

## ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING

Friday, June 26, 2020 - 9:00 AM

City Hall Council Chambers - 385 Goliad St., Rockwall, TX 75087

Live and post-meeting video may be viewed here: <http://www.rockwall.com/meetings/video.asp>

### I. CALL EMERGENCY MEETING TO ORDER

An urgent, public necessity exists for calling this emergency meeting, and immediate action is required of the governing body because of the COVID-19 pandemic (an imminent threat to public health and safety).

Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Present in person were Mayor Jim Pruitt, Councilmember Anna Campbell, Dana Macalik and Trace Johannesen. Present remotely, via ZOOM teleconferencing, were Councilmember John Hohenshelt and City Attorney Frank Garza. Also present were City Manager Rick Crowley and Assistant City Managers Mary Smith and Joey Boyd.

Mayor Pruitt explained that this meeting is largely being held to talk about whether or not city sponsored public events will be held or cancelled (i.e. July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and fireworks show, July 3<sup>rd</sup> "Daycation" event, Concerts by the Lake, etc.). He also went on to explain the legal process associated with mandating that masks be worn, sharing that in the State of Texas, only the Governor, the County Judge or the Mayor can institute such a mandate and that such mandate would only apply to businesses, not individuals (businesses would be required to mandate that masks be worn by patrons while in their establishments). He clarified that no one can mandate that individuals wear masks. He went on to generally express that he personally, despite his unilateral authority as Mayor, will not be issuing any order that would mandate that masks be worn within businesses in the City of Rockwall. If other members of the Council would like to discuss the possibility of the city council, as a whole, passing an ordinance that would mandate that masks be worn in businesses within the city, then a council member will need to place that topic on an upcoming meeting agenda for discussion and consideration.

County Judge, David Sweet and County Emergency Management Coordinator, Barbara Neville then came forth and provided lengthy, detailed information concerning the numbers of COVID-19 cases within Rockwall County. They generally expressed a lot of frustration associated with not having received accurate, timely statistics regarding numbers of tests, positive cases, recoveries, etc.

### II. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public may attend in person to deliver public comments. Alternatively, public comments may be submitted via e-mail to [PublicComments@rockwall.com](mailto:PublicComments@rockwall.com). PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) MINUTES IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. In the body of the email, please include your name, address, agenda item (if applicable) or subject of discussion, and your comments. Please limit comment length to that which may be read aloud within three (3) minutes or less. Public Comment limitation is authorized by Governor Greg Abbott's TEMPORARY suspension of certain aspects of the Texas Open Meetings Act, which allows for a governing body to limit gathering members of the public and/or Board members in a physical setting that might constitute a public health risk.

Mayor Pruitt read into the record portions of several emails that had been received concerning (in part or whole) upcoming public events. Some of the comments were generally in favor of allowing public events, such as the fireworks, to be held; whereas other comments were clearly opposed to said events being allowed to carry on.

Many e-mails were received for the "public comments" portion of this emergency meeting. All e-mails which were received by the 8:30 a.m. deadline on June 26, 2020 have been included as part of the record and are attached to these minutes as "Exhibit A."

Pruitt generally indicated that the Council would like to hear from people present in the audience who would like to comment about upcoming public events and whether or not those should be allowed to continue, or if they should be cancelled. He explained that those wishing to speak on "masks vs. no masks" are asked to hold those comments and instead do so if / when that topic comes up on a future city council meeting agenda.

Bob Wacker  
309 Featherstone  
Rockwall, TX

Mr. Wacker came forth and shared comments regarding research he did via the World Health Organization (WHO) pertaining to wearing masks to protect from COVID-19. He shared sentiments that masks are an individual responsibility and that the WHO states that they are not very effective. He briefly commented on the July 4 parade, generally indicating that people should take personal precautions. Also, it is likely not a good idea to throw items out to the public during the parade (for example, flags).

Marie-Anne Schiffmann  
2125 Hillcroft Drive  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Mrs. Schiffmann came forth and expressed that she is miffed by the Council being so focused on 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, especially when those are things that a person can either chose to go to or not go to. She explained that she is an election worker and will be working the upcoming elections starting next Monday. She has concerns and generally expressed a desire that masks be required to be worn by election workers and those entering into the polling area. Mayor Pruitt clarified that the Governor only allows a local county judge or mayor to order that a *business* require patrons to dawn masks – neither he nor the county judge can require anyone outside of businesses to wear masks. Councilman Johannesen shared that Chris Lynch, the County Elections Administrator, just shared with him yesterday some protocols that he will have in place for protection during the election(s). Also, he generally expressed the belief that it is very unlikely that she or her election workers will contract the virus solely by people 'coming and going' because they will not be in a confined space for a prolonged period of time. Mrs. Schiffmann expressed a desire for the Council to speak to Chris Lynch (Elections Admin.) and encourage him to require that election workers wear masks. Pruitt and Johannesen generally explained that such a requirement would be up to Mr. Lynch, as he does not work for the City.

Rachel Witherspoon-Monk  
4193 Lorion Drive  
Rockwall, TX 75087



Mrs. Monk came forth and shared that she is a registered nurse and has been in the medical profession for about fifteen years. She does not want to see the July 4 fireworks and associated festivities be cancelled, as she does not want it to send a message of 'fear' by cancelling them. She believes that people should take personal responsibility and make their own, individual decisions regarding attending July 4<sup>th</sup> events (or not) and wearing of personal protective equipment (masks) or not. She personally does not believe that wearing masks provides protection.

Jay Lundy  
909 Sunpoint Circle  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Regarding the 7-11 store, Mr. Lundy shared that grass was recently installed. He has observed at the boat ramp – for example - that a lot of people do not adhere to "social distancing" during large, mass gatherings, and he has concerns about this. He believes it is prudent to limit these events or not allow these sorts of events to take place at all. He shared that this morning Gov. Greg Abbott issued an order allowing for events with over 100 people to take place with local approval only. He acknowledged that the City Council is in a difficult situation because, no matter what decisions are made by Council, those decisions will be considered 'wrong' by some people.

Linda Gonino  
202 Dartbrook  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Mrs. Gonino shared that she has lived in Rockwall for 43 years and have raised all of her children here. She had prepared a presentation about 'the dangers of wearing masks.' However, she will save this for a later date. She generally does not believe that 'outdoor events' pose a large health risk. She feels like the Council will make a really good decision, pointing out that she has been in the healthcare industry for the past twenty-five years.

Debbie Wengandt  
1918 Random Oaks Drive  
Rockwall, TX

Mrs. Wengandt expressed that she is a physician – a naturopathic doctor working here locally. She generally believes that this virus is not deadly, the mortality rate is very low, and it mostly impacts older people and/or people who already have compromised immune systems. She expressed the opinion that other, generally healthy people need to get out, catch the virus, and allow their immune systems to work as they should. General discussion ensued pertaining to mortality rates of COVID-19 vs. the regular, seasonal flu.

Janah Rodriguez  
Director of in-patient and ICU services at Presbyterian Hospital, Rockwall  
1229 Skylar Drive  
Rockwall, TX

Kim Arrowood  
Director of the Emergency Department at Rockwall Presbyterian Hospital

Ms. Rodriquez generally expressed that social distancing and proximity is key with this virus. She believes that putting people in large social gatherings and expecting them to social distance themselves is unrealistic. She expressed that they are seeing a 'surge,' an increase in numbers of COVID-19 positive patients in the local hospital, and this has been occurring over the last two weeks. They have no critical care beds, and their ER is overflowing with patients. She cautioned that if you come in with a heart attack, the hospital may not be able to transfer you because Dallas has no available beds either. She indicated that testing is not reliable, so if someone comes in presenting certain symptoms, they will be treated as though they do have COVID. She realizes that the reported number of cases is not accurate and that obtaining good data is difficult to do. She went on to say that she does not think that allowing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events to be held is a good idea because people will not adhere to social distancing.

Ms. Arrowood echoed that their hospital has seen a large surge in patients exhibiting COVID symptoms, and – at times – they are running out of places to put patients. The hospital has had to go to a 'code yellow plan' to try and deal with the influx of patients. She acknowledged that not all the data is accurate; however, she and her comrades are seeing a surge in the number of COVID patients within Rockwall Presbyterian Hospital, and the concerns are real and are valid. She does believe that wearing masks will help reduce transmission of the virus from one person to another.

There being no one else expressing a desire to come forth and speak at this time, Mayor Pruitt closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Councilmember Macalik shared that Tammy Sharp, President of the Downtown Rockwall Association just messaged, generally announcing that the July 3<sup>rd</sup> "Downtown Staycation" event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled to another time.

Councilmember Campbell asked the nurses who just spoke (Rodriquez and Arrowood) for clarification on the percentages associated with 'bed numbers' and COVID patients at Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall.

Cindy Paris  
762 Black Oak Lane  
Rockwall, TX

Mrs. Paris shared that Presbyterian Hospital in Rockwall has 80 beds, which means that they notice even the slightest change with things happening within the community, and it is very easy for their hospital to become overwhelmed. She indicated that this virus is being seen in their hospital. Yesterday, the bed capacity was at 100%, the hospital was totally full, and four people waited in the ER for a bed for quite a while. This virus is not solely related to old people. They see about 60-100 patients in their "ED" (emergency department) every day. She generally spoke about the ways in which her hospital has tried to accommodate the increase in capacity and achieve safe 'social distancing' while they are at the hospital. She cautioned that you have to be careful when looking at and evaluating the numbers and the data. Yesterday, about 60% of their patients were COVID-19 patients. Today there are about 30% of patients who are COVID-related patients. One COVID test they use has about a 15% false negative result rate. So sometimes, even if a test is negative, if a patient is exhibiting certain symptoms, they will get treated as a COVID patient. Over the last couple of weeks, they have changed the methodology for how patients are treated, and this seems to be helping patients who are exhibiting breathing difficulties. This new drug is resulting in less patients ending up on ventilators. The hospital itself has 8 ventilators. She stressed that this virus is not solely related to 'old people,' indicating that a patient was 'lost' in their ER yesterday, and it was mind blowing. She does not believe that stopping all surgeries at one time

is a viable answer. She believes that wearing a mask is 2020's version of 'covering your mouth when you sneeze.' It will not stop everything, but it will help stop some.

Tami Hawkins  
104 Brentwood Drive

Mrs. Hawkins, local nurse, came forth and shared that the Dept. of State Health Services (DSHS) and CDC are looked to as the 'source of truth' over and above the World Health Organization. She cautioned that this virus is not just attacking old people. There are healthy, young people dying too. The impact is much higher than the 'numbers' shown, as some people who are dying in the local hospitals do not actually live in Rockwall County.

Eva Cannon  
421 Bedford Falls  
Rockwall, TX

Ms. Cannon came forth and shared that she is a local business owner and resident. Her dad is currently in ICU in Dallas, and he has COVID-19. She believes that the City of Rockwall holding its 4<sup>th</sup> of July event is a bad idea. Also, since a lot of the other cities have cancelled theirs, people will be coming into the city from other areas, and we will see an increase in the spread of the virus. Mrs. Cannon shared that the numbers are 'skewed,' and we don't have true, accurate numbers yet at this point.

### III. ACTION DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider upcoming city-related public events and requirements associated with wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and take any action necessary.

Rick Crowley, City Manager, indicated that yesterday morning, Baylor-Scott-White Lakepointe yesterday had 115 in the hospital with 10% being COVID. The non-surge capacity is 148. 30% of their ventilators were in use (though he did not ask how many they actually have).

Regarding Concert by the Lake and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, Councilmember Macalik made a motion to cancel those events. Councilmember Johannesen seconded the motion. Macalik clarified that her motion is related to events where 100 or more people would be present. Councilmember Johannesen commented, generally stressing the belief that the virus does not spread in outdoor areas – rather, it spreads more so in confined, indoor spaces.

Councilmember Macalik pointed out that a lot of surrounding communities have cancelled their July 4<sup>th</sup> events, and she believes that a lot of people will flock to Rockwall to attend our event(s) if they are not cancelled. She personally believes that large gatherings do contribute to higher numbers of COVID cases. She has concerns about 'social distancing' being possible when 2,000 – 5,000 people come to events such as these (fireworks and Concerts by the Lake).

Mayor Pruitt clarified that Macalik's motion, if passed, would result in cancellation of the following events: the "Outdoor Day" today at The Harbor; Baseball Nation's tournaments at Tuttle Athletic Complex this weekend; Concert by the Lake on July 2; fireworks at The Harbor on July 3; the July 4 parade and the fireworks show at Harry Myers.

Mayor Pruitt generally expressed that he does not believe governments should be mandating people's behavior or shutting down public events – instead, everyone should take personal responsibility to take care of themselves and decide whether they should wear masks or shop at businesses that require them to be worn.

Councilmember Macalik's motion to cancel all of the events that were named off by Mayor Pruitt failed by a vote of 1 in favor (Macalik) and 4 against (Campbell, Hohenshelt (remotely), Pruitt and Johannesen) with two being absent (Fowler and Daniels).

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pruitt adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS, THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2020.

  
JIM PRUITT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
KRISTY COLE, CITY SECRETARY





# EXHIBIT A

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** 06/26 Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:11:22 PM

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I have a feeling that this meeting is being called to consider a mandatory wearing of masks for "public health" concerns. COVID19 being the reason obviously.

Put simply, I say you dont have a right to ask people to wear masks and I think it's all a lie anyway. 4 reasons. Lies from leadership, health risks, safety, and rights.

I have attached a video of Dr. Fauci, the one who is supposed to be a leader during this whole crisis for the entire country. In this clip from the show 60 Minutes, 03/08/2020 he outright says people do not need to be wearing a mask. He has backtracked on his position about the whole ordeal, going from disapproving of Trump closing off access to and from China, to saying Trump wasnt doing enough, to now saying we dont need to be wearing masks. Anything this man says is difficult to trust at this point. He was even the one who helped provide funding for the facility that appears to have been responsible for this whole problem.

The World Health Organization themselves gave the entire world false information about this situation and haven't been able to provide substantial evidence that masks help prevent the transfer of the virus. There are however, indications that wearing a mask increases the quantity of bacteria stuck around the mouth from being sucked in, and there are people getting sick from bacterial infections near the mouth.

On top of all this, it's a safety issue to small business owners who might have people with bad intentions walk in with a mask because its apparently mandated and therein lies an opportunity for these individual's to commit a robbery with their faces covered knowing they have a higher chance of getting away.

On top of all this, it's not the right of a government to decide what a human should or shouldn't be able to do to protect their body. You would be asking people who are not sick, to wear a mask and risk getting less oxygen efficiency and possible bacterial infection, to protect a portion of the population that was at risk of getting sick to begin with. Humans have been living and dying with many incurable diseases for thousands of years, and now suddenly one that a small percentage of the population might die from exists, and everything stopped, we almost ruined the national economy and it's all at the same time the Obama administration is being subpoenaed to testify on the illegal spying on Trump. Just very coincidental.

I just moved to Rockwall and avoided moving to Dallas to have a smaller city home and avoid the disasters of a large metropolitan city. I hope you dont make me regret that decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

<https://youtu.be/FCBRQWmwK5Q>

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** 6/26 Council Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:09:27 PM

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Name - Darlene Singleton

Address - 930 Williams St, Rockwall, TX 75087

Subject of discussion - July 3 DAYCATION

Comments. In regards to the July 3 DAYCATION - Rockwall officials are requested to enforce the public and vendors and shop owners to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic or **cancel** the event due to the rise in positive cases. Have city staff implement disinfectant cleaning of public areas (seating spaces) throughout the day as well as enforce vendors wear PPE and disinfectant cleaning of their space/business. When originally presented it was noted the City staff stated no protocol would be in place and currently per the DRA information no protocol is planned - hopefully this meeting will change that decision.

Please be responsible!

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: 6/25 meeting in regards to PPE  
Date: Friday, June 25, 2020 7:45:17 AM

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Leslie Cunningham  
538 Garrett Road  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Agenda item: mandatory masks

I am writing you this morning to voice my side of the mandatory masks. I am 36 year old born and raised Rockwall Texan. I am seeing so much division in my hometown. It is beyond out of hand.

I have done lots of research in regards to the masks. I have not worn a mask during this entire Covid craziness. I have a medical condition that prohibits me from wearing one. There are many people in Rockwall who physically CAN NOT wear a mask, like myself.

It's against HIPAA & ADA regulations to make someone wear a mask. Establishments can fine excessive fines. It is also against OSHA regulations.

Health professionals have said if you DO NOT have the virus then you do not need to wear a mask. So why make this mandatory? It is absurd.

Please see attached picture from a friend.

Thank you for your time.

Leslie Cunningham

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Printed: 06/13/2020 7:48 AM  
By: Brian King, MD

## After Care Instructions

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### COVID-19 GENERAL (EDU)

1. There is a new kind of Coronavirus that causes a disease called COVID-19.
2. Coronavirus is a general category of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses. The common cold is also caused by several types of coronavirus. These kinds of coronavirus have been around for years and are not dangerous.
3. The new coronavirus causes a disease called COVID-19. It does not cause the common cold. The virus was first detected in Wuhan, China. It has spread from person-to-person around the world, including the United States.
4. People in danger of getting COVID-19 are:
  - Those in close contact with people who already have COVID-19.
  - Those who recently traveled to areas with high rates of infection.
5. The virus is spread through:
  - Tiny infected water droplets which are spread when someone sneezes or coughs.
  - Person-to-person close contact with someone who is infected. Close contact is being within 6 feet of the infected person.
  - Touching a surface or object with infected tiny droplets on it from another person.
6. People are most contagious (at highest risk of spreading the virus to others) when they have symptoms. Some people may also be contagious before they get symptoms.
7. Symptoms of COVID-19 may happen within 2-14 days following exposure and can be:
  - Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°F or 38°C).
  - Cough.
  - Shortness of breath.
8. COVID-19 is mostly a mild disease. However, anyone with a bad case of this virus may get pneumonia in both lungs. This can make breathing hard and may lead to hospitalization, need for intensive care or even death. In affected areas, people getting COVID-19 tend to be elderly. These people also have the highest chance of dying.
9. Testing for COVID-19 is done by swabbing the nose, throat and mouth. Your doctor or healthcare provider is following diagnostic guidelines from the CDC on who should and should not be tested.
10. There is no cure or vaccine for COVID-19 right now. The main treatment is supportive care. This means treating the symptoms including using acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for fever, along with rest and fluids. You may have been given an inhaler or steroids. Use these as directed.
11. Patients with COVID-19 may not need to be in the hospital. They may be sent home or to a health care facility for isolation (quarantine). The purpose of this is to keep them separated from other noninfected persons to avoid spread of the virus. State and local public health authorities will decide the place of isolation (quarantine).
12. To lower your chance of being infected with COVID-19, avoid exposure to those who are infected, you should:
  - Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
  - Wash your hands often. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap.
  - Do not touch your face, especially your nose and mouth, before washing your hands.
  - Only use a facemask if you show symptoms from COVID-19. The CDC says people who aren't sick don't need to wear masks to protect themselves from COVID-19. You only need to wear a mask if you are coming into close contact with those who are infected.
13. Remember there are many other viruses causing similar respiratory symptoms to COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) at this

PATIENT COPY

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pruitt, Jim](#); [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item- masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:46:14 PM

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I wanted to weigh in my thoughts on the mandate for masks.

First- I will tell you that I am a frontline worker as a nurse in an ICU.

While I understand this mask discussion is a very polarizing debate:

Those that are pro mask and those that are not.

I also understand that this has turned into a political agenda. People are not wanting to wear a mask and using it as an infringement upon their constitutional rights.

In regards to that I offer this view of the constitution:

The beginning states "We the people... of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Just looking at the introduction the goal of the constitution mentions to promote the general welfare and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Posterity is all future generations of people.

What about the 16 people that have died so far in rockwall county alone? What about their posterity and well being? Not to mention their loved ones well being as they bury their husband, mother, etc....

The other side of the discussion says well...its only 16 people out of all the citizens in Rockwall.

For me- if doing something so menial as wearing a mask saves our community from a 17th, then so be it.

Further down in the constitution we have the Bill of Rights.

The first one states:

Amendment 1 - Freedom of expression and religion) **13**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Freedom of expression states: religion, speech, press, and the right to assemble. It does not state that in the event of a pandemic, if public safety is of concern you have the right to put the wellbeing and

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item: Covid 19 - We should wear masks  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:21:41 AM

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Please read at the City Council meeting this morning:

Hope is not a strategy. We need fact and science based information to lead policy. Current recommendations from ALL of our medical experts at CDC, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (with Dr Fauci) say that masks help slow the spread of Covid19. I can't understand how following medical advice has become a political statement.

Wearing a piece of material over your face is a very small effort that each of us can do. To all the "but freedom" folks, Freedom comes with RESPONSIBILITY. We wear seat belts, observe stop lights and stop signs, we don't allow smoking in public places -- all because they have been determined to be for the public good. Wearing masks is for the public good.

Make a sensible decision to require masks for Rockwall. Communicate the medical advice and help ensure that everyone sees the value of helping to stop the spread of this highly contagious disease.

Kirsten Jordan  
2112 Kyle Circle  
Rockwall, Tx 75032

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Arguments against Mandatory Wearing of Masks  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:16:06 AM

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WHEREAS,

1. The justification for mask wearing and other public health interventions depends upon the Infection Fatality Rate (IFR). The IFR for COVID-19 is between 0.07-0.2%, in line with seasonal flu (with an IFR of 0.1%). CDC estimated IFR for Covid-19 on May 24th to be below 0.3%.

Dr. Scott Atlas of Stanford University wrote, "The fatality rate if infected is likely 0.1 to 0.2%, a risk far lower than previous World Health Organization estimates that were 20 to 30 times higher and that motivated isolation policies.

This virus does not meet any established criteria for a pandemic. The Infection Fatality Rate is right in line with the seasonal influenza virus — and we do not require masking every winter for the flu.

2. The more testing we do, the lower the Infection Fatality Rate goes. This virus is petering out. Most people who do test positive have mild and transient symptoms — if any. The death rate from Covid-19 even in Texas ICU's among the most severely ill is down from 12% in May to 5.9% in June. This virus is on its way out.

3. It is not possible to stop transmission of a global virus. All our measures to slow it only succeed in postponing infection. I would much rather see our residents contract a virus in summer when immunity is much higher and the virus weakened by warm temperatures than in winter when health is more tenuous and threats to the immune system more numerous.

4. Mask wearing is predicated on the presumption that infected but asymptomatic individuals can spread SARS Co-V 2. This has now been shown NOT to be the case.

5. Covid-19, like all Corona viruses, is NOT spread by casual or airborne contact.

6. There is no evidence that masks work to stop the spread of the virus, and in the case of cloth face coverings, they could actually *increase* the spread due to concentration and contamination.

Hong Kong researchers evaluated data all the way back to 1946 and concluded: "We found no significant reduction in influenza transmission with the use of face masks."

Denis Rancourt, PhD, of the Ontario Civil Liberties Association wrote, "Masks and respirators do not work. There have been extensive randomized controlled trial studies, and meta-analysis reviews of RCT studies, which all show that masks and respirators do not work to prevent respiratory influenza-like illnesses, or respiratory illnesses believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosol particles. It would be a



paradox if masks and respirators worked, given what we know about viral respiratory diseases: The main transmission path is long-residence-time aerosol particles (< 2.5 microns), which are too fine to be blocked, and the minimum-infective-dose is smaller than one aerosol particle. (Masks Don't Work: A review of science relevant to COVID-19 social policy Technical Report · April 2020 DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.14320.40967/1)

THEREFORE,

I am strongly opposed to any requirement that the citizens of Rockwall be required to wear a mask.

Dr. Jon Weygandt

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Attn: Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:42:28 AM

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I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrkCa0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrkCa0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Sincerely,  
Carissa Dierksen  
Entrepreneur  
Rockwall Resident

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:19:38 PM

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To the members of the Rockwall City Council,

The best time to act on Covid 19 is well past. The next best time to act is now. The council should immediately mandate wearing of masks in public and cancel any planned July 4th celebrations. The meteoric rise in cases over recent weeks since phase 3 of Governor Abbot's reopening plan requires immediate action. If the state is unwilling to act in the interest of it's citizens the onus falls to individual cities and counties. You will hear many arguments against the wearing of masks as restricting constitutional liberties. These are straw man arguments - masks are a minor inconvenience at worst and are not designed to protect the wearer but to protect those in proximity to the wearer. It is no man or woman's constitutional right to endanger the health of any other through either ignorance or negligence.

If these steps had been mandated early in the pandemic on a national or state wide level we would be on our way to recovery instead of languishing in our 4th month of continued spread. Entire countries such as New Zealand have eliminated the virus entirely by mandating such measures and by their citizens honoring their obligation to their community to keep each other safe.

This infection rate has at minimum quadrupled in our system since stay at home orders and social distancing restrictions were lifted. This is a clear and present danger to the people of Texas and of Rockwall and measures must be taken to protect the community. This should be a discussion based solely on readily available facts and information based in science, not on feelings, inconveniences or political affiliation. If we want to return to normal as quickly as possible these steps must be taken swiftly and decisively.

I implore the members of the Rockwall city council to heed the facts and advice of scientists and doctors and follow the example of cities, counties, states and entire countries who have reduced or eliminated the virus entirely and take the below measures to improve and ensure the safety of our community.

Mandate masks in all public places, enforceable by fines escalating for repeat offenders. It should not be up to the city's business to police their community. That burden falls on the city itself.

Thank you,  
Heather Turner

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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for 6/26/20 Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:56:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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**Patricia Ruiz**  
**2908 Greenway Drive, Rockwall, TX 75087**

### **Comments for Open Forum in regard to PPE**

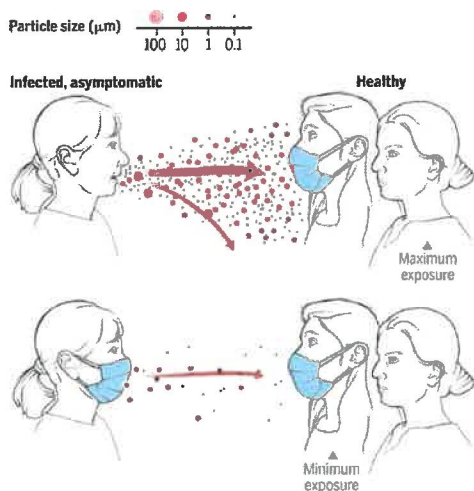
Texas set another record for new COVID-19 cases today with 5,996. This is the third consecutive day that the record has been broken. We must take action to protect ourselves and our community. While there have been recommendations to wear masks, the general public has not seen that as necessary and masks are not being worn. We need to require masks in all public places similar to Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Hidalgo, Cameron, El Paso, and Harris counties.

At least 60% of Rockwall cases are community spread (<https://www.rockwallcountytexas.com/1023/COVID-19-Information>). It is irresponsible to let the public go out while possibly unknowingly infected without masks. Both my son and I are high risks and we have not left the house since the beginning of March. Since we are completely isolated we won't get sick but what happens when there are no hospital beds because they are filled with COVID patients and my son needs medical attention? Texas hospitals are filling up quickly (<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/covid19/report-patient-impact.html>) and we need to stop the curve now. We never experienced the "two week downtrend" that was supposed to be required before reopening (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/texas-coronavirus-cases.html>). Since we are seeing so much community spread there is no reason not to follow CDC guidelines for such areas (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>)



### Masks reduce airborne transmission

Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas universal masking results in the least exposure.



GRAPHIC: V. ALTOUNIAN/SCIENCE

Rockwall also needs to enforce the mask mandates with fines at the bare minimum. I know the citizens of Rockwall have generally been very opposed to these rules so they will have to be enforced rather than "strongly suggested". I know that many have been quick to cite economic issues with the stay at home orders but where is the economy if we lose 5% of the population?

Wearing a mask is literally the bare minimum we can do as individuals for our community. I strongly urge you to mandate masks.

Thank you,  
Patricia Ruiz

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on mask Mandate  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:34:01 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a physician living in Rockwall. My address is 6501 Warwick Dr. Rockwall, Tx 75087.

I cannot strongly urge you enough to mandate people to wear masks. Research has shown that masks are one of the best ways we, as citizens, can help slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Unfortunately, many in our community will not heed medical professionals' recommendations unless there is a mandate. The rapid increase in cases despite Governor Abbott urging people to stay home and wear masks when out is proof of that. We can expect exponential growth of people with COVID-19 if we continue as we are. Please help protect the citizens of Rockwall county.

Sincerely,

Jessica Morse, a concerned physician citizen

Sent from my iPhone

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UT Southwestern

Medical Center

The future of medicine, today.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid 19 and Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:27:59 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am commenting on the use of masks and on public events. I know the Governor has already put some restrictions on the amount of people who can attend public events. He has also strongly suggested we wear masks.

We already have the evidence in Rockwall of what happens when you open up and don't know apply those rules. It has been proven in many studies that if everyone wears a mask, the rate of transmission of coronavirus would go way down. As it is, Rockwall's numbers are climbing as are most Texas cities. This cannot continue. It needs to be somewhat controlled before we hit flu season in the fall.

I personally do not understand the problem with requiring masks in public. We require that people wear seat belts for their safety, and get ticketed if they don't. This is no different to me. I think many people would be more inclined to get back to shopping if they knew that people were wearing masks. I have friends in Rowlett who say they feel very safe now in their town, because almost everyone in the grocery stores, drugstores, etc., are wearing masks. Why should Rockwall be any different. We are not the chosen ones who will not be affected by this virus, as we have seen in the past few weeks.

If people don't want to wear masks because they aren't afraid of getting sick, then they should wear it for those who could get very ill, or even die from it. Have a heart people. Wear a mask and then go to all the events and stores you want to go to.

Sincerely, Patti Watson  
2826 N Stodghill Rd  
Rockwall, TX 75087

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid 19 emergency meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:39:41 PM

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Thank you for allowing us to give input into this important decision and for calling this emergency meeting.

I would like to express my support for requiring face masks while in public spaces to protect our neighbors from inadvertently transmitting Covid 19. I would encourage our city council to set aside politics (and other motivators) and follow the science to protect our community and our loved ones. Furthermore, I hope they will look ahead to August and require face masks and other precautions as we move toward returning our children to school. Thank you.

--

Carolyn Hickey, M.Ed.  
2345 Desert Falls Ln, Rockwall, TX 75087

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid 19 open forum meeting  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:12:36 AM

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Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Harold Wortman. I live at 313 Russwood Street. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. The most critical part of a community and role of leadership is to take care of each other and the citizens entrusted to your care. We have a shared responsibility to do this in a way we have never been challenged in our lifetimes. Never before has the very air we expel been dangerous to other community members. I understand how this has been politicized however I implore you to ignore that and focus on the science and public health impacts which are not political. These are seen by community members who cannot now get into hospitals and see their loved ones because they are full of COVID patients. They are seen by those who will have non COVID health emergencies and have difficulty getting a procedure, and finally these will continue to be seen by the increased sickness and deaths of our fellow community members. If we continue as we are without significant leadership in Rockwall then we will be directly responsible for what could have been avoided with common sense. All I am asking for is what Governor Abbott communicated to all citizens yesterday. Wear a mask when out in public and socially distance. What does this mean for Rockwall? It means we need leadership to formally support these initiatives. Cancel the ill advised fireworks and issue a simple requirement to wear a mask in businesses and when amongst groups. Wearing a mask is about protecting your community and those you care about. This is not a time to bow up and claim your right to infect others. This is not the time in the face of facts to say this is a conspiracy of some sort. This is not the time for silence from our leaders. Silence is complicity. We need honesty, transparency, and a willingness to protect the community you represent. I implore you to listen and more importantly act.

Thank you,

Harold Wortman  
Rockwall Homeowner

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid 19  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:12:01 AM

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Hello Members of the Council and Judge Sweet,

My name is Sara Wortman and I live at 313 Russwood St. rockwall, 75087.

Rockwall is my home. I grew up here. I graduated from Rockwall HS. I've chosen to raise my four children here and my parents have chosen to live here. We all have chosen Rockwall and love Rockwall because of the community. Rockwall is a family. When someone is in need, Rockwall shows up. When the Z's catfish was hurting, Rockwall showed up. When Rockwall families are struggling to feed their kids, Rockwall shows up. Whenever someone is suffering or in need, Rockwell shows up. Right now our city and our community is suffering, our Rockwall family needs to do what they've done all my life, show up. The science and the numbers don't lie. This virus is ravaging North Texas and our entire great state. We need to show up. Rockwall needs to come together, show up, and be the caring family and community that my husband and I have chosen to raise our kids in and my parents have decided to grow old in.

Even though so many Rockwallians are showing up, many are not. Now is the time for you, our elected leaders, to show up. We need you like never before. We need you to bring our community together, by guiding us to the path of safety. By canceling the super spreader events that have been proven to spread the virus exponentially and mandate mask wearing in all businesses. Our local businesses need your Support and leader ship. In order for our community to show up for them we need your guidance. If we all show up, with your guidance and strong leadership, we will be able to enjoy our local restaurants, stores, gyms, salons, and all of our local businesses with safety, So much sooner. Parents will be able to safely and confidently drop their children at daycares, camps, extracurricular activities and school so much sooner. Families will know that their loved ones in nursing homes and cared nursing facilities are safe, so much sooner.

I have four small children at home, no one wants to be able to return to some semblance of normal more than me, but right now is the time for the Rockwall family, the Rockwall community, to show up. Please use your leadership to guide us and bring us together, to help our Rockwall community show up. Please cancel the super spreader events and mandate masks in all businesses, for the safety and well-being of my family and all of our Rockwall family.

thank you

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid Meeting Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:25:22 AM

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Please read my following statement at the meeting this morning.

My name is Doctor Timothy Swofford. Many of you know me from growing up in this community, although I've been back for a decade practicing medicine in Royse City as a family medicine physician. This is what many call the front lines, so I feel my perspective is unique. I also am a father of 4, including an infant, and the son and grandson of family that would be considered high risk from covid-19. I could not attend in person today not out of fear, but out of family obligations.

First a single basic statistic to frame the discussion. 2 years ago flu season killed eleven thousand Texans. As of this morning, 4 months into this so called pandemic, covid-19 has killed 2300 Texans, approximately 1/5th of the death toll of flu from 2 years ago.

To the immediate concern of the supposed spike over the past 2-3 weeks, this is almost certainly from an increased rate of testing and not an actual change in the rate of covid-19. Many of these tests are from completely asymptomatic patients going in for procedures or people simply curious to get tested. I have these completely well curious patients call my office on a daily basis.

Since June 1st the number of newly realized cases in Texas has gone up nearly 10 times with this increased testing. That's one thousand percent and a scary statistic shouted daily by the media, yet the death rate has remained the exact same if not gone down. Let me repeat that. Over the past 3 weeks, the covid-19 death rate in Texas, despite having more realized cases, has been flat or gone down. Rockwall itself has even more reassuring statistics.

According to the famed physician Dr. Anthony Fauci, "We're not going to eliminate the virus. It is so transmissible it's going to be around for a while." I agree with this statement from Dr. Fauci. The goal of social distancing and face masks has never been to completely eradicate the virus, it has been to slow the spread until herd immunity is reached or a vaccine is created.

Realizing that there are many many more cases of covid-19 in the community than we thought there were a month ago and with that deaths not being any higher than before is the best possible scenario we could be in. I say a 3rd time, we are weeks into this supposed surge and the death rate HAS NOT CHANGED, and it may be in decline. I urge you not to be a victim of media fear mongering.

Lastly, aside from the very good medical data showing nothing else is needed in regards to a covid-19 response from anyone, I urge you to remember the limited government minded citizens that elected each and every one of you. Any decision to impose any public restrictions on any business or individual, businesses and individuals that are more than capable of deciding on their own what is in their best interest, will not be received well now or in future elections. Let the people decide for themselves.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:32:27 PM

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As you deliberate the matter of protecting Rockwall during this pandemic, please listen to the advice offered by medical officials. They KNOW what is best and offer their advice without hidden agenda.

There are those who believe government should not be involved in making mandates, but it is involved regardless of its position. Take no action, you are involved. The same applies if you take action.

Please, please err on the side of caution and follow medical advice.

Be safe, stay healthy  
Bob Cotti

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid-19 Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:27:31 AM

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Tim Swofford  
3314 Anna Cade Cir  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Re: Covid-19 Response

Comments:

My name is Doctor Timothy Swofford. Many of you know me from growing up in this community, although I've been back for a decade practicing medicine in Royse City as a family medicine physician. This is what many call the front lines, so I feel my perspective is unique. I also am a father of 4, including an infant, and the son and grandson of family that would be considered high risk from covid-19. I could not attend in person today not out of fear, but out of family obligations.

First a single basic statistic to frame the discussion. 2 years ago flu season killed eleven thousand Texans. As of this morning, 4 months into this so called pandemic, covid-19 has killed 2300 Texans, approximately 1/5th of the death toll of flu from 2 years ago.

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According to the famed physician Dr. Anthony Fauci, "We're not going to eliminate the virus. It is so transmissible it's going to be around for a while." I agree with this statement from Dr. Fauci. The goal of social distancing and face masks has never been to completely eradicate the virus, it has been to slow the spread until herd immunity is reached or a vaccine is created.

Realizing that there are many many more cases of covid-19 in the community than we thought there were a month ago and with that deaths not being any higher than before is the best possible scenario we could be in. I say a 3rd time, we are weeks into this supposed surge and the death rate HAS NOT CHANGED, and it may be in decline. I urge you not to be a victim of media fear mongering.

Lastly, aside from the very good medical data showing nothing else is needed in regards to a covid-19 response from anyone, I urge you to remember the limited government minded citizens that elected each and every one of you. Any decision to impose any public restrictions on any business or

individual, businesses and individuals that are more than capable of deciding on their own what is in their best interest, will not be received well now or in future elections. Let the people decide for themselves.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid-19 Pandemic requires teamwork and leadership  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:35:40 AM

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My name is Leonard Walker, a retired Educator. My address has been 1340 Tanglevine, Rockwall, TX 75087 since October of 2006. I am 73 years old, my wife is 72. We both have compromised health issues. I wear a mask every time I go into a public place. I do this to protect you as it offers little or no protection to me. I have seen fewer and fewer masks in grocery stores, at the gas pumps, in hardware stores. Fewer and fewer people are willing to wear a mask to protect me.

I lost a dear friend today. He was a wonderful Christian man. He loved his politics and was very active in his party. A few weeks ago, he attended a meeting for a local candidate. I doubt my friend, or many of the other attendees, were wearing masks. He didn't take the virus very seriously. A few days after the meeting he started showing symptoms. 13 days ago he was tested and immediately admitted to Big Baylor in Dallas. This morning his medical team said it was time for a ventilator. He called his wife to tell her what was happening. 2 hours later, a nurse from the hospital called with the news no one wants to hear. His heart just wouldn't take the trauma.

Face the FACTS, According to Medical organizations, Masks slow infections. What is going to happen in our schools if they don't wear masks? According to current guidelines, if a child tests positive they are removed from the campus as quickly as possible. Then all their classmates, teachers and anyone else they have had any contact with should be sent home for a 14-day period of quarantine.

Rockwall is the smallest county in Texas. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, we rank 40th by population and 54th by infections. 2.7 of every 1,000 people in our county has been infected by Covid-19. That ranks 95th, just above Mediocre. We will climb that ladder if we don't do something to slow/stop the spread.

Like the Mayor, I already have my mind made up. I don't plan on changing anything, no matter what is said today. I will wear my mask and try to do my part to stop spreading virus'.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Covid-19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:41:11 PM

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Thank you for calling an emergency meeting to address Covid-19.

I understand that the mayor stated previously that it is his desire to limit government oversight for citizens' in regard to Covid-19. Thereby allowing the citizens' to make their own decision for self and family.

Though I appreciate this opinion, I find it is difficult to make an informed decision for self/family when the daily information is not current and difficult to locate.

To this end I request that the city provide daily Covid-19 counts via display marquee outside of the City Center, website etc....

It appears that the city has conceded the task of reporting the number of cases to the County of Rockwall. Providing this daily information in easily viewed formats is a much needed public service.

Instead of using our tax dollars for celebrations that will create a hazardous scenario, in which the virus may spread easily from citizen to citizen, the city should consider hand sanitizing stations in strategic places through out the city and parks, along with providing face masks. After Covid-19 we can celebrate!

Thank you,  
D. Hudson  
Rockwall Homeowner for 32 years

I

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Do not mandate masks!  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:54:32 AM

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We have plenty of government overreach as it is. Mandates about personal protection equipment should not be one of them.

Our freedom of choice is one of the founding principals of this country, and that freedom includes decisions about how to best keep our family and ourselves safe. It isn't the governments job to do it.

We all know the risks, and we accept them daily. We don't need you to tell us about them. Again.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency City Council meeting regarding COVID  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:16:45 PM

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My name is Cassi Marietti. I live at 5505 Vagas Dr., Rowlett 75088. If you care anything at all about the welfare of the citizens of this community, you will cancel the remaining concerts by the lake and all Fourth of July festivities and you will shut down the sprinkler park at Harry Myers Park. I have frequented all of these venues for many years. There is no way you can safely social distance at any of these. To go forward with any of these events would be completely irresponsible.

Texas is breaking records every day. Two days ago, we had over 5000 new cases in one day. We are number five in Coronavirus cases in the nation. Houston's ICU'S are full. Dallas is not far behind. Will Rockwall, Texas be on national news as the new COVID hotspot or will we be the suburb who listened to the recommendations of the CDC and flattened the curve? It's up to you.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting - Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:13:48 AM

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Good Morning,

I am writing to state my Stand relative to the emergency meeting that has been called this morning. In light of the current situation with Covid - 19, it is my belief that here in Rockwall, additional measures to protect our citizens should be adopted for a period of time up to or until the increase of Covid 19 is being managed and shows a consistent decline. My suggestion is that you consider the wearing of masks as PPE a requirement when in public places including grocery stores, gyms, general shopping. Place greater restrictions on dine in restaurants and push the trend towards take out and or delivery until we have Covid - 19 on the decline.

Thank you for your time.

Stephen Woeltge

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting - comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:25:18 AM

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Dear Rockwall City Council:

I am writing in advance of the emergency meeting being called this morning to evaluate the need for a mandate to wear PPE in the city of Rockwall in response to Covid-19. I would like to voice my strong opinion that no mandates of this nature be passed in the city of Rockwall. There is no need for the city government to require the wearing of masks in Rockwall. Here are some of my reasons:

- 1) Businesses should be able to regulate themselves and their customers without government intervention. People have a wealth of knowledge about risks involved and can responsibly choose which businesses to patronize based on their comfort level with precautions taken. The businesses are already directly answerable to their customers, who know and understand risks. Allow the educated population and businesses to make their own decisions based on what is in their best interests.
- 2) The CDC and WHO have been wildly inconsistent about whether masks work at all to reduce transmission, and if so what types of masks may or may not be helpful.
- 3) Masks increase breathing of CO2 and reduction of oxygen to the body, increasing potential of harm to some people.
- 4) Even as positive cases have increased in Texas and nationwide, death rates are decreasing. Currently, Rockwall city has only 264 confirmed cases, and has experienced only 1 death due to Covid-19. This is hardly a public health crisis warranting such extreme measures.
- 5) The virus is almost exclusively dangerous to people with significant underlying medical conditions, and especially elderly. If the county is to place restrictions, they should do so in direct correlation to protection of those vulnerable by focusing on nursing homes and medical facilities. But these entities are already acting responsibly and have self-imposed restrictions such that government imposition is not necessary.
- 6) Overreaction by government mandating restrictions increases likelihood of panic-driven mental health issues, depression, and suicide that comes from people self-isolating in fear and failing to get necessary assistance from professional, family and friends. This is most apparent with stay at home orders, but the mental effect extends to mask restrictions as well.

Please consider carefully these points, and refrain from mandating the wearing of masks or any PPE in Rockwall.

Thank you,  
Celeste Skousen



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:04:48 PM

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My name is Andrea Davis and I live at 1617 Bob Dr., Royse City, TX  
I am against the use of masks in Rockwall county, people should be free to choose if they want to wear the mask or not.  
Please consider my opinion, please do not force people to wear a mask.  
Thank you  
Andrea Davis  
209-610-4467

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting 6/26  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:17:18 PM

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To Rockwall City Council,

My name is Kathryn Oehler and I live at 207 Tanya Dr. in Rockwall. I am a retired RN and I am writing to you today to urge you to follow Dallas County's lead and immediately mandate that masks be required in all businesses by employees and customers.

I wear a mask in every business I frequent. I do this as a kindness to others, to protect them from myself, in case I am unknowingly infected with Covid. However, with the exception of one business in Rockwall, ACE Hardware, businesses are not requiring masks of those who enter the building. I find that I am in the very small minority of those who are protecting those around them by wearing a mask.

After several weeks of being closed, businesses seemed to go to great lengths to assure their customers that they had their health and well-being in mind in order to bring people back through their doors. However, I have noticed that as the weeks have gone by, their concern for their employees and customers seems to have gone by the wayside. As a result, I am frequenting businesses less and less. That means that they are not getting my money. We seem to be in this place of pretending that this virus is no longer a threat. Our state is now living out the consequences of this mindset.

I understand that wearing a mask is uncomfortable, inconvenient, and annoying. I know this from experience as I had to wear one 8 hours a day when I was a practicing nurse. But, I urge you to please take the lead and go to the next level to protect the public and our health care workers, by mandating the use of masks in all businesses. Now is not the time to be thinking about our individual comfort, but protecting those around us. People will not do that unless our leadership mandates it.

Thank you,

Kathryn Oehler

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting 6/26/2020  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:08:09 PM

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Members of the City Council,

My name is Lisa Laudermilk. I will not give you my physical address to be read aloud for all to hear; however, I am a resident of Rockwall. It is my understanding that you have called an emergency meeting to discuss requiring personal protective equipment. I would like to urge you not to take such an action or support this measure. For every person who wants to wear PPEs, there is one who cannot because their health or PTSD renders them unable to comfortably wear one. It is not a matter of selfishness, it is a legitimate inability to do so no matter how much they might try. To require masks would severely impede their ability to conduct their day to day business. I would also like to remind you that they have rights protected through ADA.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Laudermilk

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting 6-26  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:47:03 AM

---

Required PPE

1610 Fairlakes Pointe Drive  
Billy Thurlkill

I hope this meeting isn't about requiring face coverings in public. As a community we are social distancing, people aren't going out as often, positive cases are very low, and this virus has been present since December. Requiring face coverings in public seems more of a feel good, PR move rather than for safety concern. Businesses have enough to worry about, and do not need the additional burden to be the face covering police.

A lot of people are wearing face coverings, so it seems unneeded for a mandate for all.

Thank you

Billy  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting about COVID-19  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 1:52:12 AM

---

Hello,

As a citizen and business owner in Rockwall, I wish masks in public spaces were mandatory in order to slow/ stop the spread of this virus. All public gatherings should be cancelled until the numbers start decreasing. My fear is that businesses will have to shut down again if the numbers do not start trending downward.

My name is Ashley Griswold  
783 Mountcastle Dr  
Rockwall, Tx

Business: Checkmate Embroidery on Industrial Blvd

Sincerely,  
Ashley Griswold

Sent from my iPhone

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:07:17 PM

---

Masks should be required in all public places, stores, grocery stores, and all shopping areas. Everything from salons to schools. We need everyone to help protect each other from the continued spread of this virus. It may not be convenient but it is necessary. Rockwall should be leading the standard of health and safety but we are not. We are failing as a community in a time where we should be united and strong. I fully support making masks mandatory for the safety of all.

Thanks,  
Christina Lee

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting Comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:28:19 AM

---

Jenny Krueger  
805 E Heath Street  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Thank you for your service to our community and the work that you do to make Rockwall a great place to live, work, and play. I appreciate how challenging it must be to cut through the noise and make decisions concerning public health while taking economy, public safety, civil liberties, and other important issues into consideration. Thank you for taking on that challenge.

I respectfully request that you consider the following actions in reference to the upcoming community events:

1. Seeking the advise of experts and professionals as a part of the decision making process.
2. Exploring safer or more low risk alternatives and, if possible, providing the opportunity for community members to weigh in (perhaps a social media vote?)
3. Promoting and modeling safe practices in City messaging.
4. Helping to educate the public on the repercussions of not using safe practices.
5. Looking for common ground among the passionate people of this community, and finding ways to bring them together.
6. Extending the same grace, love, and empathy that you desire for yourself to others. What a great opportunity we have to exercise and model the golden rule! This is hard and messy. Let's lift each other up as much as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and for providing me an opportunity to have a voice as a concerned citizen.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting for masks for Rockwall county  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:25:34 PM

---

Hello,

I wish to express my opinion to NOT have mandatory face masks in Rockwall county.

This would be an overstep on the constitutional rights of the citizens of our county to require masks, especially considering the extremely low mortality rate for this virus.

Requiring masks to be worn by citizens is a violation of the personal freedom our country was founded on. Wearing a mask should be a personal choice. We are a country founded on limited government and personal freedom for all! Forcing people to adhere to a mask mandate is a violation of our personal liberty.

I ask the county judge & the commissioners court to uphold the constitution by NOT mandating masks for Rockwall county.

Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Emilie Quisenberry  
625 Nakoma Drive  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Daniels, Bennie](#); [Hohenselt, John](#); [Fowler, Kevin](#); [Johannesen, Trace](#); [Macalik, Dana](#); [Campbell, Anna](#); [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting June 26, 2020 on COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:42:51 PM

---

Merceda Winder  
250 Dove Landing  
Royse City, TX 75189

I am opposed to Rockwall having the Staycation on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. I am campaigning for Rockwall County Commissioner Precinct 3, and I will not be in your parade as I do not want to expose the children who will be attending the parade to COVID-19, and I do not want exposure to COVID-19 myself.

The majority of people in Rockwall County do not wear masks. I am amazed at the number of people who believe that the virus must stop at Lake Ray Hubbard.

I noticed this evening when I came back from Plano, that Concerts by the Lake had boats parked next to each other and the people were freely and openly gathering together in large groups. Concerts by the Lake should also be canceled for this summer.

Texas numbers of COVID have never gone down. We are still in the first wave. If you believe that we are in the second wave, then I would suggest that you turn off Fox News and listen to true news reports.

With Rockwall's COVID numbers jumping to 45 yesterday, it is quite clear that social distancing and mask-wearing is not working in Rockwall.

I know that Mayor Pruitt does not believe in mask-wearing and doesn't want to enforce it in Rockwall. This is one reason that I no longer shop for my groceries and other necessities within this county. I go to Collin and Dallas counties where people care about their lives and other people's lives and they are wearing masks.

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting June 26,2020  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:14:06 PM

---

Wearing of personal equipment (mask) should be required in public. Listen to and follow the advice of the medical experts.

Earl B. Johnson  
612 Severige Ct.  
Rockwall, TX 75032

Sent from my iPhone

---

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting over PPE  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:37:29 PM

---

Please do not make PPE in public a requirement! Businesses will not survive this mandate. I know many, many families that will just shop in other areas if this becomes a requirement. Let people decide for themselves what is enough protection for them. Do not push this! People with illnesses that are exacerbated by wearing a mask will suffer. There is evidence that wearing a mask does not slow the spread. Please do not cave to overreaching government. There will be lawsuits that come from this. Do not put Rockwall in the position to face lawsuits over this requirement. We do not have a lot of cases here!

Stop the madness and do not force this on people.

--

Tiffany Palacios

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting Re: Covid 19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:57:18 PM

---

To the members of the Rockwall City Council,

The best time to act on Covid 19 is well past. The next best time go act is now. The council should immediately mandate wearing of masks in public and cancel any planned July 4th celebrations. The meteoric rise in cases over recent weeks since phase 3 of Governor Abbot's reopening plan requires immediate action. If the state is unwilling to act in the interest of it's citizens the onus falls to individual cities and counties. You will hear many arguments against the wearing of masks as restricting constitutional liberties. These are straw man arguments - masks are a minor inconvenience at worst and are not designed to protect the wearer but to protect those in proximity to the wearer. It is no man or woman's constitutional right to endanger the health of any other through either ignorance or negligence.

If these steps had been mandated early in the pandemic on a national or state wide level we would be on our way to recovery instead of languishing in our 4th month of continued spread. Entire countries such as New Zealand have eliminated the virus entirely by mandating such measures and by their citizens honoring their obligation to their community to keep each other safe.

This infection rate has at minimum quadrupled in our system since stay at home orders and social distancing restrictions were lifted. This is a clear and present danger to the people of Texas and of Rockwall and measures must be taken to protect the community. This should be a discussion based solely on readily available facts and information based in science, not on feelings, inconveniences or political affiliation. If we want to return to normal as quickly as possible these steps must be taken swiftly and decisively.

I implore the members of the Rockwall city council to heed the facts and advice of scientists and doctors and follow the example of cities, counties, states and entire countries who have reduced or eliminated the virus entirely and take the below measures to improve and ensure the safety of our community.

Mandate masks in all public places, enforceable by fines escalating for repeat offenders. It should not be up to the city's business to police their community. That burden falls on the city itself.

Thank you,

Andrew Turner

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting regarding mandatory masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:51:06 PM

---

Dear City Council,

There have been zero studies done to prove that masks prevent the spread of Covid. Zero. Only general consensus by medical professionals ie: best guess. There are countless studies done regarding the negative effects of wearing masks on a daily basis. Dallas county has had mandatory mask orders for weeks and are still seeing an increase in numbers. So I ask you, if masks are doing their job, wouldn't the rate of infection in Dallas county be going down? Where there is risk there must be choice. Period.

Thank you,  
Megan Conner  
1442 Pilgrim  
Mandatory mask order

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:14:15 PM

---

MY name is Cody Davis and I am against the policy of forcing people to wear masks inside establishments in Rockwall County, we the people should have the freedom to choose to wear a mask or not.

MY address is 1617 Bob Dr. Royse City TX 75189

Thanks you

Cody Davis

214-364-6732

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting, Friday, June 26, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:05:16 PM

---

Upcoming city-related public events should be cancelled due to inadequate containment of COVID-19 pandemic.

Wearing masks should be mandated at the very least to enter a business or attend a gatherings along with social distancing and cleaning protocols.

Respectfully,  
Clare Reynolds  
319 Harbor Landing Drive  
Rockwall, TX 75032

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:07:16 AM

---

Carrie Byrd  
622 Arcadia Way, Rockwall, TX 75087

First let me say that I understand being in the vulnerable group. My daughter was in treatment for leukemia for 2 and a half years. During that time we isolated our family. There were many times that she had zero immune system. During those times we were told by all oncology staff that we should avoid indoor activities and wash our hands often and sanitize. During her treatment, we went to work, got groceries and lived as normally as we could. She was to wear a N95 mask when her immune system was low. N95 masks do not protect anyone but the person wearing that mask. People go many places when they know they are sick. Many go to work and to stores. During this time, when she had zero immune system we were never told to wear masks to protect her. If masks really protected the vulnerable from viruses, wouldn't every oncologist recommend families to wear them? People in treatment can die from any virus, not just one.

Second, mandatory masks puts an undue burden on businesses that were already forced to shut down. Who is going to enforce these mandates? Where are those taxpayer dollars going to come from?

Third, as a community we have a right to assemble. This is being violated with all of these shut downs and mandates in areas and during times when there is not an overwhelming number of critically ill patients. I know we are not supposed to compare this to the flu or anything else, but we have mass gatherings during flu seasons and even during measles outbreaks in many areas. Prior to vaccines, our rights as healthy people were not infringed upon. We quarantined the sick. If people don't want to go to an event or don't feel safe then they should stay home. Nobody ever worried about what other people did during any other time. Businesses have a right to run and provide a service if we are willing to pay for it. At what point does our right to the pursuit of happiness come into play?

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:20:46 PM

---

My name is Robert Godfrey. I live at 648 Grisham Dr in Fate. I just want to express my opinion regarding the meeting in the morning. First I want to say I absolutely do not want to go back to "shelter in place". With that said, of course I think people should use common sense and stay home if sick and refrain from gathering in crowds that pack people in like sardines. However I feel that the Fourth of July festivities should go on. I also feel it should be left up to people if they want to wear a mask or not. If businesses feel the need to request the wearing of masks, then that should be left up to them. Still to put out a mandatory rule that all have to wear a mask is just another bit of liberty lost.

Thank you,  
Robert Godfery

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Face Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:16:12 PM

---

Good day.

I wish to express my desire to NOT have face masks be made mandatory in Rockwall County.

The numbers the county will be using are not tied to actual confirmed cases of Covid-19.

To count someone who was near a positive case or near someone - who was near someone is irrational.

I ask you to use rational thought in your decision.

Using the information and method now for determining positive cases is akin to someone accepting a diagnosis of a broken arm when they were near a kid who skinned their elbow.

Growing up in Texas, I've been in close proximity people who had a family member who had the flu, a cold, poison ivy, etc. yet never had others assume I had it too.

Until the last few months no one would have ever had such a train of thought.

If our county representatives make the decision to assign judgement on others that strips away their freedoms without facts I will be beyond shocked. I believe cooler heads will prevail. I pray they are in Rockwall.

The ramifications of A decision to require masks moving forward are not positive in a country founded on personal freedoms and limited government.

Thank you for your time.

Stephen Quisenberry  
625 Nakoma Drive  
Rockwall, Texas 75087

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Thoughts On Mask Requirement  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:33:06 AM

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> Hi,

> I wanted to write to tell you I strongly support a mask mandate. Masks are shown to aid in the reduction of transmission of Covid19 by curtailing the projectile of droplets and the virus contained within. Even if people don't realize they're sick, consistent mask use has shown to drop the transmission rates. My mask protects you, your mask protects me. Masking for the next few months is a small sacrifice to ensure that people survive. It is the least we can do to love our neighbor.

>

> While I will acknowledge, I am not a current resident of Rockwall, I do worship in Rockwall, my husband works in Rockwall, and we spend the majority of our money in Rockwall. We also have plans of relocating to Rockwall in the future. If Rockwall does not do something to attempt to curtail the spread of this virus, we will not spend another dime in Rockwall County. Dallas County is right down the road.

>

> Regards,

> Lyndsey Griffin

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** I appose mandatory masks !  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:25:03 AM

---

I am completely against being mandated to wear masks on public. If anyone voluntarily wants to that is their choice but I don't agree with making it a mandate! I will not shop in Rockwall if masks are mandated.

Lorraine England

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** In Reference to Emergency Covid-19 meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:27:44 PM

---

Dear City Council,

I am writing you to voice that I do NOT want masks to be required in Rockwall. Please allow those the freedom of choice and the opportunity to make an educated decision about their personal health for themselves. Making this mandatory, forces the hands of local business owners and alienates dedicated customers that stand behind their personal right of choice. Please do NOT require the wearing of masks or the cancelling of public events. We are single handedly destroying the community that we so proudly built.

A concerned citizen of Rowlett, Rockwall County  
8702 Lakeside Drive, Rowlett TX 75088  
Brooke Young

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Rockwall open  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:50:56 PM

---

Please keep Rockwall open and do not listen to those who want to shut down out of fear. Those afraid can stay home. We need the economy open, we need our businesses to have a fighting chance. We need activities for our mental and physical health.

Thanks,  
Stacey Harbin

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:12:10 PM

---

Sent from my mobile.

---

Please send this email . They are voting on making everyone wear a mask at my place Hang Time.  
To: publiccomments@rockwall.com <publiccomments@rockwall.com>  
Subject: Masks

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:42:21 PM

---

I am not in favor of any mask ordinances.

Thank you

Laura Taylor.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask agenda  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:02:49 AM

---

This email represents our opinion that mandatory mask wearing in the City of Rockwall is unsupported as is the science to its efficacy. Requiring public use is unfounded and degrades our community.

I ask you show courage and leadership in this matter, rather than following.

Respectfully,

Chris & Beth Cameron  
2081 Whitney Bay Dr  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask mandate being discussed at emergency meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:51:28 PM

---

I am pretty sad to see our county considering such an absurdity. You are hurting our people more for fining businesses who don't enforce a mask policy. I, for one, have a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask and REFUSE to be told I can't go in a grocery store unless I wear one. It puts my health at risk and my mental health will be even more unstable not being able to physically go anywhere to support our local businesses. Also take into account those who suffer from PTSD (being smothered during rape, for example) and cannot have anything over their face. We are telling them their reason isn't good enough and they are plain out of luck. Please do not enforce this! Get the word out on stronger recommendations but DO NOT mandate them

Sent from [Outlook](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Response to be shared at Emergency Council Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:54:25 PM

---

If you mandate masks you would be declaring that they will protect people from the transmission of disease hence the only way you could "mandate". You will be susceptible to law suits should anyone get sick from Covid, sickness due to mask contaminants, breathing & lung issues, discrimination when a person with disability refuses to wear one, etc. Also you would need to identify regulations for the mask type to be effective.

Here is some information cut & pasted from OSHA.gov you will need to consider...

1) For some workers, employers may determine that wearing cloth face coverings presents or exacerbates a hazard. For example, cloth face coverings could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment, causing workers to inhale the chemicals that collect on the face covering. Over the duration of a work shift, cloth face coverings might also become damp (from workers breathing) or collect infectious material from the work environment (e.g., droplets of other peoples' infectious respiratory secretions)

2) Employers should consider evaluating their accessible communication policies and procedures to factor in potentially providing masks with clear windows to facilitate interaction between employees and members of the public who need to lip-read to communicate.

3) Such information is not intended to suggest that surgical masks or cloth face coverings provide adequate protection against exposure to airborne contaminants for which respirators would ordinarily be needed.

4) Cloth masks:

- May be used by almost any worker, although those who have trouble breathing or are otherwise unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance should not wear one.
- Will not protect the wearer against airborne transmissible infectious agents due to loose fit and lack of seal or inadequate filtration.

Surgical masks:

- Will not protect the wearer against airborne transmissible infectious agents due to loose fit and lack of seal or inadequate filtration

I, personally, and many others like me will fight against the mask.

Thank you,  
Linda Sherwood

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

---

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:35:02 PM

---

Good Afternoon,

Please impose a mask requirement for inside businesses and in situations where it is otherwise impossible unable to social distance. This has been proven to help reduce COVID-19 transmission, and I don't want to see our county turn into a super-hotspot just because there are so many who are convinced that it is somehow a restriction of their freedoms. Also, please encourage the Governor to make this a statewide mandate. Thank you,

Irina Hardesty-White

Sent from my iPhone

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:02:57 PM

---

I live in Rowlett, Rockwall County side. PLEASE make it mandatory that everyone wear masks. I have underlying health issues, so I am high risk, and cannot go anywhere unless people have masks on. Thank you.

Sharon Phillips

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:03:09 PM

---

No mask please, We The People should have a choice.

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Mask  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:32:19 PM

---

Tarrant and Dallas countries both are now requiring mask. If Rockwall doesn't follow, all the people who refuse to wear mask will endanger the citizens of our county. Each time a person doesn't wear a mask and causes one person to get sick is 100% Rockwall's elected officials fault for not taking actions. Sick people can't go spend or make money in the county. Not only are you risking lives but the county economic growth.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks need to be mandatory  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:16:37 PM

---

As the owner of an event production company that relies on large gatherings of people in order to keep the lights on and pay our employees, it is not only in our best interests to make masks mandatory, but in that of everyone interested in keeping the economy open. If we don't make wearing masks mandatory, we will go right back to where we were three months ago and have to shut everything down again.

Today I took my family to Dallas County, just across the lake, to go grocery shopping today. I felt safe because everyone was wearing a mask.

Masks are not political and they're not an infringement on anyone's rights- they're just like returning your shopping cart when you're done using it. It's doing something small for the next person that doesn't cost you anything at all.

Kate Winsor

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:49:00 AM

---

1020 Heather Ct.  
Royse City, Tex 75189

I am opposed to mandatory wearing of masks. I feel this impinges upon my freedoms & constitutional rights as an American citizen. It should be up to each individual. I can't breath well while trying to wear one. I have done research, and I feel they offer no to little protection & pose a health risk. Lowers oxygen intake & more.

Sincerely,  
Angela Sladovnik

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PublicComments  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:34:41 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:50:45 PM

---

Please institute a mask requirement in our city. We have to do what is best to keep the economy going. If we don't do it now in another week it will be to late.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:25:25 PM

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I would happily support the county's decision to mandate masks. Studies are very clear that this can slow the spread of COVID19. While the 4th of July celebration is a fun tradition for my family, I don't think it is a good idea this year. Two weeks after Memorial Day weekend there was a massive outbreak. I would predict that 2 weeks after 4th of July we would see similar results. I have a high risk child so I will not be attending the meeting, but I did want to show my support. I appreciate the difficult position you are in making this decision. I pray you will make the right decision for the health of the high risk people in our great city!

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:18:52 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.


Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

---

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:54:47 PM

---

I urge you NOT to extend the business health policy and mask mandate to the portion of Rowlett in Rockwall County. If you do so you will once again be overstepping your boundaries, Rockwall County has and most likely will not impose a mask mandate and you should honor their wishes.

Also, despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrlKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrlKca0a7SiQvks)


Let Rockwall County govern itself in this matter, and do not impose a mandatory mask use policy.

Thomas Blackmer  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:27:16 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?  
fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Deborah Blackmer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:05:03 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQyks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQyks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PublicComments  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:41:38 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4E3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4E3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)


Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Paul Willhite

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**From:**   
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Masks.  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:23:47 PM

---

I can't believe I have to write this email. I can't believe this great country has sunk to such an embarrassin low, where science and education are rejected for tweets and fist pumps.

Every single health organization in the world is encouraging masks. It helps prevent the spread of a deadly virus. A deadly virus that has spiked again. Where do you think this ends? It just magically goes away?

At this rate, we'll be back in lockdown in a matter of weeks and far great economic harm will come. Or we can take steps like wearing a mask.

How can you refuse this undisputable truth to try and win some votes? You are trading your family's safety for votes. It's disgusting.

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PublicComments  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:15:50 AM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Sent from my iPhone

---

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting June 26th- PPE  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:27:59 PM

---

Jeff Ashworth  
1381 Scarboro Hills Ln  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Please, for the safety of our community and country, pass an ordinance requiring masks in indoor businesses. It has been proven across the country and world that this is an effective measure to slow the spread of COVID 19. It is obvious by walking into any grocery store in Rockwall County that the majority of people will not make the decision to wear one unless it is required. Wearing a mask is a minor inconvenience that has major implications.

Thank you- Jeff Ashworth

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting on 6/26  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:49:33 PM

---

NO MASKS- they are dangerous, leave events alone!

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting on 6/26  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:20:51 AM

---

Danny Cunningham  
538 Garrett Road  
Rockwall, TX 75087

I have done lots of research in regards to the masks. I have not worn a mask during this entire Covid-19. It completely baffles me to see people wear a mask outside. Breath the fresh air. Also, there is no purpose to wear a mask into a restaurant and then be able to remove it to eat. Just think about that?! Touching your face so much with the removal of mask and then placing it back on, setting it on a possible dirty surface and inhaling the germs. My wife has a medical condition that prohibits her from wearing one. There are many people in Rockwall who physically CAN NOT wear a mask.

It's also against HIPPA & ADA regulations to make someone wear a mask. Establishments can face excessive fines. I would hate to see businesses suffer even more by losing clients or facing fines. It is also against OSHA regulations. It's not safe for short or long wear nor does it keep you safe. The box of masks even state they don't protect you from Covid. Why wear it?

Making mandatory mask use is irrational and won't help the situation on bit. Wash your hands and use sanitizer. Don't touch your face. Enjoy your life.

Danny Cunningham

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** No masks in Rockwall follow true science not fake news.  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:46:10 PM

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Cut the virtue signaling and blind following of leaders who are part of the agenda mandating medical crap to citizens. Plenty of research from Dr.s virologists, even falsey Fauci the WHO Marxists and others who have said they are not beneficial in preventing spread. They are actually detrimental in many ways or how they are being used not changed after each use and figited with touching everything . To many Karen's to many crowd followers with no backbone who want to "fit in" or not rock a fake boat. So keep your opinions to yourself unless you want me to dump a books worth of facts for everyone you heap out over there in the ivory tower hall I'm done with this junk science control shaming crap. Everyone is an expert in their own mind and a tough guy till they stand face to face behind a mask.

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***Rockwall, Texas 75087***

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** No Masks!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:23:37 PM

---

I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrfKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtbIFCn2UrfKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Lucie

We CAN make a difference:-)

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** No Masks!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:22:50 PM

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I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cl4F3f-GVY0OpEtblFCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Michael

We CAN make a difference:-)

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** No Masks!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:39:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [image0.png](#)

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Please read this article - the WHO says there is no benefit to wearing masks. In fact, it is harmful for a multitude of reasons.

No masks for Rockwall -  
Thank you - Lori Ecker

---

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**Related Article:** Masks may actually increase your coronavirus risk if worn improperly, surgeon general warns

"There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there's some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly," Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO health emergencies program, said at a media briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday.

"There also is the issue that we have a massive global shortage," Ryan said about masks and other medical supplies. "Right now the people most at risk from this virus are frontline health workers who are exposed to the virus every second of every day. The thought of them not

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** No masks  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:12:00 AM

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I understand there is fear right now. However, to mandate wearing masks would not be beneficial for all. Having children wear them all day at school is to the detriment of their health... Not to mention the adults also breathing in their own carbon monoxide by having to wear them all day at work. It is very simple for those that choose to wear them, to simply wear them. For those of us that choose to look at our health in a broader view, we should not be forced to wear them. As released by many doctors that have actually treated patients, people are not going to walk through a store and catch the virus.

Please don't mandate masks.

Stephanie Adams

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Note regarding NO MASKS  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:17:59 AM

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To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong resident of Rockwall it is my hope that as the leaders of our community wrestle with the best course of action going forward concerning masks and public/group gatherings, that they are not influenced by the decision making of the large cities in Texas. It has been evident that the large city decisions ARE NOT made in the best interest of the citizens.

Rockwall has always been different and proud to stand for what is right. Mandatory masks is NOT in the best interest of our community. As far as community gatherings, this is a basis of our community and town traditions are essential to the cohesiveness of Rockwall. We each have the freedom to choose to wear a mask or not and attend a large community gathering or not. We are a land founded on freedoms, liberties, and democracy. Forcing a group to adhere to a rule that still isn't founded to truly help, lower the numbers, or decrease the effects of Covid would be wrong and cause major unrest and discord in our community. Encouraging the sick, elderly, or compromised to stay home seems like a much more rational choice not to mention easier to manage.

I pray that good sound judgment prevails and NO MANDATORY MASKS wearing is enforced in Rockwall, Texas.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Hernandez

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Open Forum for June 26th City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:44:08 AM

---

Public Comments for Rockwall City Council Meeting on June 26th

Name and Address:  
Letha Samuel  
1845 Avonlea Dr.  
Rockwall, TX. 75087

Agenda Item: PPE requirement for public events

Dear Mayor Pruitt and Council Members,

As we all know, the Covid pandemic has brought about a lot of changes in how we have lived over the past few months. I just want to thank you for how the city has managed this situation so far. Thank you for allowing businesses to reopen and for encouraging safe and healthy practices so our community stays well economically and medically.

Thank you for trusting the residents of this city to exercise common sense and personal responsibility during this season. I would ask that you continue to trust Rockwall residents to make their individual right decisions regarding the health of themselves and their loved ones.

As far as city-related public events are concerned, I suggest that PPE use continue to be encouraged but not mandated. And in public places, from parks to stores, PPE use should continue to be at the individual's discretion. The city can continue to ensure the public is aware of the Covid stats in the area, provide the recommendations by the governor and/or CDC, and allow residents to make the choice to attend an event or go out in public, with or without PPE.

From what I've seen so far, mandating PPE use does not provide any significant improvement in Covid-induced hospitalizations. On the other hand, requiring PPE use has shown more negative consequences from an individual and community standpoint. Mandating PPE use unfortunately leads to inappropriate PPE use. It leads to petty monitoring from the city. And it leads to unnecessary policing, finger pointing, and discrimination from other residents who would take on the role as "law enforcers" or "tattle tellers".

Finally, mandating use of PPE assumes that everyone will use PPE correctly and appropriately. I work in other cities, and during this season I have witnessed plenty of people wear PPE inappropriately. I've seen them reuse disposable masks and gloves so much that the PPE no longer had its original color. And because of PPE, I've seen people disregard more important safety practices like hand washing and social distancing.

I encourage the City Council and the Mayor to continue to share the facts: monitor the Covid stats and changes in the numbers in Rockwall county; identify which population/groups are more likely to be significantly affected; and continue to encourage safe and healthy practices.

And let each individual make the decision to use or not use PPE in public.

Thank you for your consideration. We love Rockwall!

Sincerely,

Letha Samuel

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Face Masks and Event-Cancelling (and here's why...)  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:26:50 AM

---

To the Councilmen and Councilwomen of the City of Rockwall:

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concern on mandatory face masks and the cancelling of events for the upcoming 4th of July season.

My name is Karen Logan, and my family and I just relocated to Fate, Texas, in December of 2019 after living in Wylie for almost 16 years. We love our new home and neighborhood and are enjoying getting to know our neighbors, too! We also love the fact that we are surrounded by thriving commerce in surrounding areas, such as Royse City and Rockwall, which we frequent regularly for dining, grocery shopping, and shopping in general.

Given the circumstances of the recent pandemic, I've been impressed with Rockwall County's unobtrusive, respectful stance of personal responsibility and the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a mask or attend public gatherings, etc. It is my belief that the County should maintain this posture moving forward, as well.

Here's why I feel this way:

1) Rockwall County has not experienced any new positive COVID-19 cases since June 19th, according to an article published in the Royse City Herald Banner just yesterday (Thursday, June 25, 2020; "No New Confirmed Cases in Rockwall County," authored by Brad Kellar). This reveals that social distancing is working and that mask-wearing is not a necessary mandate to keep the number of positive cases down.

2) Additionally, the percentage of those who have tested positive in recent weeks (264) only represents a fraction of Rockwall County's population of 96,877. The actual calculation shows 0.2725% having been sick with the virus with 195 recoveries already (roughly 74% recovery rate).

3) Many (including myself, my family, friends, and neighbors) believe that exercising personal responsibility and common sense in the way of proper hygiene and avoiding public spaces when sick or feeling sick are critical ways in which we will keep the positive cases down.

4) Too many opinions exist in the debate on the effectiveness of masks, and the decision to wear or not wear one should be left to the individual. Tensions are already elevated by other social issues right now; let's not aggravate people's emotional states by creating conflict within places of commerce whereby employees are given the false security of exercising authority



over shoppers where that authority doesn't truly exist on such a hotly-debated topic.

5) Finally, I think it is critical that we support each other during this time by shopping locally to stimulate our local economy and many will avoid this opportunity if they feel their rights to breathe freely without a mask are infringed upon. In the summer months when viruses are less prevalent than in the fall and winter, we should be free to build up our immune systems in as normal of an approach as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this delicate matter. Please choose freedom, especially as we approach the celebration of our country's independence!!!

Sincerely,  
Karen Logan  
206 Micco Lane  
Fate, Texas 75087  
972-358-5615  
[REDACTED]

---

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE MANDATE MASKS/PPE  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:18:39 AM

---

My name is Austin Rylaarsdam  
I live at 1035 Hampton Bay Dr, Rockwall, 75087

I am writing today to encourage you to vote FOR mandatory use of PPE/face masks in public settings as per the recommendations of nearly every governing body and medical organization/professional.

I am a freedom loving American, but there comes a time when all must sacrifice for the good of the community. This is one of those times. The rapid spread of this virus mandates that something be done immediately to curb the spread. Study after study, leaders on all sides, and the vast majority of medical professionals and organizations have proven the benefits, strongly encouraged, or nearly begged for people to wear masks to help prevent the spread of this highly contagious virus, yet so many are choosing not to. With the overall health and safety of the community now in jeopardy, we can no longer simply leave these things as suggestions or recommendations that we hope citizens will follow, because clearly that is not proving successful. Without immediate action we face either another severe shutdown by government mandate, or the virus itself will bring us to our knees. These words do not come from a spirit of fear, but instead from a spirit of pragmatism, love of neighbor, and care for our community. Please do your part as trusted leaders of this community to do the right thing for the good of all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing matter.

--

Austin Rylaarsdam

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** PPE will hurt businesses  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:39:26 PM

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Many people will refuse to shop or eat if you require PPE's. Give businesses a fighting chance and do not make this mandatory! Our economy has suffered enough. Don't do this! Rockwall businesses need a break. Leave this up to them and do not interfere with businesses.

--

Tiffany Palacios

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** PPE  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 6:29:41 AM

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Lydianne McDonald  
1930 Club Lake Cir  
Rockwall, TX 75087

As a mother in Rockwall who wants my kids to return to school and their activities in the safest environment possible, and who wants to ensure vulnerable teachers and parents can safely be involved in our children's education, I am for requiring PPE in public settings and businesses. With this action, we can try and bring the number of new cases of COVID-19 down now, so that come August/September, parents don't have to question the safety of students or teachers in a school setting.

Thank you

mobile message

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** PPE  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:36:12 AM

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To the Rockwall City Council:

Yesterday I ate at restaurant in the City of Rockwall, and NONE of the staff was wearing masks. I asked and was told they have a "no mask" policy for employees. This is VERY disappointing. Please require food service workers to wear masks. They cannot socially distance from our food when they prepare it, or from us when they serve it.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorne Liechty,  
502 Terry Lane  
Heath, TX. 75032  
Office: 214-860-6707  
Mobile: 214-288-2854  
email: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Ppe: I appose mandatory masks !  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:26:47 AM

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> I am completely against being mandated to wear masks on public. If anyone voluntarily wants to that is their choice but I don't agree with making it a mandate! I will not shop in Rockwall if masks are mandated.

>

>

> Lorraine England

> 1200 e FM 550

Rockwall 75032

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [PublicComments](#)  
Subject: Public Comment- Covid-19  
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:09:21 AM

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Rockwall leaders,

Thank you for allowing public comments on this very serious issue concerning Covid-10 in Rockwall County.

I have lived in this area my entire life. Rockwall is a community that has always elected faithful leaders who put its citizens FIRST and petty politics last. I do pray that this continues.

I know that not everyone of you are going to agree on the seriousness of Covid-19 and not everyone is going to agree on the absolute necessity for businesses to require masks.

I didn't agree with all of this myself until a few weeks ago. Within the past 3 weeks, I had 3 friends fall seriously ill with Covid-19 and one died.

They all live within 20-30 minutes of Rockwall and all 3 did not wear masks.

My sister who works at a police department is very ill and awaiting results.

Dr Fauci & Debra Birx are telling us to wear a mask, our Governor is HIGHLY recommending that we wear masks to prevent a potential stay at home order if this gets too out of hand. Not everyone is going to agree with a mask requirement but over 75% of Rockwall County citizens do support this.

You have everything to lose by not making this a requirement. Without a mask requirement, infections and hospitalizations **WILL** increase and voters are already upset at the thought that you might not require masks. **You would only be appeasing the few by not imposing a mask requirement.** I promise you-- if you were in a position where you had lost loved ones you too would feel very strongly that businesses should require masks. I never thought it would effect me or my family, but I was wrong.

Please do what is right, what is responsible and if you don't, I assure you those crazy Dallas people will be flooding into our community- mask-less and infecting our citizens.

As for the ill-informed citizens who believe masks do not offer protection, they are not doctors and do not have credibility when it comes to public health. Doctors from Parkland and UT Southwestern are begging the public to wear masks. Again... please do what is right. I pray for each of you and I pray for our wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Shawn Marie Long  
3110 Bourbon Street Cir  
Rockwall, TX 75032



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PublicComments  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Covid-19  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 2:12:15 AM

---

Rockwall leaders,

Thank you for allowing public comments on this very serious issue concerning Covid-19 in Rockwall County.

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Sincerely,

Shawn Marie Long  
3110 Bourbon Street Cir  
Rockwall, TX 75032  
972-837-5867

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:52:19 PM

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Adam Halkuff  
1300 Stanford Drive  
Rockwall, TX

## COVID-19

I am writing to express my concern for the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across Texas. I am requesting that the Rockwall County government take swift and immediate action to protect the citizens of our county. It's obvious that the state government proceeded with the opening of the state too soon and without following the guidelines laid out by the CDC. Due to Governor Abbotts rash decision, Texans are paying a heavy and fatal price. Rockwall should be on the right side of history and needs to take immediate actions. Please, at a minimum, mandate that masks are required to enter businesses and public settings. This is a recommendation from the CDC.

"...CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission."  
There is no valid reason not to follow the recommendations from our Federal Government. Wearing masks is not a political issue, it's not about taking away rights, it's not about how it makes us look. Wearing a mask is one of the best ways to stop community spread of a COVID-19. This is recommended by scientists and doctors, not politicians. Please take action of masks, it's not difficult and it saves lives.

Regards,

Adam  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Public comments for Friday June 26's emergency city council meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:19:32 PM

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On Agenda item III.1. on upcoming city-related public events and wearing of PPE

I would like to voice my support for mandating masks in all businesses in Rockwall for all customers, guests and workers. I think they also should be mandated in other public spaces where social distancing is difficult. Even the governor is now recommending that people wear masks and has left it open for local governments to make their own rules for mandating such restrictions.

I also support canceling certain non-essential public events, such as the Downtown Daycation on July 3 — this event isn't necessary, why is the city putting people's lives in danger? I also feel like the weekly farmer's market downtown doesn't have enough precautions to protect people ... booths are very close together and it's hard for people to stay 6 feet apart. Not to mention that many people don't agree with social distancing or wearing masks, so make it difficult for the rest of us to stay safe.

I understand everyone wants to get the economy back up and running, but we're seeing clear evidence that returning to life as normal is having a detrimental effect in our state and region. It's only a matter of time before cases mount up even more in Rockwall County, especially with our proximity to the major city of Dallas, where I'm sure many people in Rockwall work (including members of my own household).

Thank you for accepting my comments,

Virginia D. Haynes  
447 Yvonne Dr.  
Rockwall, TX 75032

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Rockwall City Council Emergency Meeting, 6/26/2020  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 8:28:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Rockwall City Council and Mayor Pruitt,

I am writing to share my deep concerns regarding decisions affecting citizens of the City of Rockwall and Rockwall County. I work in a major hospital in Dallas County. I have watched our inpatient admissions and ICU admissions increase very rapidly over the past few weeks. Dallas County is experiencing unprecedented health concerns due to the lack of protective measures taken in public settings. Open bars and dine-in restaurants without physical distancing measures and the use of masks for workers and patrons are causing a large increase in cases. Large gatherings such as weddings or parties are also causing a steep increase.

I implore the City to do the right thing by looking at the science of this virus, consulting with infectious disease doctors and epidemiologists, taking the advice of our Governor by restricting gathering sizes, enforce the use of masks by employees and patrons in local businesses, and BE AN EXAMPLE of responsible measures to the citizens you represent.

Our county is completely surrounded by other counties with surging cases. It is only a matter of time before businesses in Rockwall are affected by lack of protective measures.

It is time to set aside political agendas and focus on the health and safety of everyone, before it is too late.

***Joyce Ghormley, CCRC***  
*Supervisor of Oncology Research*



**BaylorScott&White**  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center  
Clinical Oncology Research Coordination  
3410 Worth Street, Suite 560  
Dallas, Texas 75246  
Phone: (214) 818-8961, Fax: (214) 820-3489

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Council - Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:44:22 PM

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Please require all businesses to require staff and customers to wear face coverings when indoors or when 6' spacing is not possible outdoors. There is no reason for our city to not require this simple task for the protection of our citizens. I'm not saying people need to be fined or arrested, but they should be shamed if not even trying to do within thier physical ability. If there are physical barriers protected by ADA from wearing mask or children under the age of 6, this should be the only acceptable reason.

Thank you for taking this serious on the citizen's behalf!

Kevin and Stephanie Folsom  
1115 Bayshore Dr  
Rockwall, TX 75087  
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Jun 25, 2020, 3:22 PM City of Rockwall <[mail@rockwall.com](mailto:mail@rockwall.com)> wrote:



City of Rockwall



If you are unable to view the image in this message, please go to:  
<http://www.rockwall.com/meetings/index.asp>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding covid, and ppe  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:15:34 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I have looked at our local data for covid cases, and I don't see why we are talking about the need to enforce ppe. We live in TX because we love the freedoms we have here. Rockwall county has not seen a significant jump in cases. I think we can continue to keep a safe distance between one another without the need to cover our faces. There are many with breathing issues such as asthma that this will impact. Inhibiting anyone's ot levels especially in the Texas heat is dangerous. Thanks for reading my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Jean.Yturaldi

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PublicComments  
**Subject:** Regarding Pandemic Covid 19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:20:54 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I will not attend the meeting regarding the public health emergency as I do not feel completely safe with my underlying health issues being out and about in a group of people which I suspect will be made up of largely non mask wearing individuals.

As a nurse and nurse practitioner for 41 years, 20 of those years in the local community, it breaks my heart that our community is dividing itself over this issue of masking and social distancing for the greater good of everyone.

I could spend all night looking up medical evidence to support the case for mask wearing to help prevent particle spread, but that will not convince those who choose not to side with actual good science. I can speak personally to the fact that mask wearing does not endanger the well being of a healthy person in that over the course of my career there were definitely times when masking for 12 hours with minimal breaks was required of me. While those were uncomfortable days, they were not detrimental to my health. Similarly, I have had many clients who worked in "clean rooms" at local chip manufacturing companies who experienced no detrimental effects wearing masks for 12 hour shifts.

In healthcare, we are continually asked to balance the rights of the individual versus the health of the greater society. Individual freedoms are highly cherished in our great country and I understand that. It is a tension that affects our healthcare system overall, contributing to our ranking 38th out of 100 countries in healthcare outcomes.

(<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/best-healthcare-in-the-world>)

While I understand that requiring people to wear masks when in stores, restaurants, churches, and close crowds may not be politically expedient for the mayor and council members, I do think that there is room for you all to strongly recommend that our fellow Rockwall residents follow CDC guidelines on masking and social distancing in public. Please encourage social distancing of at least 6 feet during the many fun social events that are currently going on around town. Please do not contribute to further stressing our local health care systems and endanger the lives of others by continuing to act as though there is no pandemic going on while our neighboring counties continue to have alarming increase in rates of cases and hospitalizations. This virus is no flu and it is no joke and can have long term disabling effects for many who survive it.

Thank you so much for your time,

Lesa Walker, MSN, FNP-C  
307 Forest Trace, Rockwall, TX

I have included a few references for any who would care to read further.

<http://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2020/06/stanford-scientists-contribute-to-who-mask-guidelines.html>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext#%20](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext#%20)

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsnano.0c03252>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Requiring masks creates a false sense of security  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:36:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image0.png](#)

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It's a fairly censored subject on social media, but there are several more doctors and nurses citing sources such as this article below that draw conclusions that masks are not effective at reducing spread and could in fact be dangerous. Dangerous because most people pull them down to talk (when most aerosols are produced), touch their face constantly, and don't wear them properly/ill fitting. Dangerous because oxygen levels under a mask is under osha working standards... it's a health risk 22% is normal put a mask on it goes to 17.5 or lower. That's the real health hazard.

“ Cloth masks are ineffective as source control and PPE, surgical masks have some role to play in preventing emissions from infected patients, and respirators are the best choice for protecting healthcare and other frontline workers, but not recommended for source control. These recommendations apply to pandemic and non-pandemic situations.”

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>

This is also from a certified OSHA expert friend of mine:

“So Masks? I am OSHA 10&30 certified. I know some of you are too. I don't really know WHY OSHA hasn't come forward and stopped the nonsense BUT I want to cover 3 things

- N95 masks and masks with exhale ports
- surgical masks
- filter or cloth masks

Okay, so upon further inspection, OSHA says some masks are okay and not okay in certain situations.

If you're working with fumes and aerosol chemicals and you give your employees the wrong masks and they get sick, you can be sued.

- N95 masks: are designed for CONTAMINATED environments. That means when you exhale through N95 the design is that you are exhaling into contamination. The exhale from N95 masks are vented to breath straight out without filtration. They don't filter the air on the way out. They don't need to.

Conclusion: if you're in Target and the guy with Covid has a N95 mask, his covid breath is unfiltered being exhaled into Target (because it was designed for already contaminated environments, it's not filtering your air on the way out).

- Surgical Mask: these masks were designed and approved for STERILE environments. The amount of particles and contaminants in the outside and indoor environments where people are CLOGGING these masks very, VERY quickly. The moisture from your breath combined with the clogged mask will render it “useless” IF you come in contact with Covid and your mask traps it, YOU become a walking virus dispenser. Everytime you put your mask on you are

breathing the germs from EVERYWHERE you went. They should be changed or thrown out every “20-30 minutes in a non sterile environment.”

- Cloth masks: I can’t even believe I’m having to explain this, but here it goes. Today, three people pointed to their masks as they walked by me entering Lowe’s. They said “ya gotta wear your mask BRO” I said very clearly “those masks don’t work bro, in fact they MAKE you sicker” they “pshh’d” me. By now hopefully you all know CLOTH masks do not filter anything. You mean the American flag one my aunt made? Yes. The one with sunflowers that looks so cute? Yes. The bandanna, the cut up t-shirt, the scarf ALL of them offer NO FILTERING whatsoever. As you exhale, you are ridding your lungs of contaminants and carbon dioxide. Cloth masks trap this carbon dioxide the best. It actually risks your health, rather than protect it. The moisture caught in these masks can become mildew ridden over night. Dry coughing, enhanced allergies, sore throat are all symptoms of a micro-mold in your mask.

-Ultimate Answer:

- \*N95 blows the virus into the air from a contaminated person.

- \*The surgical mask is not designed for the outside world and will not filter the virus upon inhaling through it. It’s filtration works on the exhale, (Like a vacuum bag, it only works one way) but likely stops after 20 minutes, rendering it useless outside of a STERILE ENVIRONMENT (correct Becky, they don’t work in a bar, not even a little bit).

- \*Cloth masks are WORSE than none. It’s equivalent to using a chain link fence to stop mosquitos.

The masks don’t work. They’re being used to provide false comfort and push forward a specific agenda. For the love of God, research each mask’s designed use and purpose, I bet you will find NONE are used in the way of “viral defense.”

- \*Occupational Safety & Hazard Association sited.

The top American organization for safety.

They regulate and educate asbestos workers, surgical rooms, you name it.

I know, facts suck. They throw a wrench into the perfectly (seeming) packaged pill you are willingly swallowing. Facts make you have to form your OWN OPINION, instead of regurgitating someone else’s, and I know how uncomfortable that makes a lot of you. If your mask gives you security, by all means wear it. “

Rockwall county hasn’t seen a large spike since opening businesses. Businesses and people have been out/open in hordes for more than a month now and many not wearing masks. It is more important to encourage hand washing and staying at home unless “necessary” and to not leave you’re home if you are experiencing symptoms.

In addition, many of the increases in cases are because they are making tests more accessible and available to anyone that wants one. A month ago you could not get one unless you had symptoms or exposure. More tests, more positives. Are there more deaths?? Only because of broadmore and I question their reporting methods. Dying with covid is not the same as dying because of covid.

Please do not require masks.



Madeleine Wyke Silva ▸ Open Texas Back Up ...

24 mins

This is why they're reporting a spike in cases here in Texas.

They changed the 'case definition' on what counts as a COVID-19 case and gets added to their stats and graphs.

A few weeks ago an incident that was counted as 1 case is now counted as 17 cases.

Check the video out - starting at 16:30 through 23 - it's all there explained to you.

It's manufactured and inflated.

These are the numbers they're using to justify mask mandate, stay at home orders, closing down businesses, and eventually mandatory vaccines.

I'm lost for words how people can keep arguing that there is a real danger to opening our economy and communities back up.

COLLINCOUNTYTX1K NEW SWAG! COM  
May 18, 2020 Commissioners Court



1 Comment



Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING Friday, June 26, 2020 - 9:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:58:08 PM

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To Mayor Jim Pruitt and Members of the Rockwall City Council

I am submitting my response to the Emergency City Council meeting regarding the rise in the cases of COVID-19 in Rockwall.

Based on the 45 reported new cases in one day in Rockwall, I would strongly recommend curtailing any activity that brings large numbers of people together.

The responsible action to take as the governing body and leadership of the City of Rockwall, would be to mandate the wearing of masks and to practice social distancing in public, and to discourage and even stop public gatherings.

Governor Abbott has stated that Texans should be wearing masks. You need to show leadership in our community, that you will do what ever it takes to keep the health and safety of our citizens in the forefront of your responsibilities. If local government won't take the necessary actions then you need to look to yourself and ask why.

Respectfully,  
Susie Stansel  
Rockwall County Democratic Party  
Interim County Chair  
1282 Salinas Dr., Rockwall 75087

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Rockwall City Council Emergency Meeting - Open Forum  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 5:29:12 AM

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Brittany Darcangelo  
1395 Tanglevine  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Agenda Item: Open Forum in Regards to Action Discussion Item #1

The City of Rockwall, including all residents and businesses would greatly benefit from the passing of a public face covering policy (masks), due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases within our city, county, state and nation. At least 19 states, as well as the District of Columbia have adopted similar policies in an effort to protect their residents. Even here, in the state of Texas, there are at least 11 counties, all having fewer cases than the City of Rockwall (131), and they too, have erred on the side of caution.

I am appealing to you today as a concerned citizen, mom, wife, mother, teacher and daughter. There is plenty we don't know about this virus. This is undoubtedly true. It's novel and science may say one thing today and another tomorrow. We've seen plenty of examples of things we once thought safe only to find years later, we were wrong. Smoking, sugar, Round Up weed killer, even baby powder to name a few. Absolutely nobody is going to get everything right about COVID-19. This will continue to be studied for many years to come. But the one thing we all know, is that people are dying, the economy is hurting and we all want this to be over.

As I stated in my opening, all residents would benefit by mandating or recommending a facial covering policy in public businesses. 1-The theory is that "I don't wear a mask to protect me, I wear it to protect you (in case I have the virus and don't know). I believe this is logical science based simply on the fact that for many years when you enter an urgent care, they ask you to put a mask on while you are waiting if you have a fever or cough. 2-TEA (Texas Education Agency) is sending PPE to all school districts within the state, including masks. If they believe masks are important enough to need to send them to every school district in the entire state, then aren't they probably important enough to ask your community to wear them? 3-Unless someone has an illness that truly makes it hard to breathe with a mask on, it really boils down to a temporary inconvenience that could potentially save a life. Grocery stores have required their employees to wear masks for several months, as well as many retail and food establishments. I haven't heard of any cases where someone has fallen ill or passed out from wearing a mask. So again, if it causes no harm to the person wearing it, but maybe saves a life, doesn't the benefit far outweigh the risk? 14% of Rockwall's population is 60 years old or older. This age group has been labeled as high risk from the very beginning. Currently Rockwall County (not city) has a recovery rate of 92.41%. If even 5% of that population contracted the virus and we



sustained the exact same recovery percentage, that would still equal 25 deaths.

Moving on to businesses and what they stand to gain with a mask policy in place. 1-The probability of less community transmission. 2-Fewer employees falling ill and calling out. 3-Less likelihood that they would have to take time to close business long enough for a thorough deep clean or the need to have all employees tested out of precaution. The businesses themselves, would probably also not like to have to weigh the pros and cons of "self identifying" a positive case as opposed to community gossip. The chance of any of these items reduces greatly by simply wearing a mask. 4-By having a uniformed policy across the city, consumers are far less likely to be confused as to what the policies are at Place A vs Place B. 5-Schools resuming in August will play a key part in business and economy. We all know that many families need their children to be in school or daycare in order for them to go back to work. I feel quite confident that if our state continues to increase 30,000 cases per week, we will not be heading back to actual classes. And while I don't believe the Governor would stop the entire state from going back to school, I could easily see a qualifier being put in place for which districts can go back and which can't. Our county has added an additional 48 cases this week. That's a 17% spike in less than 7 days. Maybe it's an anomaly or maybe that's what will trend for the next several weeks, but again, what do you stand to lose vs what do you stand to gain?

As you all can see, I am very analytical and statistically oriented. I believe in numbers, trends and data. The unfortunate trend is that our 131 cases will likely be over 300 by July 10th and that is a conservative estimate. I can't tell you exactly what will happen if a mask policy is approved. Scientists far more educated than me, seem to mostly agree that wearing a mask is a safe and effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Governor Greg Abbott said the same thing when asked if he'd be issuing a mandate. He said that he has continuously stated the best practice for all Texans is to wear a mask and that he shouldn't have to make it a mandate for people to do what is best. I completely agree with him, that he shouldn't "have to". You also shouldn't "have to" tell your child to tie their shoelace over and over again, but you do, because you don't want them to trip and hurt themselves. The people of the City of Rockwall are hurting themselves. They've been told by scientists, by the governor, by various people in the community and many continue to think they know best. I whole-heartedly believe that each one of you is on this council because you truly care about our community and want what's best for us all. So I am pleading with you to make the hard choice to mandate something that you all know will likely help, but even if it doesn't, what could it possibly hurt?

Thank you for your time and consideration!

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:45:42 PM

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Good Morning Rockwall City Council,

In regards to the COVID19 Emergency Meeting this morning, please stand your ground on allowing your citizens of Rockwall their freedoms! Do not cave to the pressure of mandating PPE. People who want to wear masks can do so freely. Please allow those of us who do not feel the need to wear PPE our freedoms too. Will we now be required to do all this with the flu as well? It is getting out of hand. The people concerned can protect themselves. Please don't infringe on my rights. Masks alone cause health issues. Children should not be required to wear them as they cause breathing problems and a drop in you oxygen levels. How can we mandate an item that can cause harm to your community? Please look at all aspects, not just what is being pressured due to media coverage.

Britney Murphy  
816 Brookhaven DR.  
Royse City TX, 75189  
(Rockwall County)

*Thank You,  
Britney Murphy*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Rockwall Fourth of July Emergency Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:13:10 AM

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Mayor Jim Pruitt  
Rockwall City Hall  
385 South Goliad  
Rockwall, Texas 75087

Dear Mayor Pruitt and Rockwall City Council,

My name is Laura Tate and I have lived in Rockwall for forty years. I am a fifth generation resident. My family including my husband and I have owned businesses in Rockwall and we have had the opportunity to watch the population of Rockwall continue to grow. I love Rockwall for many reasons; my husband and I are both RHS graduates, we firmly believe Jacket Fight Never Dies, the Square is a favorite local spot, running into a friend that you haven't seen in a while at the Farmer's Market, the generations and generations of residents that have mostly all crossed paths at some point, the growth of our schools and education services, the locally owned restaurants and shops, and the list continues.

I am not asking for a full cancellation of all events, but I am asking for a plan that includes CDC recommendations and minimizes the transmission of COVID-19.

When I decided to post on Facebook and tag several council members and the City, I had hoped to have a conversation with you directly and I did receive messages from a few of our local leaders so thank you for your time. So often people feel silenced and not heard and social media is a great way to communicate virtually with local leaders while also social distancing.

I am not attending the morning meeting for two reasons:

1. I had already scheduled to work a morning shift prior to this meeting's announcement and

2. I feel this meeting should have occurred virtually instead of in person. This could be another large protest if you will with local citizens grouping together in mass during a pandemic while also having a passionate discussion.

I have received several messages and calls regarding my post on social media, some blaming me for the scheduling of this meeting and others thanking me for speaking up and putting the health of our community first. I understand time, money, and planning all go into a celebrated town event and I am forever grateful for all the fun activities the City of Rockwall Parks and Recreation plan for our small but growing neighborhood. We have even hosted 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties at our home since we live near Harry Myers Park and I always look forward to this time of year.

What is important to me might not matter to others and that is ok. I can live with having a difference of opinion, but I do hope we share a common thread for loving our neighbors and wanting to see them walk out to pick up their mail each day. We are all neighbors in Rockwall. For the most part we all share public space, we all dine in our favorite restaurants and we all shop our favorite merchants. Any merchant that is not proactively putting their employees, their families, and their patrons health first is not a business I will visit now nor in the future. And I understand that is my own decision.

Thank you for your time and scheduling a valuable meeting.

Laura Tate

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Rockwall masks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:59:59 PM

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I urge you NOT to implement a business health policy and mask mandate in Rockwall.

Despite media claims to the contrary, there has been no definitive study that concluded that mask wearing is effective in slowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. I will submit the following as an example of a study that showed there was no efficacy in mask use reducing influenza virus transmission, and the COVID-19 virus has very similar transmission characteristics as influenza.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtb1FCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article?fbclid=IwAR2a7eDhHNFvnnLMabuhM21cI4F3f-GVY0OpEtb1FCn2UrIKca0a7SiQvks)

Let Rockwall residents and businesses decide for themselves on mask wearing, and don't force businesses to enforce rules they're not in favor of.

Chrissie Provost | REALTOR®

Fathom Realty



<https://www.gnandusa.com/leasetopurchase>  
<https://christieprovost.fathomrealty.com>



Please excuse typos, sent from cell phone.

"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant". Matthew 20:26 - 27

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Special City Council Meeting Regarding Community Events  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 7:13:16 AM

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Mayor Pruitt and City Council Members,

Joanna Maestas  
710 Village Green Dr,  
Rockwall 75087

Re: Upcoming city-related events

I am writing to encourage the council to not cancel any community events, especially ones celebrating our freedoms as Americans. The Harbor and the lake provide more than enough space to safely continue the concerts as well! I cannot stress enough how proud so many residents and myself are that Rockwall has not violated our rights with imposing over-reaching mandates, please choose to keep Rockwall a great freedom loving place!

Sincerely,  
The Maestas Family

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming City Council Meeting Resident Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:47:57 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of Rockwall County, the current proposal of mandating masks greatly concerns me. I have multiple health issues which do not allow me to wear a mask. Being harassed by stores everytime I am trying to support a local business is very discouraging. It turns my money away from supporting local businesses, which I have always tried hard to support.

Also some important points:

- 1) Businesses should be able to regulate themselves and their customers without government intervention. People have a wealth of knowledge about risks involved and can responsibly choose which businesses to patronize based on their comfort level with precautions taken. The businesses are already directly answerable to their customers, who know and understand risks. Allow the educated population and businesses to make their own decisions based on what is in their best interests.
- 2) The CDC and WHO have been wildly inconsistent about whether masks work at all to reduce transmission, and if so what types of masks may or may not be helpful.
- 3) Masks increase breathing of CO2 and reduction of oxygen to the body, increasing potential of harm to some people.
- 4) Even as positive cases have increased in Texas and nationwide, death rates are decreasing.
- 5) The virus is almost exclusively dangerous to people with significant underlying medical conditions, and especially elderly. If the county is to place restrictions, they should do so in direct correlation to protection of those vulnerable by focusing on nursing homes and medical facilities. But these entities are already acting responsibly and have self-imposed restrictions such that government imposition is not necessary.

Thank you for allowing my voice as a member of this county to be heard.  
Amber Smith

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming events and COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:40:05 PM

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To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members, City of Rockwall:  
RE: Upcoming city related events and wearing personal protective equipment in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.  
From: A. J. Soto, 306 Star St., Rockwall, Texas 75087

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the aforementioned topic in anticipation of the Friday, June 26 Emergency Meeting .

I, like many others in the community, have been trying my best to stay informed about the evolving Covid-19 situation in Rockwall. However, this has been difficult as of late because the latest Mayor's Message are over two months old on the rockwall.com website. In addition, the County of Rockwall website has not posted current information for the reason that the State of Texas has not provided them with updated data. Also, the last message on the rockwall.com website from the Rockwall County Health Authority is dated March 20, 2020, **over 3 months ago!** It would be extremely helpful if the city, in partnership with the county, make every effort to keep citizens informed about the latest Covid-19 news, such as open cases, deaths, hospital beds, and recoveries, etc., and make it readily accessible

However, based on the increase of cases in Texas as reported by major news and media outlets, and as a concerned citizen, I feel it would be appropriate to cancel many large upcoming public events in the city at this time. In particular, the Fourth of July Parade and fireworks display. These events have traditionally been attended by many persons, so in an abundance of caution, and to minimize the spread of the virus, these should not be held this year. In addition, it would be difficult to mandate that everyone wear a mask and maintain social distancing at large gatherings such as these. We all look forward to these events every year, but I feel the majority would prefer to do our part to reduce the spread of this pandemic. Other events, such as the Concerts by the Lake and Farmers Market, should also be reevaluated.

We all hope this crisis ends sooner, rather than later. But until then, we must work together to get to the other side.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A. J. Soto

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Cc:** [Pruitt, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming meeting/mask mandate  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:10:24 AM

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Victoria Patterson  
915 w Yellowjacket lane

I have lived in rockwall officially for almost 4 years. I grew up in the surrounding area virtually my whole life. I chose to move here when my son started kindergarten knowing he'd have the best possible education and environment. Something I wasn't privy to growing up. I chose, as a single mother, to work 60 hour weeks at 2 jobs just to pay the outrageous rent for basic apartments in rockwall to ensure he stayed in this district. I am beyond disappointed in rockwall as a community and government lately. So much that yes, I don't like it and therefore will be leaving.

First issue is the Rockwallian group on Facebook. It is completely full of hate and judgement. I encourage any person moving to rockwall to join the page and just observe... it shows you the true colors of this city. I am disgusted every single time I get on that page. No matter your religious or political beliefs there are despicable behaviors for both sides evident there. It is a mob mentality that is fueling a fire that cannot be tamed in this city.

To the true issue at hand in this moment...

COVID is real and it is getting bad. We can pretend it doesn't exist because we don't see it and want everything to go back to normal. But it is about to be a wake up call no one requested. The debate that mask mandates are unconstitutional and infringing on our rights is absurd. Our mayor has issued his opinion that he believes its on the residents and businesses to ensure safety and protections. NO. This is why you were elected. To lead us. To help us. This is your time to stand up and show your true colors and I'm disgusted.

People are not taking precautions. Businesses are not taking precautions. And not a single person is doing anything about that. Almost every single restaurant is not abiding a separation of tables or sanitation. Only one I've been to in the county is checking temperatures.

This is not fun or comfortable for a single person in this world right now, but it is necessary. These residents are going to continue calling those that wear a mask sheep. And I wonder if your opinions wouldn't be different if this election wasn't on the horizon?

This county needs its leaders to step up and make this serious. Instill in these people that this is a serious threat. You can hold community events with proper execution. I have seen pictures and today passed by music in the square with people stacked on top of one another. You are literally proposing breeding grounds for contamination and further the spread of this awful disease.

It's time for our leaders to act as such. People need to be told how to behave, especially during a pandemic. We want to believe the community will do "what is right", but the truth of the matter is that rockwall citizens are pretending this disease is a farce and they are continuing to go about their every day lives. I fear the repercussions on inaction on this community and our vulnerable ones.

Their pain, suffering and potential death is on your hands.

Victoria Patterson

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** WEARING OF PPE  
**Date:** Friday, June 26, 2020 12:50:06 AM

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Kristen Watson  
503 Birchwood circle Mesquite, TX, 75149  
WEARING OF PPE DUE TO COVID-19

Good morning to whom it may concern,

I present my case to you opposing the wearing of masks/PPE which is being implemented worldwide on insufficient scientific evidence/support/misinformation.

The narrative is that "COVID-19 has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people, and creates a substantial risk of public exposure"  
<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm>

First, it was originally modeled by Neil Ferguson & his team who ran one such model that stated more than 2 million people in the U.S. would die as a result of COVID-19. This model also predicted the United States could incur up to 1 million deaths even with "enhanced social distancing" guidelines, including "shielding the elderly." Imperial's modeling results influenced White House to impose a nationwide lockdown.

<https://www.heritage.org/public-health/commentary/failures-influent-covid-19-model-used-justify-lockdowns>

Modeling is an educated, estimated guess. Their model that prompted lockdowns & their assumption is flawed & incorrect as the death rate has been proven to be much lower than originally predicted & is steadily declining.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/03/20/coronavirus-report-that-prompted-stronger-u-s-action-1m-deaths-even-with-extreme-prevention-steps/>

Second, This virus has a fatality rate of 0.26% (3 in 1,000) which was released in a Stanford study that mentioned "the chances of dying is the same as the chance of you dying over the next 12 months from normal causes," & "Our observation suggests COVID-19 kills the weakest segments of the population,"

<https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/04/24/study-challenges-reports-of-low-fatality-rate-for-covid-19/>

Out of 116,000 deaths in the U.S, 40% were in nursing homes alone, proving it is not a threat to the majority of the population.



<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wsj.com/amp/articles/coronavirus-deaths-in-u-s-nursing-long-term-care-facilities-top-50-000-11592306919>

To put it into perspective, an observation shows statistically children have a greater chance of getting struck by lightning TWICE than dying of covid and yet all of this.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8404537/amp/School-children-15-higher-risk-struck-LIGHTNING-dying-coronavirus.html>

Lastly, it goes against our civil liberties/freedoms to enforce the wearing of masks over a virus that is 7 times less deadly than the flu or 2 times more deadly than the flu depending on risk factors: age, comorbidities, geographical location. The spikes in infection rate are simply due to more testing as it is more widely available. What's important & not being shown is the death rate & again, that is proving to be declining.

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/peter.james.walker#!/vizhome/COVID-19SeeYourState/YourStateKeys>

30-40 MILLION people test positive/are infected with the flu every year, do we wear masks during flu season? Then why do this over a virus Web MD stated has a 97-99% recovery/survival rate for the majority of the population? We can keep the most vulnerable safe while not being stripped of our freedom of choice.

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/covid-recovery-overview#:~:text=Experts%20don't%20have,%25%20and%2099.75%25.>

Enforcing the wearing of masks 4 months into a pandemic, when this virus has been clearly shown to, in fact, not be as deadly as originally predicted through facts and science, is simply unconstitutional at this point by not giving us a choice in the name of health. I strongly recommend voting NO to the mandate of masks & I ask you, after the true facts shown, does any of this make sense?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristen W.

--

*Krissy*

Krissy Watson | Concierge

HILTON DALLAS/ ROCKWALL LAKEFRONT

t: [+1 214-771-3700](tel:+12147713700) | f: [+1 214 771 3701](tel:+12147713701)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Subject:** Tubbs Median  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:47:31 PM

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The problem on Tubbs in the median has not gotten better. It was good for a few weeks here and there, but people continue to dump all kinds of junk there! And they dump it right beside the signs that were put up that say No Dumping or Parking. In fact, one of those signs is already bent over where someone probably ran over it while dumping. Just yesterday there were piles of 2 leather brown couches in the median by the sign that says NO DUMPING and then go down a block further and you will see the other couch (sectional) same color dumped, a pile of tree limbs, mattresses, sheetrock, broken chairs, etc. This trash makes that entire street look like a dump site. I appreciate that the signs were put up, but something else needs to be done to stop the dumping and having our area looking like a mini dump site!! The Windmill Ridge area people all travel on Tubbs and it is terrible that we have to see that or even for anyone who doesn't live in our area. We want to live in a nice area too - as I'm sure you do - not in a place that clearly always looks like its a dump or a bad side of town. It is a constant problem there and seems that the word is out that the median there is where they can dump for free. They dump in the median every day - every day!!!! Not just on bulk pick up days, it's every day that there are piles of junk through out that median. I'm sure you would not appreciate having this in your neighborhood or area, but it is in ours and in your city. This is how neighborhoods get a bad name and the more unsightly neighborhoods we have the more we'll get and then our city won't have the nice reputation that I feel it does. As I've mentioned in my previous emails, that median is maintained by the City and for the one or two days after the piles are picked up it looks very nice with the grass mowed. And I'm serious when I say the one or two days because that's all it takes (sometimes one day) before they fill up the median again with piles. I have sent several emails regarding this continued issue and I don't see it going away - even with the signs telling them not to dump. I have attached some pictures.

Thank you for your time,  
Prissy Cross  
116 Walnut Lane

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