requires an individual to wear a mask, restricts the number of people at a gathering or restricts spectators at a high school event. My father-in-law has COPD, diabetes and congestive heart failure. He's the one person we were worried about contracting the Corona Virus because we worry about him even coming down with the common cold. One Monday morning he went to the fairgrounds for a Covid Test and was told it came back negative. He went to an Urgent Care and was sent to the hospital because of his oxygen levels being low (which has happened MANY times in the past). The next day, Tuesday, he was swabbed for yet another Covid Test and it somehow came back positive late that evening...whether he had Covid-19 or not is unclear to us but if he did and it is in fact as deadly as the Health Department says it is, he's the one person who shouldn't have survived it. Please stop scaring the public and causing judgement to those who can not wear a mask and those that don't want to be separated from family & friends. Please stop taking childhood memories away and someone's individuality.

In closing, I have two questions:

1. On the School District 5 website it states active Covid and quarantine cases. Where do these numbers come from?
2. If the masks work, why do students have to quarantine?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you make the right decision in today's meeting and don't make restrictions worse than they already are.

Sincerely,

Jess Micklewright

As a mom of youth I ask you to please vote no on actions 6 & 7, let us be able to help our children's mental health by not continuing to impose isolation measures. I have personal health concerns, and am managing my health risks while trying to still allow them to have social interactions and maintain Import relationships.

Thank you for your public service.

KelleySue Bain

Dear Health Board Members,

I strongly encourage you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

Restrictions on social activities and gatherings is unlawful according to both the United States Bill of Rights and the Montana State Constitution. Numerous locations such as South Dakota and Sweden have not undertaken restrictions such as mask mandates and lockdowns and the death rates of these places is equivalent or lower than the United States Death overall death rate. In addition herd immunity is able to grow much more rapidly in a healthy unrestricted population as it has in Sweden. The risk of death or serious harm to those under 70 and without major health conditions is essentially zero. Literally thousands of doctors, scientists, health professionals and even Nobel Laureate have all spoken out regarding the extreme harm and devastation lockdowns have caused. The rise in unemployment alone from forced shutdowns directly leads to increases in suicides, depression, child abuse, ect.. We can protect the vulnerable as well as ourselves without government overreach, loss of personal rights and the suppression of our economy. We as American's value our freedom and take pride in our personal responsibility, we must not sacrifice our humanity and freedom for the facade of some imaginary world without any risk. In conclusion I urge you to vote no on the following orders.

Vote No On

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19–

Vote No On

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you for your time

Pat Staunton

I urge you to vote NO on the following proposals:

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of Covid-19

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size

I have read the letter sent to you by Julie Martin, RN BSN, ACN (copy attached) and agree with it 100%.

Also attached is a timely article by a WHO official regarding lockdowns.

Please respect our constitutional rights and vote NO.

Catherine Staunton
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Dear Pamela Holmquist, Ardis Larsen, Ronalee Skees

You must vote "NO" on items 6 and 7 of the health boards' Oct. 15th agenda. There is no justification for the lockdowns, masks and social distancing for these past months. Adding more unconstitutional restrictions will only cause more harm to our society and there is no proof showing that these measures have helped to stop a so-called a deadly virus, which has never been proven to exist.

<https://blog.nomorefakenews.com/2020/10/12/the-fake-coronavirus-and-the-missing-study-the-secret-in-plain-sight/>

Never in the history of these United States have any of these drastic measures been forced upon the whole population in even the worst pandemic. Forcing healthy people to stay home from work, not go to church, not be able to visit family members who are sick and even attend a loved one's funeral is criminal. Healthy people should not have to hide behind a mask because we're terrified of every virus that may or may not come along. Living a healthy lifestyle and building up the amazing immune system we've been given is the way to face any viral infection and acquire immunity. Masks will never make a virus go away, or protect you from getting one.

<https://www.theblaze.com/op-ed/horowitz-lied-to-dramatically-about-masks>

<https://www.sott.net/article/434796-The-Science-is-Conclusive-Masks-and-Respirators-do-NOT-Prevent-Transmission-of-Viruses?fbclid=IwAR3zH5UIm4ZZFmU--cRxUQAIXEy0bezE-nnQrQaQCI7Ha2ofEgypHJEEeL4>

Please take time to read these links and do some hard research. Even WHO officials have stated that Covid-19 is no more dangerous than the common flu. https://off-guardian.org/2020/10/08/who-accidentally-confirms-covid-is-no-more-dangerous-than-flu/?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=87e289e8b7d8be28d0c6828f18baf7605dc5708e-1602632904-0-AXUMQUxIu24bxi1GAA73iGG7G3YMGIX9MORvK3lfp7FmvpffplD0Cq6bqxeilzmc_73pPm116h8IRWyOgCrxmtqIIYR2TQHemKu0Qf4D4NoFo17sRUWx7QgE17W0TdA65x4NOgzFWOt0rFBAwUeqCKsxW7lpOR4b4_Jolj9IEjwQptASZEzoxX1A9iBQ3K7ZFFH75yPSrKRoreuqyN7rfjuXc1Gyj-QupOFqYvmO3Ckm1uB9lcGL15JEsZsGR9YGO-56kNQjopZmIMDqqPXe_-PeE-xidDcESr5QQXBJYh76ZxaGG9uSQNHtgJWN73W5BQeiHxD4OmBEPZmucje3zxZBAnR4KNpbONyLGtxsmY9QU2r17vngGnD830sFAEdyw

You should definitely also take note of the class action suit that is gaining ground against those in gov't positions that are promoting the Covid-19 agenda.

Crimes Against Humanity In Corona Scandal: Attorney Dr. Reiner Fuellmich

Class action suit

<https://www.ageofautism.com/2020/10/crimes-against-humanity-in-corona-scandal-attorney-dr-reiner-fuellmich.html>

Please, you MUST Vote Against more draconian measures to limit our ability to meet and congregate. Stating an arbitrary number of people allowed to meet together is pointless. If we get sick we stay home- that's common sense. Don't restrict healthy people from living life freely and sensibly.

Thank you, Carol, Doug & Carolyn Smith, residents of Kalispell

. Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost beyond repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

So once again I Urge you to Vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqueline Johnson

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Items 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost behind repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks.

Please note The Great Berrington Declaration is thousands of doctors scientists and citizens from around the world standing up to the devastation that lockdowns are causing to mental health. Please see this link

<https://gbdeclaration.org/#read>

Sincerely Trish Pandina local business owner and Mother to 4 children in SD5.

Dear members of the board.

Please see my letter regarding my position on the proposals from the Department of Health. These demands are quite extreme, therefore my letter is very direct. Many of us are fed up with the abuses of authority imposed upon us by government officials. As citizens, we have been quite patient and extremely tolerant of government overreach and the trampling of our freedoms, to the point where we are literally in the position of asking permission to exercise our God Given Liberties. Many of us are through with it as we are continually disrespected, abused and mistreated as tax paying citizens.

Hannah Karev

Dear board member

I strongly urge you to vote No on proposals 6 & 7

Too much damage has already been done to our economy by these emergency orders. I don't know how many of the restaurants can take more restrictions without going bankrupt. The churches are suffering as well, limiting their attendance to 25% capacity will not help the situation as well as infringing on our right of freedom to worship.

As time goes on there is growing evidence that these measures do no work and may be making matters worse. We need to move past the liberty threatening measures and allow herd immunity to be reached. The mortality rate of this illness is much less than we were led to believe. For those who think that they are vulnerable they can stay home if they please, it is time to stop punishing the healthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Yager

I am asking that you will please vote no on proposal 6 and 7 thank you for your time

Tabitha Hicks

I am writing to urge you to vote "NO" on the proposed Health Officer Order and the County Proposal for Reducing the Spread that will be voted on tomorrow.

Additional restrictions on our small businesses, churches, and community members will be financially as well as emotionally and psychologically devastating. It is becoming a well known fact that even with the current lockdowns, gathering restrictions, and mask mandates, the spread is not slowing. These measures are causing irreparable damage with no end in sight and additional unconstitutional measures will only further devastate our community, as well as our country. What is the end game with Covid-19? If we implement the proposed measures and the positive cases remain at the same level or even continue to increase, will you then extend the restrictions for an additional 30 days? What will this do to business owners and employees in our valley? How can you mandate the service industry to cut back on 75% of its business and expect them to survive on 25%? How can you tell a Church that only 25% of its members can receive spiritual care and fellowship? At what point will the healthy low risk citizens, the majority of the population, be able to resume living and provide for their families? The cost of living in this Valley is only increasing. It is hard enough for families to make a living and survive here without placing restrictions on their financial and emotional livelihoods.

Never has a virus been politicized to the degree that Covid -19 has. I am sure that you are being inundated with conflicting statistics and data. Please consider that with the rise in positive cases in the Valley, that testing has also greatly increased. Please consider that even if a test is positive, that a person may be asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms. Please also consider that 20% of testing has been false positives. And please remember that achieving herd immunity is the key to bringing an end to this virus. I ask that you vote with common sense and integrity to protect the citizens of the Flathead Valley from the detrimental long term side effects of Covid-19 shutdowns and mandates.

If you have time, I urge you to read the Great Barrington Declaration that was written by three disease epidemiologists from Harvard, Oxford, and Stanford Universities, <https://gbdeclaration.org/>. This declaration reinforces what has been known for months about Covid-19, that the shut downs are ineffective and are having catastrophic consequences that will be seen for years and years to come. The only way this virus will ever plateau, will be when we have reached herd immunity, which will be impossible to do if we keep restricting healthy people. 94% of people who died with Covid-19 have had pre-existing and contributing conditions. Shouldn't those who are considered high risk be the ones taking additional protective measures? According to the Barrington Declaration, "The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk."

Thank you for your time and for letting my voice be heard

Sincerely,

Andrea DeShazer

Thank you kindly for taking the time to read my request and response to our current health, social and economic crisis. I am writing to request your "NO vote" on item #6 for the meeting on 10-15-2020. This crisis is a man made crisis of epic proportions that has caused harm across each generation of humanity on this planet. Sure that sounds grand, but that's where we are. All data must be considered when making complete, well rounded, and wide sweeping decisions for the people of our community. I would strongly urge you to begin considering the data that has been available for a considerable amount of time. I will include links for below.

1- There is a considerable amount of research (long standing at that) that states mask DO NOT PROHIBIT the spread of viral aerosol.

2- There are countless studies done that isolating humans is torture. Leaving people to die along in nursing homes with out the love of their family is inhumane at best. Regardless of the fact, you do it for a virus that has such an incredibly high survival rate amongst the majority of the population.

3- Limiting humanities ability to pursue happiness through work, to obtain accomplishment, dignity, success, income, camaraderie, and social interaction is tyrannical and violates our constitutional rights as citizens of this country.

4- Continuing the mask mandate is detrimental to the physical health, mental health and social health of individuals, regardless of their level of fear perpetuated and implemented by many local, state and federal leadership and nation wide media with a social and psychological agenda that is set on violating our constitutional rights as citizens of this country.

5- Ethically, this situation is dire. We need our amazing countrymen and countrywomen to stand for our constitution, to stand for humanities right to pursue happiness, to live life, to have the right to work without oppression and tyranny, the right to allow our kids to breath again without "hiding in the corner of the classroom to sneak a breath while the teacher is not watching". My son now considers a "happy day at school" one in which he can breathe better. One in which, he is not being scanned for his temperature against his will, by personnel that are not even medically trained, one in which he still is allowed to go to school and be with children his own

age without the social oddities of, social distancing, mask wearing, and random and ineffective quarantines.

6- We all know the testing is inaccurate at best. Testing does not indicate hospital beds filled by coronavirus patients. We also know that the hospital's beds are filled with many patients who are receiving non-coronavirus care. Continuing to ramp rhetoric that this virus is out of control and that the infection rates are devastating the community, is an egregious travesty of leadership, trust and care of the community.

We need leadership that protects this community and our historical way of life and right to pursue happiness. Not leadership that "follows the herd" off a cliff and caused more damages than the virus it's self.

VOTE NO ON:

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Sincerely,

Heather and Wes Boone

Data for submission.

Isolation: I could provide a slew of articles to support my position, but in the respect for time and all others included in your meeting, I will submit only three. Please know that isolation, mental illness due to loneliness and suicide are something we have the power to seriously turn around right now! Not tomorrow, or the next day, right now. People are counting on us to do the right thing. We must act in their best interest and that is love, kindness and personal interaction without a face mask.

<https://www.webmd.com/men/features/lonely-guys-isolation>

<http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/156560#:~:text=Isolation%20from%20other%20human%20beings%20is%20used%20in,and%20when%20he%20does%20it%20is%20his%20torturers.>

<https://medicalkidnap.com/2020/08/17/cia-social-isolation-torture-techniques-next-stage-involuntary-quarantines-in-fema-non-congregate-shelters/>

Mask ineffectiveness

Here are 17 Medical Articles proving that masks are not only useless, but also dangerous.

1) “There is little evidence to support the effectiveness of face masks to reduce the risk of infection.” https://www.cambridge.org/.../face_masks_to_prevent...

2) “...laboratory-confirmed viral infections were significantly higher in the cloth masks group. Virus particle penetration was almost 97%. ...the results caution against the use of cloth masks.. Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks, and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection.”

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1435...>

3) “...surgical and handmade masks, and face shields, generate significant leakage jets that have the potential to disperse virus-laden fluid particles by several meters.They all showed an intense backward jet for heavy breathing and coughing conditions. It is important to be aware of this jet, to avoid a false sense of security that may arise when standing to the side of, or behind, a person wearing a surgical, or handmade mask, or shield.”

<https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2005/2005.10720.pdf...>

4) JAMA: “Face masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill.”

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762694...>

5) “Face mask use in health care workers has not been demonstrated to provide benefit in terms of cold symptoms or getting colds.” <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/>

relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection.”

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../j.1750-2659.2011...>

13) A 2017 meta-analysis of 23 studies and six controlled trials found, as did the current 2020 analysis, that yet again there was bias in studies that claimed masks provide protective benefits. The analysis removed the bias and concluded that that masks are not effective: “Self-reported assessment of clinical outcomes was prone to bias. Evidence of a protective effect of masks or respirators against verified respiratory infection (VRI) was not statistically significant.”

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567...>

14) Even in May 2020 the CDC (yes, the CDC) published an analysis of several studies that notes the ineffectiveness of hand washing and mask wearing for prevention of influenza infection and transmission. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article...

15) From the CDC, again: “Available evidence shows that (cloth masks)... may even increase the risk of infection due to moisture, liquid diffusion and retention of the virus. Penetration of particles through cloth is reported to be high... Altogether, common fabric cloth masks are not considered protective against respiratory viruses and their use should not be encouraged.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/.../hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html...>

16) Four authors of this scientific analysis of numerous publications has stood since 2011:

“None of the studies established a conclusive relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection.”

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/...>

17) Top EU health officials also agree that masks are pseudoscientific. <https://fee.org/.../europes-top-health-officials-say.../...>

Regards,

Heather Boone

I urge you to vote NO on Agenda items 6 and 7. To do anything else would put us in the category of communist California where many people are accustomed to the boot of tyranny on their necks. Isn't the Flathead Valley of Montana better than California, New York?

1. A “case” simply means a COVID (+) test; the person with the (+) test may be completely asymptomatic or have minor cold symptoms. The current death “rate” of 1.1 per 100 positive tests should give you an idea of the low level of illness of those who test (+). The term “cases” is being used by government officials and media to fear monger the populace that lacks a basic understanding of influenza.

2. The CDC admits the genetic material for a novel virus has not been isolated; the genetic material amplified with PCR testing could be any corona virus or no virus at all. Corona viruses are

ubiquitous, have been identified as the cause of the common cold” estimated 25-35% of the time and on occasion were considered the cause of death in years past. People with the sniffles and/or common colds caused by a strain of corona virus are wrongly being counted as positive for CoV19 that has not been proven to exist.

Kary B. Mullis, who received a Nobel Prize for developing PRC testing, said it was misleading for the diagnosis of infectious disease. Why are we limiting our residents’ freedom based upon a mis-purposed test? The CDC document dated 7/13/2020 entitled “CDC 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel”<https://www.fda.gov/media/134922/download> on page 39 section “Performance Characteristics” states: “Since no qualified virus isolates of the 2019-nCoV are currently available, assays (diagnostic tests) designed for detection of the 2019-nCoV RNA were tested with characterized stocks of in vitro transcribed full length RNA...” The following is an excellent 6 minute clip about CoV PCR testing<https://www.facebook.com/101104154915405/videos/382229446075691>

3. Since virtually all hospitalized patients are tested and the health department is not privy to details, **we cannot ascertain if a hospitalization is truly COVID-related or even a necessary hospitalization.**

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Scotia Brosnan

Kalispell Montana

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost behind repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

So once again I Urge you to Vote No on the Following.

6. [Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](#)– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Madelene Howard,RN

I'm writing to request you vote NO on the following:

6. [Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](#)– ACTION REQUIRED

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

The above items further infringe on our first amendment rights of freedom of speech, or of the press, freedom of religion and the right for people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The scandemic/casedemic was orchestrated at Event 201 on October 18, 2019, at a tabletop simulation. A large number of us are aware of the plan to squelch our Constitutional rights while crashing the economy behind the scenes.

I strongly urge you to vote NO.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Scotia Brosnan

Kalispell Montana

I received the following copy from a friend -- I believe she states quite well the desire of myself and most citizens of the Flathead Valley.

I also urge you to VOTE NO on agenda items #6 & 7 in today's meeting.

Thank you,

Stephanie Holtmeyer

Forwarded letter:

Please vote NO on items COVID related items in the linked meeting agenda, <https://flatheadhealth.org/agenda/>.

We need to maintain our First Amendment rights of free speech, to assemble, for religious expression, and to petition our government for grievances.

- 1) We have crippled our economy, almost behind repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The death rate does not even come close to a pandemic.

4) Masks have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our older folks. Children are suffering, and I know people suffering from the required mask mandate, whose chronic conditions have worsened.

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more liberties taken away?

Montanans are smart enough to see through the double standards and hypocrisy, and you have the opportunity as officials, to maintain the trust of the community, or lose it.

We can be an example of a legitimate response to Covid and a strong and free state, against draconian measures.

Montanans have had enough of lockdowns and loss of employment and small business.

So once again I urge you to vote **No** on the Following.

6. [Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](#)–
ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Ming Lovejoy Munzing

Kalispell, MT

Montana employs more people as a percentage (nearly 70%) by small business than any other state. Cash flow is the primary reason that small businesses fail. Capacity levels reduced to 25% do not support operations of any business let alone small businesses employing the majority of the state. And let's be serious, closing small business at an arbitrary time is nonsensical.

"We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus," Dr. David Nabarro.

VOTE NO ON: 6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON: 7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Do not penalize healthy people by restricting their movement and choice. High risk groups should protect themselves adequately and appropriately. My Body - My Choice.

David Thompson

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost behind repair.
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- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

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VOTE NO ON:

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Scott & Susan Clapper of Kila Montana.

Dear Flathead City-County Board of Health:

I am grateful for your wise and caring leadership and the wise and caring leadership of the Flathead City-County Health Department in this difficult time in our community.

I am the pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell. I am concerned about the rapidly rising numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the Flathead. I support the Department's October 9, 2020 proposal for further restrictions on in-person gatherings in our community. Our local church needs the wisdom and guidance of this proposal.

I appreciate your consideration.

Peace,

Rev. Karen S. McRae, Ordained Elder

Epworth United Methodist Church

Dear Health Board Members,

We implore you to Vote NO on Item's 6 and 7

When voting I urge you to carefully consider this powerful and pertinent 4 day old report from the Washington Examiner: The World Health Organization's special envoy on COVID-19 urged world leaders this week to stop "using lockdowns as your primary control method."

"We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus," Dr. David Nabarro said to The Spectator's Andrew Neil. "The only time we believe a lockdown is justified is to buy you time to reorganize, regroup, rebalance your resources, protect your health workers who are exhausted, but by and large, we'd rather not do it."

The report goes on to say "In the United States, lockdowns have been tied to increased thoughts of suicide from children, a surge in drug overdoses, an uptick in domestic violence, and a study conducted

in May concluded that stress and anxiety from lockdowns could destroy seven times the years of life that lockdowns potentially save."

"Earlier this week, thousands of medical health experts signed their names to a petition calling for the end of coronavirus lockdowns, citing the "irreparable damage" they've caused."

The link to the full report is here: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/who-official-urges-world-leaders-to-stop-using-lockdowns-as-primary-virus-control-method/ar-BB19TBUo>

WHO official urges world leaders to stop using lockdowns as primary virus control method

The World Health Organization's special envoy on COVID-19 urged world leaders this week to stop "using lockdowns as your primary control method." "We in the World Health Organization do ...

www.msn.com

Thank you for your service to the good people of the great state of Montana.

Sincerely,

Michael and Amber Sutter

Proud residents of Flathead County Montana

Please vote NO on 10/15/20 agenda items #6 and #7.

WHY is the Flathead City-County Health Board even considering more restrictions on the residents of Flathead County? The numbers and statistics do not add up. "Covid-19" is no more harmful than the seasonal flu. (See these reports from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [WHO](https://www.who.int)).

Any "yes" vote for agenda items #6 and #7 will show that the individual is a tyrant who enjoys ruling other people's lives and who refuses to research and examine the data.

Rather than imposing MORE restrictions, the Health Board should be voting to remove the current restrictions that are currently in place.

Precedents are being set by State Supreme Courts in other states (PA and MI), who ruled that the emergency orders of the governors in those states were unconstitutional. It is only a matter of time before the Montana Supreme Court rules the same.

It is high time each of you start voting on the side of what is right.

Sincerely,

Julie Baldrige

Kalispell

Dear members of the Board of Health, Flathead County.

This is a letter in response to the following proposals from the Department of Health.

<https://flatheadhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Proposal-for-Reducing-the-Spread.pdf>

<https://flatheadhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Event-Health-Officer-Order-10.9.20-FINAL-1.pdf>

To be frank, these proposals appear to be completely ideologically and politically motivated. The statistics given by the Department of Health are from its own database and the DPHHS. Two partisan government sources who have much to gain in presenting this Data.

First, I find it alarming that the data presented is still being presented in this fashion and that any other data that may disprove or contradict these statistics is conveniently disregarded; even data from the CDC which has been unreliable and self-contradictory at times too. In no way is this Scientific Objectivity and to claim it is would be fraudulent. What I see here is an approach to use select statistics to convince others without disclosing all available information necessary to make the most informed decision possible. Even more alarming, is the eagerness to use this select data to deprive people their livelihood and basic individual freedoms. It's as if the Department of Health, has this as their real Objective because that is what the data appears to actually represent, especially when combined with the outrageous requests to increase their authority to the level they demand.

What's in question here? the actual fatality rate without premorbidities, the actual infection rate, which is impossible to know, the accuracy of tests and the effectiveness of these extreme proposals by the Department of Health. Moreover, the secondary and post-secondary adverse effects of trying to implement such policies. There is scientific evidence that is contrary to all the Department of Health's claims and they are from multiple, reliable scientific sources but, they are deliberately excluded here!

I can elaborate if you wish?

Finally, there is the complete bureaucratic approach to this. Whereas unelected officials who suffer no consequences themselves and lack any empathy in how their decisions affect real people's lives, can dictate whether a citizen can conduct business, commerce or assemble freely and peaceably. This cold-hearted clinical approach is typical of the order-giving public servant. The Department of Health and

other county officials march on with full salary while this department harasses the very citizens paying their salaries. We just want to live our lives freely and earn a living. The whole concept of this is against the Declaration of Independence and has been written into law in the United States Constitution. The Department of health needs a lesson in humility and respect for the people in claims to serve!

Suggestions:

- 1.) I propose their salaries be reduced at least 25% or 40% such as mine was. They need to feel the consequences for their actions and the lack of tax revenue produced because of their threats of fines and punishment.
- 2.) The business owners and tax paying citizens do not need to tolerate this kind of abuse of authority or infringement upon their liberty. They should disregard any order or threat a public health officer tries to impose upon them regarding this Chinese Virus.
- 3.) The citizens need to hold the Flathead County Health Department liable for damages to their lives. The Department has quoted inaccurate or incomplete data and uses that data to seize authority, causing economic, mental and physical harm to individuals.

My position regarding the Proposals by the Department of Health regarding this virus: I am an American and proud of it. Therefore, I do not comply with tyranny even when faced with threats or uses of force. I actively convince others to take the same stance. Right now, the biggest threat we face here in Flathead County is the seizure of authority and concentration of power by the Department of Health.

I will not obey any such order by any health officer, and I will probably advise them on where to put those orders if ever approached.

I will not comply with orders stating where I can go and how long I can be there. Nor will I comply with orders stating what size crowds I can be part of.

I will not comply with orders stating how I can worship in a church among peers

I will not comply with orders stating what distance I must keep between myself and others

I will not comply with orders telling me to wear a mask, something I proudly say that I have never complied with and never will.

I will not comply with any mandate requiring vaccinations even when faced with the use of force.

Regards, Hannah Karev

WHO: Lockdowns Make Poor People Poorer, etc

WHO warns against COVID-19 lockdowns due to economic damage and Health official calls for halting lockdowns (10/8/20)

Dr. David Nabarro, the World Health Organization's special covid-19 envoy: "We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus ... The only time we believe a lockdown is justified is to buy you time to reorganize, regroup, rebalance your resources, protect your health workers who are exhausted, but by and large, we'd rather not do it.

"Lockdowns just have one consequence that you must never, ever belittle, and that is making poor people an awful lot poorer ... Just look at what's happened to the tourism industry in the Caribbean, for example, or in the Pacific because people aren't taking their holidays ... Look what's happened to smallholder farmers all over the world. Look what's happening to poverty levels. It seems that we may well have a doubling of world poverty by next year. We may well have at least a doubling of child malnutrition."

Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA

Kalispell MT 59901

Good morning!

I am writing to you urging you to No on the following:

6. proposal for health office order: reducing the spread of COVID-19

7. Health officer order for limiting event size

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When this virus broke out this spring, we were told the restrictions were flattening the curve. Obviously, we are beyond that point by far. I have not been told what the point of these further restrictions is now? Our jobs and businesses we have spent years building have been ruined by these restrictions and further restrictions could push them beyond the point of repair. We have seen that although this virus has been hard for some, it has proven, thankfully to not be as deadly as first thought.

I'll tell you the point of these restrictions..It's a great excuse for the government to overreach and control every single aspect of our lives. It's a great opportunity for the government to operate in secret (how many of these government meetings have been moved online). One cannot help but think that this is intentional. Why not meet at the fairgrounds where there is plenty of room for people? The government has been elected to represent us and protect our freedoms. They are doing neither with these proposals. These restrictions promise safety in exchange for our freedom. In the end, we will have neither.

~Joanna

--

Joanna Adams

Joanna Adams Photography

Kalispell, MT 59901

I'm writing to appeal to you to vote NO on today's agenda numbers 6 and 7. We the people have had enough of lockdowns, tyranny and our God given FREEDOM being compromised. I know you deserve and desire that too FREEDOM. Thank you for doing the right thing for our valley and country. Trina Ambrose.

Montanans have had enough of the loss of employment and destruction of small businesses. Vote NO on restricting businesses and gatherings. The existing "mandate" is absolute nonsense. The death rate doesn't come close to that required to call this a pandemic.

Julie Patz

I totally support the content of Julie Martin's well written letter. Please....vote no on continuing restrictions on the citizens of Flathead County! Unmask us. Unmask our children. The imposed restrictions are harmful and definitely not necessary. Thank you. Susie Moore

Please vote to raise the restrictions to help prevent the spread of the Corona Covid 19 Virus.
Thank you For all you do for our County, Diana Jo Page

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Items 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost behind repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks.

I am a local business owner, I am a parent of 2 children in Flathead high school. The initial lock down in March caused my children to become depressed. In fact it depressed my whole family our income went down 90% for that month so it affected our overall Income for the year about 10% March is one of our biggest months. I cannot even fathom that happening again it's bad enough my children are forced to wear masks every day which are detrimentally affecting their health in ways that the medical community is now just beginning to understand. Please see the attachments to this email The 1st attachment is a letter from the AMA Which clearly States "Healthy individuals should not wear masks". The 2nd attachment is from the CDC showing a recent study that individuals wearing masks are much

more likely to contract covid individuals not wearing masks. The 3rd and final attachment is a document from osha. This document has been around a long time. Basically if a business is requiring an employee to wear PPE which is over their nose and mouth Affecting their respiration. That employee 1st has to fill out this questionnaire and go see a doctor just to make sure that they are physically fit and healthy enough to wear a mask. However without having everyone evaluated by a physician to determine this the Governor thinks it's OK to make a directive telling everyone to wear the mask. The Govonor is not a doctor. If you look at his exemptions it clearly States medical exemption. Therefore people should not be forced to wear mask until they've been medically evaluated that it's actually safe for them to do so. They will still be complying by the Governor's directive and are medically exempt until their evaluation.

Furthermore the county commissioners have recently called into question the constitutionality of lockdowns and directives. Please let the Constitution weigh heavily on your decision.

Have you heard of the Great Barrington Declaration? Thousands of scientists doctors and members of the world are signing this Declaration. This Declaration was written by scientists and doctors and speaks of the Negative side effects of lock downs far out weighing the positive benefits. Please read <https://gbdeclaration.org/#read>

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

So once again I Urge you to Vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIREDVOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Shaun Pandina of Kalispell Montana.

Dear Flathead City County Health Board members.

Please vote no on agenda items 6&7. Here we go again, not one mention of our Clivil Liberties, just the heavy hand of government striking down our lives, liberty and property without any recourse or due process. You should be ashamed of yourselves. The men and women who gave all to secure the limited liberties we have left are surely rolling over in their graves. I won't ramble on, there's no point. Vote no.

Dan Manson

Kalispell

I, as a resident of Flathead county, ask that you vote no on items 6 and 7 of the health office order for limiting event sites.

History has shown in pandemic situation that lockdowns and mask mandates are not effective.

In 1918 the Spanish Flu pandemic hit the USA. Mask mandates and lockdowns were implemented. Approximately 675,000 mask wearing, locked down Americans died.

In 2003 a world pandemic hit known as SARS, the very heart of The Covid19 virus. No lockdowns were put in place. No mask mandates were put in place. People with symptoms did what they felt was best. Worldwide, less than 800 people died.

In 2006 Dr. Fauci and the CDC "recreated " the 1918 Spanish Flu virus and it became known as H1N1.

In 2009, the H1N1 virus broke out, The very virus that killed 675,000 people in 1918. Yet no lockdowns were put in place and no mask mandates were put in place. Less than 13,000 Americans died of the 2009 outbreak without masks or lockdown, yet the very same virus killed almost 53 times that with masks and lockdowns.

Now we have Covid19, which is derived from the 2003 SARS pandemic. With the forced wearing of masks and forced lockdowns, Montana Governor Steven Bullock, his Covid19 Task force and the DHHS have killed more than 1/4 of the people that died worldwide of the 2003 pandemic . Blood is on your hands as well with the continuing of the lockdowns and mask mandates. Only you can change this.

I urge you to vote no today on the health office order for limiting event sites and ask that you remove the mask mandate for Flathead County. Don't let Bullock force you into being a part of him killing Montanans.

Respectfully

Katherine Hanson

Limiting the capacity of worshippers is a **violation** of our first amendment right to religion and assembly. This is hypocrisy while you are allowing restaurants, schools, and other institutions to remain open.

Giorgio Navarini,

Kalispell MT

Why I will not comply with any regulation

Lauralee O'Neil

Kalispell, Montana

Dear Members of the Flathead County Health Board,

On behalf of my parish community of St. Herman's Orthodox Church here in Kalispell, I would like to express our thanks for your work within the community. May God guide and strengthen you in these trying times.

Having first read the local media reports and now the text of the proposal submitted to you by the Health Department for increased restrictions on the public due to COVID-19, we would like to express our strongest objections to this new order and ask you not to implement it for the following reasons:

1. It is an unequal application of the law, and anti-religious.
2. It deals only with COVID, and not the whole range of health issues that are currently affecting people in our community.
3. It utilizes a questionable model of responding to the virus.

Firstly, the forced reduction of many business and houses of worship to 25% capacity, while leaving schools, their activities and sports events, untouched is an unfair and unequal application of the law. Whether intended or not, it smacks of anti-religious bias and demonstrates a lopsided commitment to one aspect of our community while denigrating other essential elements. Not only is this bad governance, the proposal also represents a completely compromised approach as its application is not universal and will therefore not be effective.

Secondly, this proposal is problematic as it considers only one set of data – COVID-19 infection rates – while ignoring everything else. For example, ministers of every kind within this community have noticed a serious increase in mental health crises, anxiety-related issues, suicidal ideations, and a general deterioration of overall personal health within our communities as a direct result of the lockdown policies and restrictions. Health cannot simply be measured by whether or not we have avoided getting a virus. Many people's lives have been devastated in the last several months by a variety of factors and to tell them that they cannot have free access to their support systems nor seek solace in their worship and faith community is completely wrong-headed, ignorant of humanity, and will have seriously negative effects in the long term.

Finally, these restrictions represent a model of responding to COVID–19 that is being questioned by countless professionals within the field. Scientists, doctors, epidemiologists and health professionals across the spectrum are now admitting that lockdowns do not seem to accomplish any definite good in the short-term or in the long-run. A good example of this new line of thinking can be found in the Great Barrington Declaration, signed by dozens of internationally respected scientists and physicians from both sides of the political spectrum, some people of faith and some not. The point is, there are serious questions about the efficacy of widespread lockdowns. But while we don't really know if lockdowns actually work or not to slow the spread of COVID-19, we do know for a fact the lockdowns hurt people and do serious damage to the people and businesses of our community.

Though we understand that we didn't know any better at the time and needed to act to avoid a true COVID-19 disaster, many people within our valley and county are still reeling from the horrible effects of this spring's lock-down. Yes, we do care about people and we do not want to see anyone else suffer or die from COVID-19. What we are asking is that the health board remember that there are countless other serious and even life threatening maladies which are at work in our community and to isolate one of them – COVID-19 – and to attempt to control a virus which we barely understand to the detriment of countless people within our community would be both inhumane and bad governance.

Please do not institute this lop-sided, biased and unhelpful health order!

On behalf of the community of St. Herman Orthodox Church,

Fr. Daniel Kirk

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost beyond repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

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VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Levi and Ellyssa Russell

I realize that today you will be meeting with the County Health Department and most likely confronted with their recommendation to lock down the County. Please be mindful of the full implications of such a move. For the vast number of Flathead County residents, Covid-19 offers insignificant risk. For those in higher-risk groupings, they mostly have the ability to self-lock. I am one who is near that higher risk group, but I take my own actions to manage that risk.

Please consider the impacts of a lock down on business, schools, family activities, worship and everyday freedoms that we enjoy in Montana. Allow us, the citizens to manage our risk as we inevitably have learned how to do over the past several months.

Best regards,

Max Edington

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7!

Please listen to the people! The majority has spoken and this Pandemic has become a circus of misinformation and forged statistics for a greater agenda. How can you believe that masking and shutting down small business owners is the right thing to do? Yet, masses can still shop at Walmart, Target, Costco, etc? You want to take away people's lives! By crippling their income, their families, their livelihoods. I hear the words "Herd Immunity" over and over again, how do you think you attain herd immunity, if not by moving forward and boosting immune systems. If this really was a health crisis, why are you not shutting down McDonalds, Taco Bell, Wendy's, etc? Why not be pushing for better food choices, vitamins, water, and exercise. Those are the more logical explanations in order to obtain from getting sick or recover from being sick, don't you agree?

A virus that has a 99.6% survival rate! 99.6%, I don't want to sound harsh but, when an already very sick person, gets sick and passes away, that's life! It happens! When a healthy person gets sick and overcomes it, good for them! They took care of themselves, they took the precautions for when they were sick, to drink water, eat chicken soup, and get rest!

I had the flu in February this year. I thought it was strep throat so I went to the Doctor to get Antibiotics. I found out it wasn't strep and it was Flu A, they told me there is nothing they can do, go home, rest,

drink plenty of clear liquids, and it will pass in a few days! That seems like the most logical thing to do with this Coronavirus! It is the same thing! And who is to say that I didn't have Covid 19 back then? There is not a specific test for Covid as the virus has not been contained in order to produce a test to detect its existence. You know how many false positives there are? You know how many false positive tests for Herpes there is?! You take care of yourself. It is no one else's job to keep you safe. It is yours and yours alone.

"My aunt is a habitual mask wearer, she is scared from the media. Then she got sick, They tested her and told her she had Coronavirus and only had a few days to live because of her age and her health. A friend of mine said to check for Legionnaires disease, which is caused from breathing in your own toxins from a dirty mask! Guess what? SHE HAD LEGIONNAIRES!! They gave her antibiotics and she was better in 3 days! 3 DAYS!!! After being told she would die! How do you explain that?

Look at what you are doing to children! Hiding them and making them easy targets for child predators, have you seen the picture of the little girl with duct tape over her mouth under her mask? Child extortion I think is the bigger problem and you are catering to it by letting them "hide" these kids in plain sight.

Do not California our Montana! Do not let these government tyrants take away our Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness! We are FREE American People! WE ARE FREE!! Let us be Free and stop playing into this scamdemic. I have had 2 of my family members now commit suicide because of the lockdowns and mandates. My cousin said he didn't see a way out and couldn't handle the stress, took all of his medications at once and didn't wake up! My girlfriends husband retired earlier this year, after 40+ years of working, wanted to take a trip around the US, they made it to UTAH and turned around because the mandates were going into place (back in March) he was afraid he wouldn't be able to get back into Montana, he is from Bigfork. He came home, then he shot himself. Left a note for his wife of 20 years saying that same thing about not being able to handle the stress and didn't want to live his retirement feeling locked in a cage.

Those of you pushing this agenda, in my eyes, their blood is on your hands.

I am from Jewish descent. I have studied and heard stories from my Grandparents about what they had to deal with in the Holocaust. The stories I have heard straight from my family's lips, straight from someone who endured these Crimes Against Humanity, I feel like I am watching the same thing starting to happen here. When will it be enough? When will you realize that crippling Montanas is not the answer! Follow North Dakota! Stand up! Stand up for yourselves!

I have seen some of you out and about in Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls with no masks! I know you don't buy into this. So, why are you pushing an agenda that HAS NO END?! 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 2 months, etc. Think of the families who lives you are destroying by shutting down a small business. Why are bars having to close at 10pm or midnight? The virus magically stops at those times? No. It's about control. Please stop thinking of your bank accounts and think about the people. WE THE PEOPLE!

I know the ones who care about American People and are not seeing dollar signs will be the ones to fight for the American People. I hate having to feel like I am fighting for my LIFE and my children's lives because of YOUR actions.

Please quit taking people's lives. Let's live free! Let's build America up!

Sincerely,

Taylor Butterfield

We are writing to urge you not to place further restrictions on churches. At our church, we wear masks, sit in every other pew with families at least 6 feet apart. We are doing the best we can at managing in-church worship. For many, worship at church is the highlight of their week.

Thank you for your consideration.

Verdell and Linda Jackson, Kalispell

Please vote no on 6 & 7. Covid is everywhere and there is no stopping it. We are only going to cripple our economy even more and divide our great county!

Sincerely,
Nicole Hale
Bigfork, MT

I urge this committee to Vote NO on 6 and 7. No more shutdowns, we have to learn to live with Covid and the survival rate is over 99%.

Sincerely,
Jenny Westin
Kalispell, Mt.

Please vote no on item 6!!!!!!
Wayne Appl

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on item's 6 and 7 for the following reasons:

- 1) We have already hurt the valley's economy with little to no benefit;
- 2) We have ignored the benefits of herd immunity to get us out of this virus and therefore slowed down the recovery rate;
- 3) The solution has proven to be more harmful than the problem; and,
- 4) Masks have proven to be ineffective due to misuse, folks not using them, and, clearly, the masks not providing the protection we have been told they provide.

That said, please Vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size

Nobody should be having to make these kinds of decisions, and I urge you to recognize that citizens are ultimately responsible for themselves. You are not responsible for our decisions, nor should you be. Thank you for your service in these unprecedented times.

Best Regards,

Kenny Smith of Kalispell, Montana.

Dear Board Members,

I sincerely ask that you vote NO to further Covid related restrictions i.e. proposal 6 and 7. Many of the restrictions that have been imposed locally, as well as nationally, have not only destroyed the livelihood of many people, but have created undue hardship and greatly affected the mental and social well being of untold numbers of people. Please do not participate in making the (alleged) cure worse than the disease. Vote NO on 6 & 7.

Thanks,

Mark Foreman (Flathead Valley Business Owner)

We need to end these restrictions that are infringing on many of our constitutional rights and are a huge overreach of the government. These restrictions are worse than the virus itself! The incidences of depression, mental health issues, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, crimes, people not getting treated for health issues, and many other things are way up from before this! The masks make it worse- holding viruses and bacteria right in front of the mouth and nose to go right in the mucous membranes to infect anyone wearing them and the stuff can't be expelled like it was designed to be! Look at who is getting sick! It's the ones that are wearing masks! Please listen to the latest on these things that these only make it worse. I have been in healthcare for over 20 years. Please open up the state and local areas so people can live freely again!

Good morning.

I am urging you to vote no on the following proposals:

6. Reducing the spread of COVID-19 health office order
7. Health office order for reducing event size

We are looking at a virus with over a 99% survival rate in those under age 65. Those under age 65 have every right to decide if they want to gather in public places with family and friends, as their risk of dying from this virus is next to nothing. People are suffering from mental health issues due to lockdowns. Even the WHO has updated their stance to reflect the ineffectiveness of lockdown measures. Countries who never locked down are currently thriving in comparison to those who did. Local businesses are losing

their livelihoods that they have poured heart and soul into, and countless people have lost their jobs and are struggling financially. There is no constitutional backing to impose restrictions on gatherings—and doing so will have a negative impact on our community as a whole. Again, I ask you to vote no on proposals 6 and 7 for the sake of our future as a valley, not to mention as a country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Burger

Flathead County Health Department

Re: Covid Restrictions

I am requesting you do not put further restrictions on the citizens of flathead county for the following reasons

Further hardships on the restaurants and the churches would be cause further destruction to families in this valley. Far worse than the virus could ever do.

Restricting numbers of patrons in the restaurant, will further bankrupt more restaurants—causing closures that will never return. It will affect not only the business owners, but also the servers, cooks, and all the employees in the restaurants. It would cause such a domino effect, to also include, restaurant supplies, meat markets, that provide meat to the restaurants. The list can go on and on of the immense losses for so many in this valley. It will cause such devastations to those who are will affected. The depression, hopelessness to these people should be taken into consideration in your decisions. Just think about it for a while and really think and ponder what has happened to so many because of the shut downs, and other covid mandates—including mask wearing.

Mask mandate wearing has caused so much more divisions in our community, also. Mask mandates should be up to the individual- Each side have their reasons for their decisions and each side should respect the other. As it is so unclear whether they help or not.

Churches: right now, to restrict our constitutionals rights to assemble in a church and be able to worship God is the worst thing you can do to our community. Right now, more than ever we need the encouragement and fellowship to be able to gather together. It is the best thing for our souls, in these times. It will help the depressed and the hopelessness in our community. There is so much comfort, peace and joy to be able to gather together with one another. Again, this should be up to the individual, whether they feel safe and are healthy.

I understand the health department and medical personal may have more of a narrow mindset, than a business owner. I had a long conversation with my doctor, she came from the position of not one life lost to covid—she would wear masks for another year and longer if it can save one life. I come from a business economic viewpoint, I see the loss of more lives will be lost if you should vote to restrict, this community any longer. I understand her viewpoint, but realistically we need to continue our lives—the restriction have had such a devastating effect on our business community. Especially, now there is no more bail out for the business.

One thing is appalling to me is our Governor, pushing his mandates off on the health department to enforce. And your body is going to have to make this extremely important decision. He has withheld covid money from going out to the business and now is going to give that money to the county health departments to enforce new mandates. For the health department's to use that money to go after non-compliant businesses with Attorneys. But I do believe we have good decent, honorable people on the health board and know you will make the right decisions. Which the Montana sheriffs have refused as it

was unconstitutional. It is just not right for you to have that power. And in your conscience, Can you think this right????????

On continuing the use of mask. I find it strange, that our numbers have gone up, since the use of masks. I would like to know what are the numbers, of communities that have higher levels and whether they wore masks or not. I do not see that they are useful, as I see people wear them and are relying on them. Below are some examples of tragedies that have happened due to covid lock downs, these are only a few:

My cousin just sent me this text. People need to wake up!

This horrible Covid conspiracy needs to end so many people have been lost to depression and addiction during this period of time not to mention the rates of abuse going up. My daughter just called me in tears because her cousin who is 25 just died and we think it was an overdose. He was an EMT who had battled alcohol problems but the drug thing was very new. On top of that our very dear friend Molly's brother died three months ago. He was on lockdown and it looks like he drank too much and he fell and hit his head and bled out. Then her nephew in New York committed suicide who had been on lockdown. Everywhere I look I see such sad stories and no one seems to care. It's nothing but Covid Covid Covid day and night.

These are my personal experiences, with friends:

I also had an employee whose brother committed suicide during this time. I have a dear friend who was ill during the shutdown, could only see a Dr virtual—could not go to the hospital—well SHE DIED, because she was not treated for kidney failure. Not covid – but I would say it was covid related due to lack of treatment. My husband had to have a heart procedure and I had to sit in the parking lot, not knowing if he made it through the surgery. Children could not be with their parents if they were in the hospital. I spoke to a nurse at the hospital and she said that was the hardest thing she had to go through, not allowing parents with their children or husbands and wives not being together. I can go on and on and on the tragedies that where caused by this lock down. I have a niece, a senior in high school—her friends where at lunch—social distancing and masked—a friends, mom got covid (not the student)Health Department quarantined all 5 students—non got it. But my niece couldn't take her ACT for college, because of quarantine. Her senior year, has no prom, no football games to go to—the final year of school is ruined. So kids get sick—they always do and how many have been serious enough to go to the hospital 0%

It is far worse than the covid ever was!

You need to put an end to this fear mongering and let people live again. we can take our chances and live life. Life is not easy, but we don't live in utopia—death, illness happens. My gosh, what kind of people have we become. I know several people who have had the virus and the symptoms are mild. Sure, others get it worse, but they didn't die. The percentage rates of death are so low.

NOW to repeat myself—how can you as a board vote to restrict and put more mandates on us?

Our governor is going to give the County Health departments more Covid Money (that was to go to businesses to help them stay afloat due to covid restrictions) to hire lawyers to go after these

suffering businesses and torment them more if they don't abide by his rules and are compliant!! This is not how America is meant to be.

• LISTEN TO THIS AGAIN: THE COVID MONEY THAT WAS TO GO TO SUFFERING BUSINESS IS TO GO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HIRE LAWYERS, TO GO AFTER BUSINESS IN COURT-----BECAUSE THE SHERIFF ARE NOT GOING TO ENFORCE HIS MANDATES YOU SEE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? LAWYERS ARE GOING TO SUE THESE BUISNESSS. THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO INTICE THE COUNTIES WITH MORE MONEY TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.. REMEMBER HE IS RUNNING FOR ELECTION ANDTHIS IS ALL POLITICAL. To me it seems like a bribe to get the counties to do his work—the county health departments get money if you go after the public—this is not right! I pray you will be like the sheriffs and refuse

•

• We live in America!!

Thank-you for your consideration and I pray you make the right decision for the citizens of Flathead County
Roseann Quinn

NO on agenda items 6 and 7

Face Masks do not work as proven over the past several months. Our Businesses cannot withstand another shutdown.

Gary Alexander

Dear Flathead county board members,

I live in Kalispell and want to state my beliefs that we ought to relieve the Covid restrictions on gatherings - not increase them !

The church gatherings are being very careful as is and do not require more limits .
Keep protecting the vulnerable people and let the healthy go on returning to life as usual .

Jacqueline Johnson
Kalispell

My Letter.

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Idem's 6 and 7

- 1) We have Crippled our economy almost beyond repair.
- 2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.
- 3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.
- 4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

So once again I Urge you to Vote No on the Following.

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19- ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Good Afternoon,

Please submit the statement below as part of the Public Comment period at today's Health Board meeting. Thank you for the work you do. You are the most essential of workers during this time.

As a resident of Flathead County, a parent, and an employee of Kalispell School District 5, I encourage the Board to act now with a vote in support of proposed measures aimed to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Flathead County. It's simple. The number of cases are climbing at a breakneck speed and we can't keep up. From the medical professionals in our hospitals urging us to make immediate changes to contact tracers working 7 days a week at the Health Department and barely making a dent, we're failing miserably. It's unreasonable and irresponsible to ignore the pandemic as it's sweeping through the Flathead Valley poised to disrupt everything from school remaining in-person to a loss of more human life.

Although this is a new virus enough data exists to guide the board on what you can do to slow down the spread. Refusing to take action is negligent, irresponsible and does not serve a fundamental public health mission.

With respect,

Kim Anderson

Kalispell, MT

Please vote no on agenda items 6&7. Monica Hemingway

I am against any new restrictions. It has been proven that all that shutdowns and restrictions have done is postponed the inevitable. Either you have had Covid-19 or you will get it eventually. It's just like the flu. Eventually, everyone gets it.

The death rate is very comparable to the flu.

Restrictions and shutdowns are unconstitutional. Those who want to stay home can and those who don't should be free to as they wish.

It's time to end the government overreach.

Hello Board of Health,

I do not see how closing churches will slow the spread when many other places such as schools and restaurants do not have to follow the same guidelines.

The Declaration of Independence states:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'

The 1st Amendment of the Constitution says we have freedom of religion, speech, press, ASSEMBLY, and petition.

People have the right to attend church. We have already seen cases in depression and abuse rise due to lockdowns. Churches have always been considered a safe place. With limited capacity, you could be denying those hurt and in need of not only spiritual help but physical help. You may say they could go to the doctor but how many times have cases of abuse been overlooked?

Matthew 19:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We are all children of God. We all have a right to go to church and worship God.

I know people are immune compromised and it would be a risk to be in a crowd. I understand some are fearful of catching COVID-19 and spreading it within their family. They have the right to stay home. God understands.

For those who do not fit in those categories, it is not right for you to tell us we cannot worship our God as a community due to capacity regulations.

Schools do not fall into this, so why are churches being targeted?

As a Montanan, I'm sure you know how stubborn we are. We will not comply with more lockdowns, however small you make them out to be.

By limiting capacity you are infringing on our rights as stated above.

Have a blessed day and a productive meeting.

Concerned and fellow Montanan,

Marie Taylor

Please vote against any further restrictions and restraints taking away our rights because of covid and remove the mandatory mask policy. Sincerely -George Burger III

Hello,

I write today to join the growing number of concerned Flathead Valley residents who question the agenda items #6 and #7 for your October 15th meeting.

As the local health board I am confused as to why you believe you have the local authority to make decisions for the general population and see fit to enforce them in a free county. Yes, you can highly recommend but when your authority overreaches that of your office that is where your credibility stops for me and I see your board only as a fear-producing and power hungry entity.

For the sake of putting choices back into the hands of American individuals I believe you should vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7. These masks may be a good thing BUT they may also be stifling good health and the overload of positive cases may be linked to the excessive wear of this cloth material over our mouths/noses. More and more evidence is coming out stating the very thing.

Please think twice before over-stepping your reach.

Sincerely,

~Alisha Linn

I vote No!!

¿Freedom Minded Friends in Flathead County!! PLEASE EMAIL before 11 AM tomorrow and ask the Health Board folks to vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7! WE CANT LOSE OUR FREEDOMS! Weve worked too hard trying to keep them!!¿¿BoardofHealthAdmin@flathead.mt.gov¿¿Health Department wants to restrict businesses again, and gatherings and events....this vote could stop them..... Must get Health Board to vote NO on Items 6 and 7 they meet on Zoom at 1 pm ...thier will be a peaceful protest in front of Health Department at 1pm....

Please Vote NO on agenda items 6 & 7 that would continue and further restrict our freedoms!!! True data /research does not Support that level of restriction!!

S T Moore

Kila MT

Dear Flathead County Health Board,

I am writing this as public comment for the 10/15/2020 board meeting, thank you.

I would like to encourage and support the board in passing increased restrictions in response to the surge in Covid 19 cases in the Flathead. I have heard from nurse friends who work at KRH that they are overwhelmed, over worked, and scared. I am hearing that health department employees are feeling the same way, some to the breaking point. As a single parent of two elementary children, I am desperate for them to get back to living their lives normally. As a community we need to be prioritizing in person school, and the health and safety of essential health care workers. If that means that bars and restaurants need to scale back, that is what we need to do. This is a difficult time for everyone, but I think it's vital we take the needed measures and follow the advice of public health professionals. Thank you.

Deidre McMullin

Kalispell

To those whom it may concern.

I am local citizen of Flathead for now 28 years. I only ask that those participating in our communities liberty and restrictions, would consider how detrimental it is to allow fear and political gain to decide what benefits our community.

Please take the lives of our community into consideration, which if limited and restricted would take away the liberty we have to live our lives as we see fit. Freedom is more important than political postering and fear mongering.

Please do not vote to have more restrictions over people who for the most part within our community have no health risk or risk of death.

Thank you for your concern.

This email is in regards to more restrictions because of the virus. We as responsible citizens already excepted the fact that the numbers would go up during what we know as our regular flu season. We don't need told what we can and can't do. What we need is for people to practice common sense and wash your their hands, don't sneeze on people and if you are sick, then stay home. We do not need more restrictions or shutdowns. People need to take care of their immune systems and help our bodies do what it is designed to do. People that are at risk need to stay home during this time.

Respectfully,

Vaughn Penrod

Please vote NO on items 6 and 7. Shutting us down, limiting event sizes, and other "mitigation options" or other restrictions are worse than the risk of getting the virus. Please stop infringing in our freedom!

Sincerely,
Kim Christopherson
131 West Monture Ridge
Kalispell

Dear Board Members,

Please vote against further restriction of public activity in response to Covud-19. This virus does damage peoples lives and livelihood, but the restrictions being handed down are more damaging than the virus itself. The people who can least afford to have their business and hours reduced or eliminated altogether are exactly the ones most effected by the proposed restrictions. We are trying to feed our children and care for our families through this pandemic, please do not make that more difficult.

Dear Esteemed Board of Health Members,

The Great Barrington Declaration, signed by medical and public health scientists as well as medical practitioners from around the country, declare these shut downs are leading to great deaths in our society.

"Current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health. The results (to name a few) include lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and deteriorating mental health – leading to greater excess mortality in years to come, with the working class and younger members of society carrying the heaviest burden. Keeping students out of school is a grave injustice.

Keeping these measures in place until a vaccine is available will cause irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately harmed.

The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this Focused Protection."

Please do not shut down our valley. The effects will be far worse than the Covid cases. Keep our businesses and our churches open!!

Thank you for your time,

Catherine Owens

To whom it may concern:

I understand there is a meeting today to discuss placing limits on church capacity.

I strongly urge you to act AGAINST imposing any such limits. Access to places of worship is an essential right, that is critical to our overall public health and the proper functioning of our society.

We have preventative measures in place (distancing, masks, hygiene). Those who are at risk because of health conditions, and concerned about contracting the virus are free to stay home.

Please don't ruin it for those who want (and are entitled to) open access to worship space, one of our great country's essential liberties.

Kevin Antene

Coram, MT

312-909-3009

To whom it may concern,

PLEASE vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7.

Thank you!

Angela Holcomb

Commissioners,

I am emailing you today with the hope that you will read this prior to your meeting to discuss further business shutdowns, as put forth by our Governor.

My wife and I own a dayspa in Kalispell which we opened last November, and the previous shutdown almost put us out of business. Had it not been for the stimulus that was put out, we would have lost a \$100k investment. With the Democrats refusing to approve another stimulus, we are already hanging on by a thread as things stand today!

Let me be clear with you all, another shutdown due to the overreaction and overreach of our Governor will put us out of business! I love this Valley and being a family with 5 and 6 generations of ties here, we ask you to not shutdown the businesses in the Valley and to not add any additional mandates that will make it harder for us to stay open. If the box stores can open then we should all be open, our facilities are cleaner than the large stores could possibly ever be.

Our clients and staff rely on us to take care of them, and the damage another shutdown would cause emotionally, financially and personally would be devastating to all involved. This country is walking a fine line between adherence and rebellion, please make your decision one that will create continued opportunity, not more division amongst the people.

If you have any questions or would like for me to speak with you, please reach out to me on my cell phone number below.

Respectfully,

Tony Corpron

Tony and Tracey Corpron

Anew U Cryospa

corpronclan@yahoo.com

Tony c. 406-885-5056

Tracey c. 406-471-3801

Dear Health Board Members,

I'm emailing today to ask you to PLEASE VOTE NO on items 6 & 7 on your agenda for today's meeting.

We have had enough of the lockdown measures that are destroying our economy, taking away liberties and freedoms and doing incredible harm to the mental well being of our county citizens.

Masks have now been proven to be ineffective, and even the CDC is admitting most "new cases" are happening to people who have been wearing them!

This is a political agenda, and not based on facts or true science.

Again, please VOTE NO on items 6 & 7 on today's agenda.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

David Hart
406-261-5231
Somers, Montana

Good Morning,

As two business owners in the Flathead Valley, we have been struggling to keep our businesses going over the last 8 months due to the covid scare and everything that has followed. Please lift these unconstitutional restrictions and do not try to place any new or additional unconstitutional mandates on our already suffering, barely hanging on, small businesses in the valley while Walmart, Costco, Home Depot and Amazon continue to thrive. The masking of our children and the people in our community is what is making us sick, not the virus that develops herd immunity when allowed to circulate. Please do your own research as we have and allow us to make our own informed decisions as to how we personally handle and operate our own businesses. This is why we choose to live in America, our freedom is what sets us apart from other countries. Don't try to cause dissention among our treasured community businesses, the division it will cause will destroy livelihoods, families and the next generations to come.

Sincerely, The Ehlers Family

Oct 15, 2020
9:30 a.m.

To Members of the Committee:

Please do not put tighter restrictions on bars, restaurants and churches.

"The ensuing shutdown orders and restrictions violate the Declaration of Rights/Bill of Rights included in our state's Constitution. If Madison, Hamilton, and Jefferson are correct, these unconstitutional laws are null and void and deserve to be treated as such. Our state legislators, county sheriffs, and our local government officials need to step up to protect our God-given rights." quoted from William S. Hahn, John Birch Society Bulletin.

The numbers on COVID deaths are extremely exaggerated and are being used to instill FEAR of a virus so that we the people allow our freedoms to be taken away.

This must be stopped.

Thank you for your time,

Constance Sladek
Kalispell, Montana

Hello to whom this may concern,

I vote No on items 6&7! COVID-19 is nothing but a mild cold! Less than 10k worldwide died of it. Look it up on CDC website. Why would we wear a mask for a mild cold, when tuberculosis took 1.5 million lives in 2019 worldwide? ,where was the mask mandate for that! Or H1N1! Look it up! PCR has not recognized COVID-19 as a virus or disease, it has not identified any characteristics of the "virus" . Page 39 on cdc website. I will NOT wear a mask as it is harmful to my health. Please stop telling educated people that wearing a mask is safe. If anything I will fight back with my lawyer if this problem continues, The law is on My Side!

Dear Pam,

I've tried to submit my comments to the county's health board admin email and the address is not accepting emails. Please accept my submission of comments regarding today's County-City Health Board Meeting.

Dear Members of the Flathead County-City Board of Health,

I'm writing in support of the proposed restrictions to help slow the surge of COVID-19 cases in the Flathead Valley and also to express my concerns as a resident and a small business owner if restrictions are not adopted by this board.

As the owner of Kalispell Brewing Company, we have adhered to the restrictions and health safety guidelines since the pandemic hit the Flathead Valley. As a small business, we weathered the closure of our taproom and invested in PPE and safety equipment such as plexiglass dividers to keep our staff and customers safe. Our employees wear masks and have been doing so for months. Additionally, we eliminated many of our live music and events that normally draw a sizable crowd knowing that large gatherings increase the risk for the virus to spread. We even decided to cancel our largest event, Oktoberfest, which is held outdoors in our parking lot, in September in response to doing our part to reduce the spread. None of these decisions came lightly and they certainly impact our economic success and viability. However, despite the risk of losing income we felt that it is our responsibility to mitigate risk and slow the spread.

I ask that as you adopt more stringent measures to ease the strain of this virus on our community, enforcement of these steps must be taken. Or, perhaps, if that is not an option, please consider incentivizing businesses like mine who have and will continue to follow the directives from local, state, and federal levels in the fight against the coronavirus. It is upsetting to witness other businesses who aren't following the rules, who don't take this virus seriously, and who don't put community health as a top priority.

If no action is taken soon in this area, I worry about the health and safety of my employees and customers. I employ 14 people on Main Street, and will do everything in my power to keep those 14 employed but it takes strong leadership and direction from the Flathead County to ensure our small businesses can continue to operate, even with restrictions, during a pandemic.

A clear and united mission for living with the coronavirus is needed, and is long overdue. Instead, the division and divisiveness from members on this very board and the County Commissioners are causing great harm. Our entire community is in jeopardy -- from a strained health care system to students' compromised education to sick or quarantined employees -- and it is critical that this health board acts now and has the support of the County Commissioners.

I've witnessed many impressive actions by members of the community who take this threat seriously and who don't fall prey to conspiracy theories or bogus science. For example, as the president of the Glacier Jewish Community, we altered our in-person gatherings in response to the threat of the virus. During our most holy and sacred season, the High Holy Days, we determined that the most responsible action for our worship services was to host them online. We chose to host two in person gatherings--drive in services--where members remained in their cars. I'm sharing these examples to demonstrate how individuals and organizations are rising to meet the challenge of COVID-19 while keeping members and the larger community safe.

Now it is time for this health board to issue enforceable mandates and restrictions that demonstrate community concern and civic mindedness. We need a unifying voice.

Lastly, I want to give credit and appreciation to the Flathead Community Health Department for their tireless work during the pandemic.

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

Sincerely,

Maggie Doherty

Kalispell Brewing Company

home city:

Kalispell

Board of Health Members,

Please vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7.

We have been repressed and depressed and Restricted long enough.

Paula Claridge

Good afternoon,

Thank you kindly for taking the time to ready my request and response to our current health, social and economic crisis. I am writing to request your "NO vote" on item #6 for the meeting on 10-15-2020. This crisis is a man made crisis of epic proportions that has caused harm across each generation of humanity on this planet. Sure that sounds grand, but that's where we are. All data must be considered when making complete, well rounded, and wide sweeping decisions for the people of our community. I would strongly urge you to begin considering the data that has been available for a considerable amount of time. I will include links for below.

1-There is a considerable amount of research (long standing at that) that states mask DO NOT PROHIBIT the spread of viral aerosol.

2- There are countless studies done that isolating humans is torture. Leaving people to die along in nursing homes with out the love of their family is inhumane at best. Regardless of the fact, you do it for a virus that has such an incredibly high survival rate amongst the majority of the population.

3- Limiting humanities ability to pursue happiness through work, to obtain accomplishment, dignity, success, income, camaraderie, and social interaction is tyrannical and violates our constitutional rights as citizens of this country.

4- Continuing the mask mandate is detrimental to the physical health, mental health and social health of individuals, regardless of their level of fear perpetuated and implemented by many local, state and federal leadership and nation wide media with a social and psychological agenda that is set on violating our constitutional rights as citizens of this country.

5- Ethically, this situation is dire. We need our amazing countrymen and countrywomen to stand for our constitution, to stand for humanities right to pursue happiness, to live life, to have the right to work without oppression and tyranny, the right to allow our kids to breath again without "hiding in the corner of the classroom to sneak a breath while the teacher is not watching". My son now considers a "happy day at school" one in which he can breathe better. One in which, he is not being scanned for his temperature against his will, by personnel that are not even medically trained, one in which he still is allowed to go to school and be with children his own age without the social oddities of, social distancing, mask wearing, and random and ineffective quarantines.

6- We all know the testing is inaccurate at best. Testing does not indicate hospital beds filled by coronavirus patients. We also know that the hospital's beds are filled with many patients who are receiving non-coronavirus care. Continuing to ramp rhetoric that this virus is out of control and that the infection rates are devastating the community, is an egregious travesty of leadership, trust and care of the community.

We need leadership that protects this community and our historical way of life and right to pursue happiness. Not leadership that "follows the herd" off a cliff and caused more damages that the virus it's self.

VOTE NO ON:

6. [Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](#)– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Sincerely,

Heather and Wes Boone

Data for submission.

Isolation: I could provide a slew of articles to support my position, but in the respect for time and all others included in your meeting, I will submit only three. Please know that isolation, mental illness due to loneliness and suicide are something we have the power to seriously turn around right now! Not tomorrow, or the next day, right now. People are counting on us to do the right thing. We must act in their best interest and that is love, kindness and personal interaction without a face mask.

<https://www.webmd.com/men/features/lonely-guys-isolation>

<http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/156560#:~:text=Isolation%20from%20other%20human%20beings%20is%20used%20in,and%20when%20he%20does%20it%20is%20his%20torturers.>

<https://medicalkidnap.com/2020/08/17/cia-social-isolation-torture-techniques-next-stage-involuntary-quarantines-in-fema-non-congregate-shelters/>

Mask ineffectiveness

Here are 17 Medical Articles proving that masks are not only useless, but also dangerous.

1) “There is little evidence to support the effectiveness of face masks to reduce the risk of infection.” https://www.cambridge.org/.../face_masks_to_prevent...

2) “...laboratory-confirmed viral infections were significantly higher in the cloth masks group. Virus particle penetration was almost 97%. ...the results caution against the use of cloth masks.. Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks, and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection.”

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1435...>

3) "...surgical and handmade masks, and face shields, generate significant leakage jets that have the potential to disperse virus-laden fluid particles by several meters.They all showed an intense backward jet for heavy breathing and coughing conditions. It is important to be aware of this jet, to avoid a false sense of security that may arise when standing to the side of, or behind, a person wearing a surgical, or handmade mask, or shield." <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2005/2005.10720.pdf...>

4) JAMA: "Face masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill." <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762694...>

5) "Face mask use in health care workers has not been demonstrated to provide benefit in terms of cold symptoms or getting colds." <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/>

6) From one meta analysis of masks to prevent infection, N95 masks and respirators no less: "None of the studies established a conclusive relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection." <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22188875/>

7) "...both surgical and cotton masks seem to be ineffective in preventing the dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 from the coughs of patients with COVID-19 to the environment and external mask surface." <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342...&>

8. NEJM: "We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection.The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic." <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372...>

9) Just a note, respiratory acidosis is bad and leads to also polyuria, urinary acidosis, kidney damage, and hypercapnia. The stress response from lowered oxygen causes cortisol to rise, potentially so, which lowers immune vigilance increasing infection risk. "Respiratory acidosis develops when air into and exhaled from the lungs does not get adequately exchanged between the carbon dioxide from the body and oxygen from the air." <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/313110...>

10) Also note, deoxygenation is bad and not only leads to and/or exacerbates headaches disorders, a hypoxic state can create and/or activate malignant cells within 48 hours. Know what else leads to increased cancer risk? Acidosis. (note article above this one on respiratory acidosis) This is old work from Otto Warburg himself. "Most health care workers develop de novo PPE associated headaches or exacerbation of their pre-existing headache disorders." <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32232837/>

11) The meta analysis is the most reliable data set as the reproducibility of results is scientifically so powerful.

Long, Y. et al. (2020) "Effectiveness of N95 respirators versus surgical masks against influenza: A systematic review and meta-analysis," J Evid Based Med. 2020; 1-9. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../10.1111/jebm.12381...>

Dear Board Members,

PLEASE VOTE NO - - - on the COVID-19 restrictions of today (Issues 6 and 7) - as we NEED our immune systems! If you look at the research in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway (even JAPAN!!!) ---- where they have had NO MASKS and NO LOCKDOWNS, they are doing better than anywhere. They know about our immune systems, and HOW IMMUNE SYSTEMS NEED OXYGEN OVER EVERYTHING ELSE, and HOW IMMUNE SYSTEMS NEED EXPOSURE WITH MANY PEOPLE for being strengthened not decreased!!!

If anything - this will all come about - as **discrimination** to those who have disabilities OR who are even healthy. Did you know that **it is actually ILLEGAL to mandate putting a mask on someone without a doctor's orders?**

AND, I remind you - this is a DIRECTIVE from Gov. Bullock, not a Mandate.

Not only that, but the latest release of U.S. GOVERNMENT updates of survival rates from Covid-19 (if infected) are the following:

0-19	99.997%
20-49	99.98%
50-69	99.5%
70+	94.6%

PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE do not ruin our economy and lives over something with less death rates than the flu. We do not want to be another California or Colorado here. Montana is the last best place - - - for FREEDOM - - - and SHOULD BE - - - for HEALTH, too - - - - with all of our outdoors and physical activity. Do not shut us down especially in the churches. THAT IS VIOLATION of EVERYTHING we stand for here in America, and **we need the CHOICE ourselves - of how we are to stay healthy.**

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

M. Suzanne Weber, Naturopath and Certified Classical Homeopath

To whom this may concern,

This message is in response to your discussion on the basis of limiting church attendance in a free country.

You will not limit the reach of God. You will not forcibly suffer free men. You will not disavow the constitution and its nominated powers of the people. Those powers discharged unto you, for the purpose of peace and justice; declared by the people of the United States, will not be forgone. The lockdowns have proven to cause more destruction through suicide, depression, loss of income and resorting to drugs from lack of human connection. Let it be known, THE PEOPLE WILL NOT COMPLY. Endowed from our creator with inalienable rights, we will worship our Lord and Savior without restriction. You wish to mask us, separate us, create division, and instill defeat in the congregation of places of worship; before you start within the communist manifesto's being propagated in the streets during riots. Take a look at the demons you are creating and stop them before they consume you as well. Stop threatening God's houses, this is the 1st Amendment for a reason. The people will freely worship.

Citations:

- 1st Amendment

- "enumerated powers" in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

- The Bible

- https://www.redstate.com/michael_thau/2020/07/27/head-of-cdc-lockdown-suicides-drug-ods-killing-way-more-americans-than-covid/

Respectfully,

Michael Samdahl

Montanan Born and Raised

Veteran of War

Dear Health Board Members,

I urge you to Vote NO on Item's 6 and 7: Reducing the Spread & Health Officer Order

1) We have Crippled our economy almost beyond repair.

2) We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.

3) The Death rate does not even come close to a Pandemic.

4) Mask's have proven to be ineffective and even could cause harm especially to our School children and our Older folks, Like me :)

Does Montana really want to become California with more and more Liberty's taken away, are we Not Better than That, Tougher, More Independently minded, shouldn't we be leading the way as a Strong and Free State against draconian measure.

Montanas have had enough of Lockdowns and Loss of employment and small business.

So once again I Urge you to Vote No on the Following.

VOTE NO ON:

6. [Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](#)– ACTION REQUIRED

VOTE NO ON:

7. [Health Officer Order](#) for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you in advance for your courageous stand to free our economy and therefore the Good People of Montana.

Yours Sincerely,

Scott & Susan Clapper of Kila Montana.

Good afternoon,

>> My name is Jacqueline and I am a life long Montana. Research and look at the science. COVID has a death rate of .003%. I would be more afraid of getting eaten by a bear then getting COVID. NO MORE LOCKDOWNS AND MASK MANDATES. WE WILL NOT LIVE IN FEAR!

>>

>> Thank you,

>> Jacqueline Jeffcock

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to you today not only as a citizen of Flathead County but a small business owner in the community. In March when we first began to learn about this "pandemic" called COVID-19 I was concerned about the well being of myself and my family. I have a young child and my parents are over 65 and although healthy this "pandemic" was made out to be horrible to that population. We distanced ourselves from my parents to try to limit their exposure.

In the middle of March my business was ordered to be closed by the Governor of Montana. At that time we were experiencing 0-20 cases per day in the ENTIRE STATE. I was also told that I could not rent my vacation rental. My husband was also unable to work due to the pandemic. We own multiple properties in Flathead County. Now in a matter of minutes I was expected to pay 4+ mortgages without ANY income at all. We are small business owners and we plan for the worst and we plan for bad years. What makes me really angry about this was that this was nothing about our ability to run our business. It was a government mandated shut down. Never in my life did I think that I would experience this living in the United States of America. The land of opportunity. The land where if you work hard anything is possible. Now all of our hard work was taken away in a matter of weeks. At that time we were told "2 weeks to flatten the curve." My questions was "What curve?" The hospitals were not overwhelmed...the rooms sat empty and our local hospital even had to lay off a number of people. When this was the case....as soon as this was the case things should have been able to open back up. Instead we waited...and waited....and waited. We continued to dwindle our savings down trying to stay afloat. We sacrificed our financial position "for the good of others."

Flash forward a number of months. I am now extremely upset at how this entire situation was handled. When you look at the curves of other states almost all of them are on the downward trend. We are continually increasing because we shut down when it was unnecessary. As more and more scientific evidence comes to light these shut downs are not needed and a true overreach of government control and frankly, unconstitutional.

How long are we going to allow this virus which has a 96.4% survival rate continue to ruin hard working families financial futures? How long are we going to continue this insanity? If you impose further mandates many businesses will forever close. Many families will become bankrupt. All of this for what? I understand that the virus is real. I understand it can be deadly for some of the population. Why not focus on having people take care of themselves so that they are prepared to combat something like this? If you are susceptible or a vulnerable individual then you should take precautions FOR YOURSELF. You should not expect everyone else to sacrifice their livelihood because of a "what if".

I am proud to be a Montanan but I have to be honest and say that the way that the governor and in turn the health department of this county has handled this is disappointing and ridiculous.

Further lock downs are not the answer and will only lead to unfortunate consequences for so many small businesses that make Montana what it is.

Sincerely,

Corey Olofson

406-253-0531

Simply I am opposed to the Health Department and the interim director to get more funding and power to apply more mandates to this political football called coronavirus. The typical socialist approach spend more money tax dollars to trace and or guide those who understand how to manage their own health.

The only way to having the virus be neutralized is with "herd immunity" that is how all other viruses' have been controlled in the past. Sweden got lucky most socialist countries do not get it right ...but their approach to the virus is a general tact that Flathead County should take.

Bullock's reaction is totally based on poll results not what's best to move through this situation.

The numbers of infections are suspect. Flathead and Yellowstone Counties are high but Gallatin and Missoula Counties are low not because of wearing masks but due to the fact that if they reported what was really happening the universities would be affected, monetarily. (And so would the votes).

I am 69 years old and I have a 95% chance of living through the virus. Back off with further restrictions and more money dumped into hiring more people to the health department.

Tony Willits

A resident of Kalispell, Montana

Board of Health Administration:

Please vote NO on agenda items 6 and 7. As you know this is a very Unconstitutional move, abortion clinics can still keep their doors open killing people everyday. When the death rate from covid-19 reaches the "allowed" death of abortion then we can really match numbers. The schools and their activities are exempt...very Communistic.

We all know we are in the flu season again being subjected to a "vaccine" that still does not control the current muted "virus". These vaccines weaken the body's immune system so we cannot fight off all these "new" viruses.

God watches over all your values and decisions, I Pray for you all at this time.

Sincerely,

Robin Maupin

For Public Comment:

Flathead Health Board Members,

I implore you to vote NO on items 6 and 7.

Irreparable damage has been caused to our local, state, and national economy. It is not sustainable. Many local small businesses have already closed, many more are barely holding on.

Depression, anxiety, and suicide were pre-existing issues in the Flathead before this pandemic. As an "essential" worker who consistently manages 90-120 employees at my place of business, most ages 14-24, I can tell you the mental health of our youth as well as others in our community is worsening under these restrictions. Never have I seen so many anxiety attacks, expressions of depression, and sadly, even suicidal thoughts. With no end in sight for this low death rate pandemic, these young people are barely hanging on to hope that normalcy will one day return.

Although positive tests have increased in the county, the overall death rate is nowhere near pandemic level. We have flattened the curve. Now it's time to stop living as if liberty is a threat to our safety. It absolutely is not. Let our citizens make their own health choices and live in freedom. Anything less than that is tyranny.

Thank you in advance for protecting the freedoms of our citizens. Vote NO on items 6 and 7.

Respectfully,

Cassie Baines

Please vote NO on agenda 6 and 7.

We don't need more restrictions. If they truly worked we'd see a difference. The vast majority of people are following restrictions and mandates. Our positive tests continue to climb. We need to differentiate between a positive test and actual sickness. Protect the vulnerable. Treat the sick, yes there are treatments. Encourage people to take care of their bodies health nutrition vitamins sleep stress management. Zinc paired with quercetin can fight covid by allowing zinc to get into the cell (virus live in cells vs bacteria on the cells). Mandates and restrictions are dividing our nation and hurting our economy and American family. Please be a part of the solution and not the problem. The way we decide to care for ourselves is spiky you to us. Not any entity or governor. This infringes on our constitutional rights and God-given rights as Americans. Vote no Thank you.

Michala Berube Kozicky

Dear County Health Board Members,

It came to my attention this morning that you are considering a proposal to impose some mandates of your own on our county. Please do not do this.

A lot of what I'm going to say could be dismissed as anecdotal evidence, but I ask you, as health professionals, to listen to it, the same way you'd listen to a patient saying "My arm hurts when I do this" but can't explain how or why.

I know seven people, mostly over 70, who have come down with covid this month. Of them, five had nothing worse than a sinus infection, one is completely asymptomatic, and one is experiencing symptoms similar to an average case of pneumonia. What we have going around right now is very mild, even if it is causing many positive tests.

My major plea against more restrictions is the pain the restrictions we already have are causing. I don't know anyone who's died or was put in a life-threatening state by the Covid virus. However, I know of one person who has died due to seclusion & denial of medical aid during the lockdown, two women and their unborn children who were put in life-threatening situations if they tested positive for covid around the time they went into labor, and one kid whose father has turned back to alcoholism from lack of support & purpose in life. That's besides the three people who are being kept from seeing loved ones in their dying days, the two I know who are now on depression medication, and the many more who have been unable to work, to move, to get married, to get on with living in countless ways because of these restrictions.

I have never seen so much pain caused to this Valley from a single source. The corona restrictions are the worst things to happen to Flathead valley in my life. Please do not increase them.

Sincerely,

Cody Martiny
Ferndale MT

Dear Flathead City-County Board of Health,

I am writing regarding the vote today to regarding new restrictions related to the latest on COVID-19 testing in Flathead County, specifically agenda items 6 & 7.

I urge you to Vote NO on Agenda Items 6 and 7.

The fatality rate in Montana (225 total deaths in 2020) is not near pandemic level. Most patients have preexisting conditions that already had them teetering on the precipice of life.

The top ten causes of death in Montana in any given year include:

Heart Disease – 2,164 deaths

Cancer – 2,145 deaths

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease – 752 deaths Accidents – 579 deaths Stroke – 487 deaths Suicide – 311 deaths Diabetes – 292 deaths Alzheimers – 285 deaths Chronic Liver Disease – 195 deaths Flu – 185 deaths

Never in history before have we shut down livelihoods and tracked excessive daily testing of often healthy and even some people with cold symptoms. We've created a hypochondriac culture living in constant fear of illness, and the worst part of it all is that no one is talking about how to actually achieve wellness by nourishing the body, eliminating nutritional deficiencies, and exercising daily.

Masks have never been a path to achieving optimal health. They have proven to be ineffective and even harmful to children and some people. Most people are touching their face constantly with dirty hands and aren't trained in proper PPE use and disposal. Requiring children to mask their face all day is traumatic, unhealthy, and dangerous both physically and mentally. The CDC released a recent report regarding analysis of infection rates in masked vs. unmasked individuals.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6936a5-H.pdf>)

In summary, "never worn" (mask) had a total of 3.9% infection rate vs "always" had a 70.6% infection rate.

Montanans are a resilient, smart, independent bunch who care deeply about their communities. We have a strong belief in personal responsibility for health, property, and neighbors. If you leave risk analysis up to each individual person, then you will have better health outcomes and less hateful bullies out attempting to force masks and personal agendas on healthy people. We can all assist in protecting the more vulnerable in our communities by bringing them groceries and visiting with them since we all know that seniors who don't have social outlets and contact with their loved ones have not only a lower quality of life but also a higher risk of death.

Please represent the Montana way and do not force an extremist political agenda. The only acceptable vote is a NO vote:

6. Proposal for Health Officer Order: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19– ACTION REQUIRED

7. Health Officer Order for Limiting Event Size- ACTION REQUIRED

Thank you for your representation,

Jessica Kirkendall
Montana Resident
Medical Research Engineer

Board of Health Flathead County,

Please let's be sensible about this. Vote no on agendas 6 and 7. Let the citizens of the Flathead Valley decide for themselves whether to take the risk and go to a large gathering. My mother and I, (82 and 58 years old, respectively) both had COVID-19 this August and we survived it fine. Are we really going to start implementing all kinds of new control measures and rules on our county's citizens for 23 people who have died? It is very sad when someone dies and I am not saying its not a tragedy for their loved ones, but the response is getting blown way out of proportion. How many people die in Flathead County of other causes each year? What is that percentage compared to COVID deaths? What is the percentage of healthy people who get and survive COVID? Is it really the death sentence we were led to believe? Does the health department even have the staff to manage all of these new rules?

Please start thinking for yourselves and start thinking clearly about this. Take a deep breath and a step back.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sharon Riley

Dear Members of the Flathead County Health Board,

As a resident of Flathead County (Whitefish, MT) I would like to express my opposition to the proposed new restrictions related to COVID-19.

I'd like to ask you not to implement it for the following reasons:

1. It is an unequal application of the law, and anti-religious.
2. It contradicts the advice provided by experts in this category of public health.

The forced reduction of many business and houses of worship to 25% capacity, while leaving schools, their activities and sports events, untouched is an unfair and unequal application of the law. Whether intended or not, such an approach communicates and represents anti-religious bias and demonstrates a lopsided commitment to one aspect of our community while denigrating other essential elements.

Not only is this bad governance, the proposal also represents a completely compromised approach as its application is not universal and will therefore not be effective.

Secondly, the proposal is problematic as it considers only one set of data – COVID-19 infection rates – while ignoring other serious health issues that are related to and exacerbated by the imposition of such restrictions.

For example, ministers of every kind within this community have noticed a serious increase in mental health crises, anxiety-related issues, suicidal ideations, and a general deterioration of overall personal health within our communities as a direct result of the lockdown policies and restrictions.

Finally, these restrictions represent a model of responding to COVID-19 that experts say is the wrong approach to overcoming the effects of this virus in our communities. The County should be operating with an evidence-based approach and with the advice of those who are the experts in this particular realm of public health. Scientists, doctors, epidemiologists and health professionals across the spectrum make it clear that lockdowns and restrictions do not seem to accomplish any definite good in the short-term or in the long-run.

A good example of evidence and argumentation that contradicts the advice of the Health Dept is the Great Barrington Declaration (<https://gbdeclaration.org>), signed by dozens of internationally respected scientists and physicians who focus on this area of public health.

So, I urge you to do what is truly good for our community and follow the advice of the experts in this field, and decline to implement the recommendations provided by the County Health Department. Doing so will show that you truly care for our community's health and governance. Our approach should be focused on doing the least harm and amplifying protection of the vulnerable, and the recommendations provided by the Health Dept do neither.

Thank you,

Brandon Witt

310.709.1736

Board of Health Administration,

Please vote 'No' to items 6 and 7 on your agenda.

Vote 'No' to business closings and restrictions of our basic freedoms to gather.

Sincerely,

Brenda Buckner

To the FHCC Health Board:

Please be the voices of reason in our county and vote against these proposed tyrannical restrictions on our freedoms! Resist the fear and fraud being propagated by our state government, members of the media and medical community who are stripping our rights from us to make our own individual health and safety choices. Perhaps there was reason for concern earlier this year when the risks were not fully understood, but we will no longer comply with more directives and extreme measures including fraudulent testing, tracking, muzzling and distancing in our lives.

The commissioners understand this and should be commended for taking a stand FOR our rights! You should too!

We are free people.

Let each and every individual and business owner make voluntary choices for managing their own personal health risks, as we have all done for decades.

Our legislature has a lot of work to do next session, but for now...

Vote

NO x 8

today
for
freedom
of
choice!

Sue M
Kalispell

Good day and hello,

> I'm writing in concern for my county and my family. As a worker and provider for my family I am upset that another lockdown is on the table right now. After working in the healthcare industry for awhile I have seen everything covid has to offer and reported every day to work during it. Working long days with a mask on lowered my oxygen level and cause minor health issues, which could have escalated.

> As you know, lockdowns are a very controversial thing right now and we have no reason to be brought into this controversy. Our city is a strong one and flathead county has been lower in numbers than many other places due to the residents being smart and respectful of each other.

> Please know the residents of this county need to be able to provide for their families, whether it's purchasing feed for their animals, seeds for their crops, or just leaving the house for a small break to enjoy socializing with the great people of this county, we need freedoms right now in these crucial times and we need you to back us for these freedoms. Our president has placed those freedoms in your hands and I hope and pray for my family and county that you may the right decision.

> God bless you and your families.

> Thank you.

Dear Health Board Members,

We insist that you Vote NO on Item's 6 and 7: Reducing the Spread & Health Officer Order

The citizens of Flathead county are all done with the government over reach . Our Liberty is more important to us than the security these orwellian directives are promising.

We have Crippled our economy near the point of no return

We have stopped the herd immunity to get us out of this Virus and therefore slowed down dramatically the recovery rate.

The Death rate does not justify such sacrifice of Liberty

Masks have proven to be ineffective and even could cause physical, emotional and mental health harm

Vote NO. That fat lady has sung, the curtain has fallen and the audience has gone home. IT IS OVER.

Sincerely
Chad and Emily Myers
