

Baumb, Nelly

From: Nancy D. Wagner <nancydwagner@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Covid 19 and Masks

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I don't understand why Palo Alto has not yet mandated that people working or patronizing essential businesses wear face coverings/masks.

Today, when I asked the House of Bagels manager why no one in the store - including all of the workers - were NOT wearing face masks, he said it was optional. Basically not required, so they're not bothering. The risk of the Covid 19 pandemic and spread of the virus in the community is far from over.

And yes, it's my option to take my business elsewhere and not bother picking up any essentials in Palo Alto. I understand that Santa Clara County has made face masks optional, but the City of Palo Alto can do better. I urge the Council to MANDATE this basic community safety measure now.

Nancy

Baumb, Nelly

From: michael nierenberg <nierenberg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Face Mask Mandate

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Dear Council Members,

I understand the Council is considering making wearing face masks a mandate. As a physician and resident I oppose making wearing masks a mandate, though I am not opposed to promoting wearing masks *appropriately*. Here are my reasons:

1. Masks are only partially effective at best and like all PPE must be used correctly or they can actually increase risk. Masks need to fit and be worn correctly; not loose and dangling or just over the mouth. Disposable masks need to be just that... disposed of regularly. I see many people using them over and over. Touching them with contaminated hands just spreads infection. Cloth masks need to be washed regularly or again they are a source of infection. How are you going to mandate this or check on it? Masks can also give a false sense of security. Rather than a mandate, I would suggest focusing on education regarding PPE so it will be effective.
2. As I understand it, masks would not need to be worn when exercising but would otherwise be mandated. What is exercise? Is walking your dog exercise? How about yoga? Just sitting alone in a park with no one around is not exercise, but it is safe in terms of spreading infection. Rather, masks should be worn when you cannot easily maintain a safe distance from others. Stores, banks, post office, outside gatherings if people are moving about, etc. They need to be used when needed; and not when not! Wearing face masks for prolonged periods of time can in fact cause facial skin problems thus causing one problem to prevent another.
3. Lastly, mandating means "enforcement". The police and other "enforcers" have enough to do already without checking if masks are soiled, reused, or worn incorrectly. Just seeing a mask on someone is not enough as noted in point #1. I bicycle around Palo Alto every day and the vast majority of people with or without masks are respectful of distancing. In stores the vast majority already are wearing masks. So why "fix" something that isn't broken? Again, we need more education and less laws and mandates. Frankly I can name numerous laws and mandates already on the books or proposed that aren't enforced or marginally enforced at best: Gas leaf blowers, idling your car, J-walking, fires on no-burn days, cars left unattended on the streets for months, etc. Do we really need another mandate?

Thank you for your time and attention. I would urge that you please not MANDATE; but rather EDUCATE.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Nierenberg, MD

Clinical Professor of Medicine

Stanford University

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Baumb, Nelly

From: Tim Diebert <tdiebert04@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 7:12 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: tdiebert04@gmail.com
Subject: Upcoming decision about requiring the wearing of masks in Palo Alto.

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I've been a resident of South Palo Alto for the last 32 years, and I would like to offer my opinion about the proposed requirement that face masks be worn in public in Palo Alto.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. The County of Santa Clara Health Department has done a great job in these 'interesting' times, including rational, science based decisions. Since the County doesn't require masks in public, I really wonder why the City Council thinks they know better. What science is this being based on? The County already requires the wearing of masks when visiting 'essential businesses', so what is to be gained by the City adding a requirement. When I'm out doing errands to 'essential businesses' (bank, Post Office, drug store, getting food), I see very few people out, and those who are out, are maintaining social distancing as required by the County Order. If you are concerned about the parks and open space, require them there. **Please** don't require me to wear a mask when I'm walking in my neighborhood, where I might see 5 people who are maintaining social distancing.

Thank you for listening.
Tim Diebert

If you remain calm in the midst of great chaos, it is the surest guarantee that it will eventually subside.

Julie Andrews,
actress, singer, writer

Baumb, Nelly

From: James ODonohue <odonohue@pacbell.net>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please require masks in public
Attachments: Please require masks.pdf

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May 8, 2020

Dear Palo alto City Council,

I have practiced medicine for over 30 years, and I am writing to support the proposal to require mask wearing in public where close interaction is possible.

There are still many unknowns about the coronavirus, but the vast majority of scientists and medical practitioners agree on the basics. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, and talking, and probably also by aerosols generated while breathing and talking. See references below.

The vast majority of scientists and medical practitioners also agree that wearing masks prevents the spread of the coronavirus. Every medical practitioner wears a mask at work when dealing with a respiratory infectious disease. Although an N95 mask may be optimal, the simple ear loop medical mask can reduce the spread of aerosols three fold, and can reduce the spread of small droplets by 25 fold. See references below.

The vast majority of scientists and medical practitioners also agree that over half of all active coronavirus infections are asymptomatic, or show minimal symptoms, so that those carrying and spreading the virus do not know that they are carrying and spreading the virus, and therefore a danger to the most at risk members of our community.

I hope the city council will be guided by the science and the data, and not be swayed by the loudest voices, which too often are politically motivated and dangerously misinformed or misled.

Best regards,

James O'Donohue, M.D.
Redacted Palo Alto

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3591312/>
<https://www.healthline.com/health/cold-flu/mask>

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Best regards,



James O'Donohue, M.D.
1321 Waverley St., Palo Alto

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3591312/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/cold-flu/mask>

Baumb, Nelly

From: Virginia Van Kuran <virginia@vankuran.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Urge the Council to NOT Approve Emergency Services Order Requiring the Wearing of Face Coverings to Slow the Spread of Covid-19

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City Council Members,

I am a 71 year old resident of Palo Alto (with no underlying conditions). I appreciate all the careful steps the city has taken to follow the County Guidelines, State Guidelines and the Federal Guidelines. I think those are sufficient and we should not add another layer of guidelines. Personally I wear the cotton mask made by my neighbor whenever I am out. I'm impressed with all of the precautions all the stores I shop at - Grocery, Pet and Pharmacy have taken. Everyone shopping in the store is already wearing masks.

I fear a backlash from our very conscientious Palo Alto citizens if you enact this additional order.

Regards,

Virginia Van Kuran
Redacted
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Baumb, Nelly

From: Barton Wells <bwells@3hc.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Face coverings

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

You have got to be kidding me that Palo Alto is considering making face coverings mandatory. Do you even know that people pass out due to carbon dioxide poisoning when doing strenuous (and sometimes not strenuous) activity w/ certain face masks (especially those that have some volume of air within them)? Do you also know the numbers of cases of COVID-19 locally? The last two days, 3 people died in the entire Bay Area from COVID-19 and related causes. Do you know how many died of heart disease each of those days? 44! And that happens everyday of every year, but you aren't doing anything about that.

Please, please, please get some balanced thought in making decisions. I feel that no one in government is thinking about the side effects of everything being implemented. People will die from enforced face masks, no doubt. Will people die from not having face masks? There really is no compelling data on that.

If there is a probable cause situation, like when there is an indoor gathering of people in an enclosed space for an extended period of time, well then that is a different case. But a better solution is to not allow such large indoor gatherings until you are willing to move beyond the current idea that zero lives should be lost to COVID-19 (that society does not have for any other condition).

While I do not support a fast opening up of absolutely everything (though there is a serious lack of outside-the-box thinking here), as of Thursday, May 7th, there are 70 confirmed hospitalized cases of confirmed COVID-19 in all of Santa Clara County, and only 32 of those in ICU. And the numbers of each of those have be falling and falling without required face masks. I do not believe that a legal case could be made that there is evidence that face masks are required to fix a problem for the common good.

Just please think.

Barton Wells,
Palo Alto resident for 30 years

Baumb, Nelly

From: David Goldberg <david.goldberg@ymail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Face Covering Order

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

For the first time in my 30 years of living in Palo Alto, I've been moved to write a letter to the council. This is in response to reading the City of Palo Alto Coronavirus Daily Report of May 8, which mentioned a face covering order. I presume the thinking is that even though there is no reliable science supporting face coverings, the precautionary principle suggests enacting an ordinance anyway. I found a number of counter arguments to this thinking in an informative [report](#) from the New Zealand Ministry of Health. It mentions the precautionary principle in support of coverings, but it also mentions numerous risks and pitfalls of requiring masks, including some studies suggesting that requiring face coverings might actually have a negative effect.

I am skeptical of the need for a city-wide face ordinance, since businesses are free to require them, and many have already done so. But if the city does consider a city-wide face ordinance, I hope that it will be very clearly and narrowly drafted to only cover situations where social distancing is not possible, and thus minimize unintended negative consequences. I know the council wants to do everything possible to mitigate the effects of Covid-19, but sometimes doing nothing is better than doing something. A face ordinance might be one such thing.

David Goldberg

Baumb, Nelly

From: yvonne charles <yvonne.thtf@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Face covering considerations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor Fine and the rest of the Palo Alto City Council,

I suspect the state of California and the rest of the country will at some point decide facial coverings are necessary when we are out in public. I have a few concerns about this. To be clear, I agree completely that everyone should wear them when on public transit or inside a business. My concern is solely based on wearing them outside.

Personally, I find it hard to breathe when wearing a covering. Especially now due to fewer emissions, I'm grateful to be able to breathe cleaner air. The health impacts of breathing cleaner air were well documented in Beijing some years ago (Olympics). My daily walks will be much less enjoyable if I have to wear a mask. The air is fragrant with blossoming flowers, important to my well being.

Several loved ones have told me wearing masks make them claustrophobic. They have to emotionally gear up for grocery shopping. Requiring them to wear a mask will result in some people not taking safe, physically distant walks that are so important to mental and physical health.

I've also noticed that some people who used to maintain physical distance no longer do so when wearing masks. The recommendation of both mask and physical distance is forgotten when a facial covering is worn, even when that covering is barely adequate or has been reused multiple times.

Last, and very important, I keep reading concerning details about abuse during shelter in place. Facial coverings will literally mask bruises. Ever since I first read about this, I've been scared for children. Then it also occurred to me that suddenly not being able to see a smile would affect all children (adults too) detrimentally. Without a kind face on display, we may be denying those in abusive situations of a source of refuge. The new level of neighborliness has been a highlight of shelter in place for me. We can keep safe and be even safer the longer we put off wearing masks when outside.

I'm sending this email now because I know you'll be voting soon on this matter. Thank you for reading my thoughts.

I hope you all stay safe and well.

--
yvonne