

Name: Tamara Piet

Address: 1705 Palo Verde Driv

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate Ordinance

Comment:

I support a city mask ordinance. I see it as nothing but a positive in the fight against COVID. As I heard a speaker say this morning, it is all reward no risk.

Thank you for being willing to address this public health issue!

Name: Dr Ed Joseph

Address: 2870 Belgarde Blvd

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Anyone that understands biology knows that a mask protects no one from a virus. The science of virology doesn't support rags, paper, or any other type of material except a hazmat outfit.

Science does not support wearing masks. People have not practiced social distancing period. Simply visit Founders Park, Starbucks, Walmart, Safeway, etc.

Name: Randall Erickson

Address: 3634 Chapel Lane

Rapid City SD 57702-4988

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate ?

Comment:

Are those of us who have had the virus, survived and no longer have the virus (no longer test positive) also required to wear the masks for political theater? Or what actually is the science based (CDC recommendation) after a person has had and no longer has the virus?

Name: Ashley E Kauffman

Address: 1000 Enchantment rd

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I highly disagree with the comments made and the potential for a mask mandate in Rapid City. There are dozens of studies that show even in a surgical setting that masks do not decrease infection or contamination rates. Including but not limited to; Caroe, 2014 and Salassa and Swiontkowski, in 2014, look them up on pubmed. If there is no change in infection rates in a sterile setting with the best PPE available, how could we think that in Mr. Allender's words "... a little piece of fabric that can cover your mouth and nose" actually decrease the transmission of a viral particle. In none of the states that have implemented mask mandates have the rates of COVID-19 gone down after such a mandate. Furthermore, in many of the stores include box stores and grocery stores there is a high percentage of people already wearing masks. Why mandate something that people are already doing? Do not mandate masks in our city.

Name: Weston Jones

Address: 2110 5th Ave rapid city SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

I speak for all of the Lakota youth and are telling you to listen to us. We the youth have a right to life and a right to a good and just future. We will not stand by and let you destroy our future and diminish our right to life. We the Lakota youth stand for a mask ordinance. If you do not establish a mask ordinance, you are choosing to destroy our future and right to life. Protect us now and we will remember you later. Remember your duty, to the youth.

Name: Linda k Denief

Address: 8820 Nemo Rd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Potential Mask Mandate

Comment:

Have you actually done any STUDY on the effectiveness of masks as well as the dangers of masks?

If you pass a mandate will this be a codified law? If not, what gives you the ability to enforce it?

Are you practicing medicine illegally by requiring all people in rapid city to wear a mask?

A mask is considered a medical device. Governor Noem has stated that masks don't work. She has read the science. Your representative from the hospital as well as your city council members, business owners, and citizens needs to know there is proven science that states the dangers and inefficiencies of masks. The local business may not enforce a mandate that is not a codified law.

Name: Heidi Ann Bell Gease

Address: 6144 Rustling Pines

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I live just outside Rapid City limits but do all business in town. I'm all in favor of a mask mandate since people are not choosing to do the right thing on their own in this situation.

Name: Jill O'Brien

Address: 1585 Valley Drive

Rapid City, Sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

PLEASE pass a mask mandate. Help slow the spread of the Corona Virus! This will help save lives, help our medical staff form exhaustion, help get schools back open and help businesses be able to operate more safely. PLEASE, do the right thing.

Name: Christopher Miller

Address: 4802 Copper Hill dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Freedom is always the better choice in any situation. We all are born with the right to choose, I assume no different here in Rapid City. Those who want to wear a mask, should. Those who don't want to do not need any government officials telling them to do so. If you are scared choose to stay home. If you do not want to be around people without masks, choose to stay away. If we choose to allow government to make us do anything , then we the people are at a huge loss and what comes next would be more freedom taken away. Other states with mask mandates are now making criminals out of ordinary people who want to go to church or have family gatherings. That's what comes next. This is an attack on our children and families. If they succeed in dismantling the family unit, they can dismantle our society. Please always keep freedom at the top of your list as former patriots before you have.

Name: Beverly Running Bear

Address: 1702 Minuteman Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mandate requiring masks in public

Comment:

This is a public health issue and as with other requirements to protect health (like not smoking in public places), individuals engage in actions that respect the community and the needs of others. We have a collective obligation to preserve local resources (health care, hospital capacity, teachers, first responders) which are being severely stressed. Wearing a mask in public is the right thing to do and the science is on the side of these barriers to the spread of virus.

Personal responsibility allows those who will not comply with a mask requirement, to remain out of public spaces occupied by others...until a vaccine is readily available.

Name: Jason Jackson

Address: 2408 Janet Street

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I write to you in support of a mask mandate. South Dakota is one of the hot spots on Earth for Covid-19 infection rates, and we're seeing many deaths. We also know that there is broad consensus with experts in the medical community that masks work.

My wife and I enjoy shopping locally. In any other year we'd be shopping for Christmas presents in our community. Recently we've tried to do some shopping in town, and have found little or no mask use. Based on this, we feel it would be irresponsible to shop locally. We're middle aged and in good health, so Covid-19 may impact us little or not at all. But if one of us catches Covid-19 in a local shop from someone not wearing a mask, we then become a vector to pass the disease on to someone high risk.

Until there is a mask mandate we will do no local shopping, at all, except for necessities. And gauging from some friends and colleagues, we aren't alone in that position.

Name: Mary Helen Flanery

Address: 3024 Palmer Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Please require mask wearing in all businesses and public buildings in Rapid City.

Name: Lisa Iron Cloud

Address: 4428 Seeaire St

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Pass a Mandate requiring masks to be worn at all times in all public places in Rapid City. Stores have placed signs but many community members ignore these signs and do not wear masks. This is a huge problem

Name: Nichole R Woodard

Address: 4288 Twilight Dr,

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am not at all for a mask mandate. An example of the futility of a mask mandate is the state of Minnesota. As of July 25, 2020, Minnesota instituted a mask mandate for the whole state. Looking at their own data, (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/covidweekly46.pdf> page 3) the cases of COVID positives has continued to rise. 4 months of wearing a mask and it hasn't stopped the virus. Is there going to be a time limit on how long a mask mandate would last? IF a mandate is passed, and I hope it does not, please limit it to 1 month at the longest. If there isn't a SIGNIFICANT drop in positive cases, then admit the whole mask idea is useless. Don't drag this nonsense on for months on end.

Name: Erin Zieske

Address: 4003 Sunset Dr.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a constituent in your ward I want you to know I am in FULL support of a mask mandate to keep Rapid City safe and hopefully staunch the increase of infected within our county.

Wearing masks is the only way to keep businesses like the one I work at open.

This isn't political, this is common sense. Something a lot of people in Rapid City seem to be lacking. I don't wish ill on anyone, that's why I support this mandate, even for those who don't seem to support me.

Thanks for your time,

Erin Zieske

Name: Scott Beeler

Address: 7911 Okpealuk Street, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am writing to urge the city council to pass a mask mandate with enforcement provisions. Currently, the number of cases and deaths in South Dakota are among the worst in the entire world and we are nearing the breaking point of our hospital system's ability to treat patients, which if surpassed will lead to preventable deaths occurring. The science surrounding mask usage unambiguously shows that masks are effective in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and would help to slow down the rate of spread in our community. While in an ideal world we could rely on our neighbors to voluntarily wear masks to help protect each other without government intervention, it has become obvious that without the impetus provided by an enforced mask mandate that universal masking will not occur. It is abundantly clear that now is the time for aggressive action, and I hope that you all are willing to do what is necessary to protect the citizens of Rapid City.

Name: Robert Kjerstad

Address: 2922 Tomahawk Dr

RC, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: I support Masks

Comment:

"my freedom to swing my fist ends where your nose begins". Spreading the virus is not a freedom. News footage from the Winter Marketplace at the civic center showed about 50% of the people wearing masks. Rapid City residents were given a chance to be responsible and have failed. Schools closed, the hospital is full. We need per pressure to ware masks. A mask mandate will be the per pressure.

Name: Megan Kish

Address: 511 Ennen Dr.

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I 100% support and encourage putting forth a mask mandate to help with the spread of covid-19. I would like to think that our community could come together for the greater good, but with cases surging and our hospitals filling up, it doesn't look like that will happen on its own. If we do nothing, it won't be long until our hospitals are full and we're stuck choosing who lives and who dies. Action is needed.

Name: Seth Nelson

Address: 5642 Blue Stem Ct.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

The city government should not issue a mandate on mask wearing. The government's role is not to take decision making out of the hands of citizens and business owners. The data on masks is incomplete at best, and masks and lockdowns have already proven to be ineffective against controlling SARS-CoV-2. Instead of mandating that your citizens do what you tell them, try asking your citizens to make the decision that is best for them and their family.

Name: Brooke McPherson

Address: 5168 Savannah St, Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masking Mandate

Comment:

My family traveled to Colorado this summer. It was comforting to know that my son was protected, as he is not old enough to wear a mask BECAUSE everyone else was wearing a mask. I recently gave birth (pregnant this ENTIRE pandemic), a mask mandate would be comforting even more now than it has been. We can return to normalcy with the masking mandate because we can resume normal activities and not worry so much about those who could be potential spreaders who are not wearing masks. On our trip this summer to CO, my husband accidentally forgot to wear his mask from the car to the hotel. He got stopped by a police officer who politely reminded us, "CO has issued a statewide mask mandate, can you please put on our mask, etc.," and that was all it took for my husband to put one on- a gentle reminder but enforced. How is it different than banning peanut butter and peanut products from schools? If it benefits one person, it benefits us all.

Name: David Beery

Address: 4030 Danley Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

In addition to extending the fiction that we are in an emergency sufficient to trigger the extra-constitutional authority of local and state executives, mandatory masking acts as a peer pressure-fueled signal that encourages conformity to our coming 'new normal'. South Dakota should not cave to the misguided attempts to erode our American society and the freedoms it brings. Businesses and individuals should be empowered to make their own decisions without government overreach into their families, their faith and their freedoms.

Name: Shirley Ann Neugebauer Luebke

Address: 4619 Nicollet Way

Sioux City IA 51106

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Hello.

i grew up in South Dakota and I still have family in South Dakota. My favorite place to visit is the Black Hills and Rapid City area - i have many friends that live there. South Dakota does not leave you when you leave South Dakota (although I'm just across the border). I support the mask mandate for my friends and for all individuals of the Rapid City area - this will save lives! Because of the no mask mandate, it has limited my opportunity to visit - something I do several times a year! Please make this mandate a reality!

Thank you.

Name: Ann Trucano

Address: 4415 N Glen Pl, RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I fully support requiring masks in Rapid City. We are in this fight together, South Dakotans, and are people who are independent but kind and generous as well.

The CDC guidelines are clear:

\*People age 2 and older should wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in their household.

\*Masks offer some protection to you and are also meant to protect those around you, in case you are unknowingly infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

\*A mask is NOT a substitute for social distancing. Masks should still be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart.

Protect each other and wear masks, inside and outside buildings. We can do this together!

Ann Trucano

Name: Harmony May

Address: 1306 Woodlawn dr.

Rapid city, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Hello, I just want to say I fully support the idea of a mask mandate. I have been so embarrassed by our state and the lack of effort made by the governor to help with the spread of this disease. I'm sure you've been hit hard with a lot of hate, but just know a lot of us support you and this decision.

Name: Ron Sasso

Address: 4121 Canyon Lake Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Agenda for Thursday's meeting is not posted yet.

Comment:

I am disappointed that the agenda for Thursday's the special meeting is not posted yet. and that comments only allow a maximum of 950 characters---far less than could be presented in a 3 minute speech in person.

Because I have an autoimmune disease, I am at higher risk for contracting COVID. I believe that it is my responsibility to do what I can to protect myself. I typically wear a mask when I go out in public for tasks like shopping and social distance. I disagree with the idea of a mask mandate. I also disagree with additional shutdowns.

A mask mandate takes away freedoms while providing a false sense of security to people who support masks. I believe people should wear masks---but as long as we live in a free country, it should be voluntary.

Too often people do not wear masks properly and do not handle them properly. Often people will adjust their mask by touching the front of it, causing cross-contamination.

Name: Dr. Lori Simon

Address: 625 9th Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I strongly support the efforts of the Mayor and City Council to have a mask mandate. Rapid City Area Schools have a mask mandate as part of our Back to School Plan. Our contact tracing over the past three months has consistently shown that the great majority of our student and staff cases are the result of social gatherings and other activities outside of the school and workday where masks are not being worn or spread within families. Thank you for your efforts in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the citizens of our community.

Name: Noah Krentz

Address: 1025 Keystone Ave

Ellsworth AFB

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Hello, I am concerned for our community health. With that being said I am in favor for the mask mandate to help slow the spread of the virus and to ease our medical field workers both in rapid city and Ellsworth AFB

Name: Sarah Ball

Address: 2921 Princeton Court

Rapid City, SD 57709

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

I fully support a mask ordinance for Rapid City in an effort to slow the spread of COVID 19 and in support of our healthcare workers.

Name: Nancy Burger

Address: 23637 Wilderness Canyon Road

Rapid City SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate for RC

Comment:

To the mayor - please be the leader we need as our state is leading the nation in COVID cases per capita. Telling our population to wear a mask whenever in public, and the enforcing it, will save lives, aid our exhausted health care workers, and let people here know you care enough to make the rule. Please do this!

Name: Kirby Johnson

Address: 5230 Pinedale Heights Drive

Rapid City South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandates

Comment:

I am Apposed to any new Mask mandates being proposed by the City of Rapid City. I have heard all the hoopla about the growing number of cases. If you want to wear a mask that is your purgative. I for one do not care to wear one. If the masks are so effective, than those wearing them should be protected from those of us that do not care to wear them. I for one will not comply with any city mandate.

Name: Kevin Crosby

Address: 6556 Wellington Ct.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: masks

Comment:

Please implement a mask mandate and please enforce it. I would like to be able to continue to work and live. If more people keep getting sick, I will be furloughed again or worse. A mask mandate is the least onerous and invasive action that the city government can take that should help to reduce the spread of the virus and the burden on the healthcare system. Large gatherings should also be restricted.

Name: Judee Oldham

Address: 6722 Muirfield Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask requirement

Comment:

I wholeheartedly support the requirement of mask wearing in Rapid City. We desperately need to do whatever we can to support our citizens, especially the teachers and health care workers. This is not a political issue or about personal freedom. It is about the safety of our friends and family and keeping the numbers of covid cases down as much as possible. All reputable doctors and epidemiologists have verified the efficacy of mask wearing.

Name: Laura Larson

Address: 4031 lilac ln Rapid city

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Please put in place not only a mask ordinance but also enforcement, the definition of freedom is do what you like as long as you do not harm others and that is key! I would like to be able to go on to work and not have to worry about being infected with a deadly virus because people refuse to wear a simple piece of cloth. When are the adults going to take over and tell the 3 yr olds who are throwing a temper tantrum over a simple mask that if you don't want to wear a mask simply stay home and let the rest of us go on with our lives in this new normal! And for the business that refuse to do anything to protect us the employees or the public shame on you ! Hospital is overwhelmed if you want to stay open wear a mask!

Name: Karen Pettigrew

Address: 1203 Saint Cloud St.

Rapid City, SSD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate Proposal

Comment:

Dear Council Members:

Please note my strong support for a face mask requirement in public spaces. As a nurse who knows that science and public health responsibility make this "ask" of ALL Rapid Citians a no-brainer. I know that this will make a difference in reducing the spread and infection of people in our community. Our health care resources are stressed to the limit and we face increased demand for critical care beds, WITHOUT THE STAFF to support this demand. That is frightening. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING and take this TEMPORARY measure to put a simple barrier between the coronavirus and a susceptible victim by requiring that everyone in our community demonstrate that they CARE for others by wearing this harmless device of a mask. I wore masks for my work in maternity nursing for 50 years and I am a healthy, cognitively intact woman. There is no risk for those who wear masks! Please stop the nonsense and pass a mask mandate.

Name: Dr. Travis Williamson, DNP

Address: 2919 Country Club Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandates

Comment:

A mask mandate is long overdue! Public good including public health has always trumped individual liberty from the 1793 yellow fever epidemic during President Washington's administration to the 1918 Spanish influenza. The science is clear on masks and lockdowns. During the 1918 epidemic, communities that implemented mask requirements and lockdowns early on had half the deaths of communities that waited. In the 100 years since the medical community had used masks and isolation to prevent outbreaks in hospitals. The greatest risk to public health is not the COVID virus itself but its impact on the healthcare system. Nationwide we have had a nurse and provider shortage for decades, so open beds isn't a relevant marker alone; add in a massive influx of COVID patients and the system we all relied on for every other human ailment (eg trauma, heart attacks, ...) collapses and your treatment becomes based on your likelihood to survive.

Name: Kelsey Murray

Address: 4513 Duckhorn St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I hold a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering and have spent over 15 years studying and performing surveillance for a variety of infectious diseases. I fully support a city-wide mask mandate.

Name: Amy Maxson

Address: 4530 Baldwin St

Rapid city

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Proposal

Comment:

If our local & state government wants to adhere to personal responsibility, then be consistent and strike down other laws where the data is "mixed".

Sometimes a seat belt may cause more harm than not. The drinking age is 21 despite the risks to those age 18-21 being inconclusive.

Keeping laws that restrict personal freedom is based on the principle that the Greater Good benefits society. During a pandemic, this means temporarily implementing guidelines where citizens are asked to abide to protect themselves and others in order to preserve the resources and structure of society. While the science may not be definitive, the strong indication is there is a benefit to society to wear masks while with a group of people during a pandemic.

If the Council decides personal choice prevails when scientific data can be questioned, then there are many other laws which impede freedom of choice that the Council should reconsider.

Name: David Greff

Address: 35 Saint Charles St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Since I became a Christian nine years ago, I have always been a law abiding citizen: one who loves his country, is proud of his state, and prays for his city. I support local business, I don't litter, I pay my bills, I'm a friend of the police, I'm a spiritual leader, and I pray for the government and my leaders weekly.

If you mandate the wearing of masks, you will have turned me--your ally--into a criminal, because I fully intend to disregard the mandate. Please let our citizens retain their dignity by not stripping them of the liberty to make their own health decisions.

Your friend,

Unless you mandate otherwise,

David Greff

Name: Deb Zebill

Address: 3731 Padre Dr

Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask ordinance

Comment:

Please issue a mask ordinance. We are stressing our health care system and our health care workers. We can't stop the virus, but we can work diligently to do a better job of containing it. Wearing a mask is not that difficult and it will save lives.

Name: Carol Greenhood

Address: 4320 Duckhorn Street

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I appreciate this is a difficult and divisive issue. I am opposed to a mask mandate.

1. I believe anecdotal and even research evidence is showing that masks do not stop COVID spread. A recent study on masks and their effectiveness was CANCELLED and the results not disclosed because the results were not supporting/in line with media and political agendas.
2. Numbers in South Dakota went up in light of two mandates: children returning to school and wearing masks all day; big discount and box stores requiring them. In our experience, those being careful and wearing masks have contracted Covid as much as those who do not. We need to let Covid take its natural course, develop immunity in the general population while protecting those who would be especially vulnerable.
3. The disruption to children's learning and the devastation to the economy by lockdown takes the Nation down the road to eventual socialism/government control.

Name: Pat Watson

Address: 242 E Montana St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am not in favor of having the mayor or city council implement a Rapid City mandate requiring masks for all Rapid City residents to be worn at all times in public. Though I believe in personal responsibility and doing the right thing it is not up to our government officials to tell us what that is, or to infringe on our civil rights and make laws that do not allow us to make our own decisions. You are going down a slippery slope against our civil liberties that our country was founded on by mandating. By all means encourage and ask people to wear masks, to stay home if sick, social distance, etc. but leave the final decision to the people and don't interfere with our freedoms. I choose to wear a mask, but I also contracted COVID in spite of wearing a mask every where, so I believe this is something that just needs to run its course just like any other flu season. Be smart, be safe, but no mandates!

Name: Carol Staedtler

Address: 3314 Locust St

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council:

I am writing concerning the upcoming discussion on the mask mandate. I hope that members can put aside political emotions and look to the recommendations of medical experts. Masks work. As the rising numbers indicate some action needs to be taken. We apparently need a mandate as many people are not capable of doing what they should do to protect themselves and those around them.

I also ask that you consider limiting restaurants to take out only and bars to a 25% capacity. I would hope that by doing this we could avoid a curfew or shutdown of the city.

As a retired nurse and a mother of an educator in the school district and of three health care providers I implore you to take significant action on this pressing matter. The health and welfare of our community demand it. Do not let the fear of reprisal from those that would disagree stop you from doing what is right for the community.

Name: Brett Trotter

Address: 10107 sheridan lake road

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Have you consulted the experts that deal with biohazard waste disposal and infection control?

What did they say about the effectiveness of the measures you are proposing, without implementing a proper disposal program? What are the red bags for in the hospital? Arent there people who inspect and "grade" facilities like hospitals that use red bags, according to known criteria?

Name: Ann Eads

Address: 4122 West Chicago Street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I would rather have everyone mandated to wear a mask out in public now, than not have emergency services available when needed, and losing loved ones prematurely. Our healthcare system is Overwhelmed, and that affects all of us who might need medical care, or have friends and loved ones that might need care. The time is now to mandate masks for those who don't understand the importance & urgency of wearing masks in public during this pandemic. Do it for healthcare workers, teachers, front line workers and loved ones.

Name: Kyle McCabe

Address: 2729 Rawhide Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: "Mask Mandate" city ordinance

Comment:

Mayor Allender and Rapid City Council members,

950 character limit version:

Regarding a mask mandate, use critical thinking and logic. As representatives, you should be doing this already as a check against loud, emotional voices even if they seem to be the majority.

If masks work, it's only if everyone uses them correctly. Observe: disposable masks hanging from rear-view mirrors, frayed from people touching them all day. Folks don't wash hands after using the bathroom - do we think they do so after touching masks? We think they don and doff them properly?

In practice, masks do not work as you wish them to, and a mandate will do nothing to slow the spread. Your voting decision needs to be based on reality, not wishes and dreams.

Please consider this: If you mandate mask use city wide, by necessity you are transferring responsibility for this decision – and all of its consequences - from the citizen to the government. Choose wisely.

Name: Cathie Draine

Address: 4704 Okpealuk Court, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: potential mask mandate

Comment:

In my view there should be a mask mandate. My reasoning is influenced by the following facts: the COST of the mask is minimal - therefore cost is no valid objection. The VALUE of wearing a mask is well documented by science and the majority of the medical community - therefore wearing a mask supports the public good. The APPEARANCE of the mask is measured only by the intent or creativity of the wearer. A temporary mandate to wear a mask is NO infringement on personal liberty. Wearing a mask is a sign that the wearer is participating in an act for the public good - his or her immediate family, healthcare workers, employees in any area. And finally, there is NOTHING political about wearing a mask. Wearing a mask is a sign of an individual's membership in his/her family and community.

Name: Chase McLane

Address: 2806 Arrowhead Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am for a mask mandate in the City. It is obvious at this point that what we have been doing is not working and this is a small step to help get the virus under control in our community until a vaccine can be made available. It is sad that it has got to this point but no one wants shutdowns and quarantines and a mask mandate is one of the last things we as a community can do to try and avoid that fate.

Also there must be an enforcement provision or this is a waste of time. If it is treated like the mask mandate at the City building just go back to asking people nicely to wear masks until our healthcare system is overwhelmed and shutdowns are our only way to stop the exponential spread we are experiencing now.

Thank you

Name: Ray Phipps

Address: 8907 High Meadows Road, Black Hawk, SD.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

No way. Too much evidence that masks are for psychological purposes not scientific in preventing disease.

Name: Phyllis Boernke

Address: 3950 Fairway Hills Drive Apt 304

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I fully support a city-wide mask mandate. I also am in favor of imposing fines for violations of the mandate. I support using law enforcement to ensure compliance with the mandate. This is a serious community issue that is causing unnecessary suffering and death. We must behave more responsibly toward one another!

Name: Bill Walsh

Address: 36 Lincoln - Deadwood & Black Hills!

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

I view this move to be Patriotic. What is good for Ellsworth is good for Rapid City. Protect our folks, esp. minorities & older people who wish to live longer in our Hills!

Name: Cory Tomovick

Address: 23637 Strato Bowl Road / Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Covid-19 Mask Mandate

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please require mask wearing throughout all businesses in Rapid City. It is the right thing to do for the public health of all community members. Leadership requires us to do the what is best for the greater good. Thank you for doing your job.

Name: Tina Samuelsen

Address: 3105 Wonderland Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Andreas Voss, a Dutch microbiologist with the WHO says that masks are being advised "not because of scientific evidence, but because of political pressure and public opinion." I have to agree with this as many locations such as New York with strict masking mandates are also experiencing surges in cases right now.

Maybe instead of enforcing ineffective and draconian measures such as mandatory masking, we should stop using hyper-sensitive and unapproved testing that produces massive numbers of false positives. That would be far simpler way to reduce "COVID cases" without taking away people's freedom and bankrupting the economy.

Don't vote for masking because you are afraid of taking a hit in your next election for not appearing to do something. Look at the real science and realize that masking is simply "safety theatre" that will only give people a false sense of security.

Name: John Olson

Address: 3456 E. ST. Patrick st.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

We really need some leadership. Unfortunately too many people here believe all the false news and claims about COVID-19. Our increasing number shows just how much we need leadership to make the decision to mandate masks. Please before the wrongly informed or the selfish kill our loved ones. Please do your job and help protect the weak, old and young.

Name: Mike Allen Kilmer

Address: 1809 COUNTRY OAKS LN

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

This explains my desire and thought on a proponent of a mask mandate until we get a better handle on this virus. there's a story about people on a boat.

A guy decides to dig through the floor of his cabin.

Water flow in.

Other passengers are pissed.

But it's his own cabin, the guy argues, so why should it matter?

Personal choice only goes so far when we're all on the same boat.

Name: Bruce B. Junek

Address: 612 Saint James Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Like so many people 65 and older, I have been forced to stay home because other people refuse to wear masks. I have not been able to get out and spend any money on food or entertainment, nor will I, until I feel safe around everyone else. A mask mandate will help me and others in my situation to resume normal life and spending of money around town. If there is no mask mandate I will continue to stay home, and not spend any money locally except going out once a week for groceries.

Name: Bruce Long Fox

Address: 2112 S. Valley Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please protect our elders and protect our children. Wear a mask! By allowing our spit globules to invade their space and invade their lungs, we risk their lives. Dont Tread on them, Dont spit on them! You have the freedom to chose the right thing. Please wear mask!

Name: Jana Koupal

Address: 1070 Duffer Dr

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate Consideration

Comment:

I strongly urge you, to vote "NO" on MANDATING OR FORCING FACE COVERINGS/MASKS for the Healthy, General population of RC. The dangerous side effects; depression, suicide, de-humanizing aspects are far out weighing any scientific benefits (truthfully, of which there are very few, if any) of wearing masks. JAMA, the CDC and hundreds of reputable Dr's have scientific proof, masks simply don't mitigate the spread of SARS Cov 2 virus, or influenza or any other respiratory virus. Sick people should stay home & Wearing masks only spreads harmful, deadly bacteria & infects or re-infects the wearer and possibly others. PLEASE KEEP RAPID CITY SD FREE from this deadly and abominable mask requirement or mandate! BREATHE FRESH AIR! Thank you with all Sincerity!

Name: Molly O Dailey

Address: 4625 W Chicago St.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please enact a mask mandate. As a mother, teacher, and community member I feel the need to protect my fellow citizens. Unfortunately, some of my fellow citizens need a reminder that wearing a mask is a quick easy way to reduce the spread of Covid19. This is no different than enforcing seatbelt laws or giving out parking tickets. This can be done for the good of all.

If we want our children to be in the schools, then we need to do our part when we are not in school and start wearing masks. If we want to support our caregivers in hospitals, nursing homes, and the like we need to start wearing masks. If we want our businesses to be able to be open we need to all wear masks. If our governor is going to abdicate her responsibilities, then it lands on our shoulders. Please City of Rapid City, step up and fill the void.

Name: Kitty Kinsman

Address: 5157 Pinedale Heights Dr.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask requirement

Comment:

Thank you Mayor for bringing the indoor mask requirement to the city council for action. It is time for this community to act responsibly and require that masks be worn indoors to protect the health of others, workers and patrons alike. If personal responsibility was the answer, it hasn't worked, just as it didn't in addressing indoor smoking or drunk driving. Mask wearing, combined with social distancing, limiting the size of gatherings, testing, contact tracing will help us keep businesses and schools open, people employed, ensure access to health care and help get us through until a vaccine is available on a widespread basis. And it will have the side benefit of reducing the spread of other respiratory infections as well! We are in this together, so let's act like it. This is not what being #1 in the world should look like. I ask for your favorable consideration.

Name: Linda Weishaar

Address: 924 E Oakland Street rapid city as 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please do not pass this. Leave us with the freedom to make our own decisions. This is supposed to be a free country and we are all capable of making the right decision for ourselves.

Name: Candace M Forrette

Address: 1024 North 25th St.

Billings, MT 59101

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Having grown up in Rapid City, I have many friends and family members whom I visit as often as possible. I have avoided recent trips to Rapid City and the Black Hills as Covid - 19 has not been taken seriously by leadership and consequently not by the public. If Rapid City cares only about economic activity, then perhaps it will make a difference to you that we generally spend our vacation dollars in your area. No more. If you care about the lives and safety of our family and friends, then you know that you need to follow the science and public health guidelines. Wearing a mask is not seen as important because of the lack of leadership. This "freedom" argument is ridiculous and you know it. Think of it as a seat belt law if you have to. Save lives. Mandate masks. Thank you.

Name: Megan Davenport

Address: 3357 Pinewood Dr, Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

The City of Rapid City has been irresponsible thus far in catering to conspiracy theorists and those who do not recognize the value of science and the responsibility we all have to protect all members of our community. I request that the city implements a mask mandate immediately and provides resources to enforcement of the mandate. Enough is enough. How many South Dakotans have to die before this virus is taken seriously? If 644 South Dakotans were killed from any other reason in the course of 9 months, it would be considered a massive tragedy and resources would be put towards combatting it. Our poor health care workers are overworked and stretched then. Stop allowing selfish and uninformed behavior dictate the health and safety of our city. Please mandate the wearing of masks in all public spaces.

Name: Don Parrey

Address: 3440 Corral Dr

Apt. 302

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

If you were to implement a mask mandate, what is your "exit strategy"? How long will it last?

What are the objective factors that will absolutely show that you have achieved your stated goal?

What, in fact, is the stated goal? To reduce "cases"? Or to reduce actual hospitalization and death? Deaths are down, hospitalizations fluctuate due to numerous reasons, some seasonal.

Assuming a mask mandate is in place and testing continues to increase and "cases" naturally follow, will you accept that maybe masks do not actually help prevent spread of "covid", and may actually increase your susceptibility?

How can you be trusted to give up your powers? So far, you have only asked for more, not less. The original "lockdown" was supposed to last 2 weeks, to "flatten the curve". How did that work out for California, New York, Michigan?

Don't let Rapid City become like Los Angeles or New York.

Name: Holly Todd

Address: 2207 38th St

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a nurse here in Rapid City, I do believe that masks should be mandated at this point ( I personally think sooner would have been better, but here we are). I would have loved if our fellow citizens could have been trusted to take this seriously, however they have shown through out this state that they are more worried about the illusion that their "personal freedoms" are being taken away. Governor Noem said that we should treat our "fellow citizens like adults" and give them the freedom to choose, however they have proven that they do not care about the welfare of the citizens in their communities.

**MANDATE MASKS NOW!!**

Name: Tass Thacker

Address: 612 Saint James Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please pass a mask mandate for Rapid City. Our Covid numbers are much too high. We need to get this virus under control so our schools can re-open, so our businesses can operate safely.

For the health and well being of this town, we need to act now.

Thank you for caring about us. We are all in this together.

Name: pat braun

Address: 3661 Serendipity lane

rapid city

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: masks

Comment:

YES, a mask mandate is necessary until the hospital admissions and positivity rate drops to a non-national headline maker.

Our healthcare system is a huge employer in the area...we need this act to help them out!

Name: Paul Maguire

Address: 1101 N 7th St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mandated mask wearing

Comment:

I would like to commend Mayor Allender and all of the community health professionals for the steps they took in the early stages of the covid pandemic.

Beyond a doubt the superspreader events that occurred in our state without mask mandates have led to the Dakotas becoming world leaders in rate of infections.

Covid 19 should not be a political issue. If government leaders at the federal and state levels had taken personal responsibility for the care and concern of all citizens, there could have been hundreds of thousands of American lives saved.

My partner and I have taken seriously the steps recommended by Mayor Allender and his cohorts. We are both in our seventies and have remained healthy. Meanwhile, neighbors and friends who disregarded the directed steps have become infected.

It will take everyone to accept reality and show courage and self-sacrifice to get the pandemic under control.

Name: Ashley Fisher

Address: 272 Wilder Court Box Elder SD 57719

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: COVID-19 mask mandate

Comment:

I'm very disappointed in the community so far. There are so many people who are not being personally responsible and wearing masks for the safety of our community. Only recently have I seen more people wearing masks because our numbers are rising exponentially, but there are still far too many who aren't. How many more people need to die before our community leaders take action by passing a mask mandate? SD is one of the LEAST safest places in the entire world right now, so again I ask - how many more people need to die before you take action?

Name: Nicole Ekstrand

Address: 2709 cameron dr

rapid city sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am very much against the mask mandate. I believe it should be each individuals choice whether they wear one anywhere. To take our freedom choice away is to take away some of our rights as a citizen. It has been proven that the masks don't keep anyone from getting sick so this should not even be a discussion. If a person is not feeling good they should practice common sense and stay home. If a person is immune compromised practice common sense for your particular situation. Its called self governing. The government should not step in where it is not needed. The government is there to help people not control them.

Name: Kelsey Wyres

Address: 8525 Kings Ct.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

While I recognize that the cases and hospitalizations in this community are going up, I also believe the only way out of this pandemic

is through. It is already here. People need to start acting responsibly by staying home when they or someone in their home is unwell. A mask, while a nice placeholder for actual responsibility isn't as effective as the general public would like to believe. A mask mandate at this point is really too little, too late. The majority of the population has been wearing them everywhere I go and yet, here we are with record numbers. Push for people to be responsible with THEIR health, push for people to use delivery and curbside options if that's what they're comfortable with. Help keep sick people out of public by offering them help with groceries and essentials. Pennsylvania just mandated individuals wear masks inside their own homes when they have visitors. Is that where we're headed? I hope not.

Name: Erin Fagnan

Address: 4515 Steamboat Cir, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support a city wide mask mandate.

Name: Lynne and James Loverich

Address: 23950 S Rockerville Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: 11/19 mtg- Mask mandate discussion - working session

Comment:

My husband and I support a mask mandate where applicable.

We feel it's imperative to stay focused on implementing Dr. Kurra's advice: "The community can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing masks, washing their hands, and avoiding closed spaces and crowded places."

This does not mean a shutdown. This means being smart.

If after your meeting you can't agree in a mask mandate or not, absolutely come up with mandating ways to implement more safety precautions.

I am a frontline healthcare worker (15 years). The transferring of patients to outside facilities is happening. Thank goodness outside facilities are working together, however it's not ideal. Caregivers are getting stressed. Patients are getting stressed.

Thank you for your service to our community! Good luck! You've got this!

Lynne Loverich

Name: Sue Bell

Address: 1116 St Charles St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Thank you very much for considering a mask mandate for Rapid City. I very much support a mandate. It is time to get serious and fight this virus in ways we know are effective!

Name: Pamela Borglum

Address: 2705 Cameron Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Science tells us that masks help prevent disease transmission. Please adopt a mandatory mask policy so that I can be out and about in our city spending my Christmas dollars locally rather than spending them online. I want to feel safe as I am in our local businesses but I do not currently because so many people forego wearing this basic piece of protective equipment. We have the highest rates of infection anywhere in the WORLD. Please please allow common sense and decency to prevail.

Name: Nancy Glassgow

Address: 4230 Mary Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

If a mask mandate saves one life it would be worth it; to do nothing is not an option now. It's not rocket science, anyone can do it and feel good about doing it. We are where we are right now because of selfishness and disregard for others

Name: Mark Lawrence Koupal

Address: 1070 Duffer Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Council Members:

Concerning the contemplation of mandating Masks:

If you are sick, stay home

If you are scared, stay home

A mandate is unconstitutional and an infringement on our rights.

If you look into the CDC website, you will find a study stating that 85% of those who contracted COVID wore masks on a regular basis.

JAMA states that research shows masks do nothing to stop the spread of any virus, particles are simply too small, especially the masks and bandanas that everyone wears and thinks they are being protected with.

Know the TRUE facts before you infringe on the rights of the people.

I urge you all to respect our rights to make our own choice, we are still a free Republic and seek to maintain that freedom.

Follow the lead of our GREAT governor who respects the people of SD and their ability to make their own decisions for their personal safety.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Mark Koupal

Name: James Roseland Sr

Address: 27 Quincy St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

It needs to be noted that not everybody can wear a mask. It isnt about politics or being an anti-masker. Anxiety, clostrophobia, breathing disabilities like asthma and COPD, Different styles of masks have different thicknesses, filters, ect. I have a severe gag reflex And have dificulty wearing any mask in spite of trying. Please consider these things before forcing everyone under one umbrella rule that not everyone is able to follow.

Name: Maureen Staley

Address: 1529 Forest Hills Drive

Rapid city. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate

Name: Scott McGregor

Address: 2701 Wildhorse Drive - P.O. Box 8156 Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Pass a mask mandate but subject its necessity to regular review. Let the public know those businesses that are not in compliance. Enforcement should be by public shaming not a fine. Any business not wishing to comply should be required to post notice on all entry doors that "This Business Refuses to Comply with the City of Rapid City's Mask Mandate" Failure to post a notice might subject the business to per doorway fine.

Name: Melissa Aberle, CNP

Address: 4870 Berry Pine Heights Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

A recent policy review paper published in the Emerging Infectious Diseases, the CDC journal, found no evidence to support universal mask wearing as a protective measure. A 2020 meta-analysis concluded, "masks did not support a substantial effect on transmission of Laboratory confirmed respiratory illnesses. A study of 44 different masks found that, "medical masks, general masks and handkerchiefs were found to provide little protection against respiratory aerosols. " Aerosols penetrated cloth masks 97% of the time and medical masks 44% of the time. With the increased use of masks, we are seeing an increase in bacterial and fungal pneumonia's because unsanitary mask habits. 99.997% of the population will not die from this virus. I strongly encourage you not to mandate mask wearing.

Name: Donna Olander

Address: 2105 MONTE VISTA DR

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am not in favor of a mask mandate. It is another step into the loss of freedom in this country, and I believe South Dakota is a state that upholds freedom and responsibility in the correct balance.

Name: Rebecca Caselli-Smith

Address: 916 franklin

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance for Covid

Comment:

Thank you for seeking comments regarding masks to protect each other from Covid. As a 20 year resident of Rapid I retired from my 28 year career as a mental health therapist this past summer because of concerns around Covid risks. With a 93 year old father, 79 year old husband, four adult children and 5 grandchildren I have a lot to live for! I/ we wear masks in public, wash hands constantly, social distance and spend most of our time at home alone. We won't be celebrating thanksgiving with extended family as we usually do and probably won't gather for Christmas either. We need a community mandate to wear masks as I'm shocked how many people are not wearing them for their own sake or others. That includes business owners as well as fellow customers. Please for the sake of the whole communities well-being pass a mask ordinance! Again, thank you.

Name: Anna Marie Marie Thatcher

Address: 1212 Mt. Springs Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate for COVID

Comment:

To Mayor Allender and Members of the City Council,

I am writing in support of creating a mandate that citizens of Rapid City wear masks in public during this critical time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is only logical that, if we want businesses to operate during this time - we need to make it safe for customers and employees to do so - and wearing masks is at least one step in that direction. Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Marie Thatcher

Name: Jon Zebill

Address: 3731 Padre Drive

Rapid city, SD. 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate

Name: Raquel L. Vokenroth

Address: 4108 Sunset Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support a mask mandate 100%. Our community and our state carry the highest positivity rates for COVID 19 than most. Our state and our government have been cavalier about this since the beginning. We held events such as the Sturgis motorcycle rally, Central States Fair, Cool Deadwood nights and the list goes on. Now all of our schools have been moved to level 3 remote distancing because they have such a high infection rate. Who didn't see any of this coming? I am repeatedly baffled at the number of folks I see gathering and not wearing a mask. I believe in freedom, just not freedom to kill others. It's a no brainer. Wear a mask. Listen to the science. Please consider the safety of not only you and your loved ones but mine too. Thank you.

Name: Tom Whillock

Address: 3321 Hall St

RC, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I strongly support a mask mandate in Rapid City. Its a simple thing that we can do to protect our community, and it seems at this time that people need that level of encouragement to make that choice to wear a mask. I hope this will be explicitly applied to law enforcement who have seemed inappropriately resistant to mask wearing while interacting with the public, and especially entrance workers at the courthouse who have been turning unmasked people away from the building since March while not wearing masks themselves. My hope is also that this mandate will be accompanied by mask distribution, and enforcement will first be handled by giving reminders and offering masks to the person in violation. I am expect that enforcement will be not handled in a discriminatory manner. If people refuse to comply I do think it is reasonable to remove them from public indoor spaces where they are putting others at risk.

Name: Heather Herbaugh

Address: 8550 Nemo Rd

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I work at a small business in downtown Rapid City. This year, we have seen droves of customers come in to support our store throughout this pandemic. People tell us all the time how much they want to see us stay in business. That's why it feels like such a slap in the face when a customer refuses to wear a mask. It's as though they're saying that our health, and that of our families, is so insignificant that they can't be bothered to don a mask for 20 minutes to ensure we all stay safe. If you really want to support small businesses, you should not only shop locally, but mask up as well. Until then, please don't tell us how much you love our store while endangering its employees.

Name: Verma J. Stehly

Address: 7668 Tanager Drive, Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I support the mask mandate 100 percent.

Name: Lynnette VanEpps-Smith

Address: 8811 Dunsmore Road

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I have been wearing a mask when in town since March. I am immune compromised due to past cancer treatments..my husband is on an immune suppressive drug and has diabetes,Chrohns, had his second. Heart procedure this June...We are 65+ and take good care of ourselves...we ask only for the courtesy of others to not stress our health out to the point we may end our days sooner than expected...we moved to South Dakota because it was a healthy climate..look what happened because no one cared for others ..wear a mask..its a simple way to help others

Name: Jodi Digmann

Address: 3148 Johnston Court, Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am concern with the proposed mask mandate.

Key points per the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>):

- o Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Consider how we got here. What changed since summer causing the increase in positive cases? Where are the outbreaks? Schools, Jails, Nursing Homes? If the mask mandate was so critical, why no outbreaks at grocery stores? Didn't the school district have a mask mandate and are now in distance learning?

Under no circumstances should the council impose restrictions that exceed CDC recommendations. I ask that you modify the resolution to match the CDC or vote against.

Name: Jessica Urban

Address: 902 main street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Council members in Sioux Falls who voted against their mask mandate are getting death threats. Are you willing to out our council members lives and their family members lives at risk. Mayor Allender already said this mandate is unenforceable, so he was lying a month ago apparently. Stop the vote, stop the mandate, stop the lying.

Name: Jonathan Gonzalez

Address: 650 Enchanted Pines Dr.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Mandating masks without first addressing people's health and lifestyle is complete hypocrisy. We are not going to stand for you taking our rights away. Don't coward to the Left. Stand up for our freedoms.

Name: patrick sutliff

Address: 2321 lockwood drive

rapid city, SD, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

Masks will decrease the spread of the virus if people wear them correctly, covering both their mouth and their nose. This simple inconvenience can go away once the vaccine is readily available for all Americans.

The spread in our community comes from people not wearing them in public. At home when gatherings of lots of people occur. At sporting events where both spectators and athletes are either not wearing masks, not wearing them properly, and/or not following social distancing guidelines. And in public where businesses and restaurants are not following guidelines and enforcing them.

To the "this is no worse than the flu" crowd, here's some data. We've had 644 deaths from covid-19 this year. In the last 5 years we've had less than 215 flu deaths every year. We're almost three times the highest flu count year, and we've still got 6 weeks left of 2020.

Please, wear a mask to protect your community and family.

Name: Patricia Schulte

Address: 1227 Saint Andrew St, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I 100% support a mask mandate for Rapid City. I consistently wear a mask when out in public for my own protection and the protection of others. I am dismayed at the number of people I see who are not wearing masks. COVID is real and the sooner we get this virus under control, the sooner we can get back to our normal lives. Universal mask wearing is a big part of getting the virus under control. I urge you to pass a mask mandate for Rapid City. Thank you.

Name: Ana Robbins

Address: 457 Gemstone Dr

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please vote against a mask mandate. There is very conflicting information regarding mask and to require them is an infringement of basic rights. My son who has asthma and would be considered high risk was provided a medical exemption. His symptoms were worsened by daily long term use of the mask. He has done well through the use of many other interventions that strengthened his ability to not only fight this but other viruses etc. I encourage Rapid City to be a leader in teaching and education of how to manage and prevent illness to include the coronavirus. Lets choose as a city to be innovative in this fight against Covid. Teach the people, provide education on symptom management and use of vitamins such as vitamin D, zinc etc. Please do not require your citizens to wear mask taking away the ability for each individual to decide what is best for them and their families. We do honor when a place request us to wear one.

Name: Stuart Kellogg

Address: 1116 West Blvd

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I support a mask mandate.

South Dakota has over 7,000 cases per 100,000. Pennington has over 6,000. The average across the U.S. is roughly half that. S.D. is 46th in the country in population density, but 37th in case load. We will soon exceed hospital capacity. In short, S.D. CoVid response has not been good. If we want to reopen schools and fully open the local economy, we need to do better.

I support a mask mandate because

- a. it is backed by science,
- b. it has worked in other countries and states that have implemented a mask mandate,
- c. we are a long way from herd immunity, whereas hospital capacity is not,
- d. masking is a public health issue and should be no different than asking me to obey traffic laws
- e. I am not going back to stores or restaurants until the caseload in Pennington drops substantially, right now the best chance to do that is for everyone to mask up.

Name: Alecia Fuller Kjerstad

Address: 2922 Tomahawk Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support a mask mandate. The science is clear masks help. Making a change helps. If we as a city want to do something to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we must do something. Putting on our "positive pants" isn't enough. If we don't do something different now, the result will be a city shut down, our hospital beds will be filled, and it will be too late. Wearing a mask is a small thing that can be done to make a big impact.

Please vote for the Mask Mandate.

Name: Beverly thoreson

Address: 604 Cleveland

Rapid city,SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please pass the mask mandate

Name: Tallyn Lockhart

Address: 232 Freiheit Ln.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We should not be required to wear masks! This goes against our rights!

Name: Stephen Demik

Address: 7585 Crossbill Circle, RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We need a mask mandate now. Our hospital is overwhelmed and our governor is a complete and total waste. Please, for the sake of our community, institute a mask mandate. Science should rule over politics in a pandemic like this.

Name: Vicki rovere

Address: 1735 city springs rd.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

support mask mandate. Support businesses require masks.

Name: Alex Haueter

Address: 4718 W. Main St.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I'd like to voice my support for a mask mandate in Rapid City. Given South Dakota's positivity rates and rising case load, it's pretty clear the common decency and common sense Gov. Noem has touted as sufficient to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are nowhere near common enough.

Name: Dan Hoyer

Address: 7284 Tanager Dr

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

The financial, emotional and physical toll of COVID-19 is enormous. South Dakota now has one of the fastest rate increases in the US and World. Our schools are back to Level 3. We can stop this suffering by wearing masks in public. As consumers we can boycott business that employees do not wear masks. I have told a number of managers I am not coming back due to their employee mask policy. Please pass the mask ordinance for our kids, families, community and the world.

Thanks

Dan Hoyer

Name: Lonnie Jeffries

Address: 2084 Plateau Ln

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Mask = saved lives. Simple.

Name: Jaime Haueter

Address: 4718 W Main St, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Implementing a mask mandate is literally the easiest, least restrictive option to keep our communities safe. Masks have been scientifically proven to be effective at decreasing the spread of covid. Please let us start caring about the HUNDREDS of people who are dying in our state, and the thousands who are getting sick without us yet knowing what long-term effects may be. PLEASE IMPLEMENT A MASK MANDATE.

Name: Christine Jones

Address: 1331 Village Drive #101

RC, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am 100% in favor of a mask mandate for Rapid City. I have been in Monument Hospital three times since February and received excellent care. I have been lucky. It worries me that these wonderful medical personnel are overburdened by preventable disease, and it also worries me that people in need of services will not be able to get timely help because of the surge of hospitalizations due to Covid-19. ~~OBJ~~ It is up to our elected officials to act for the welfare of the population, and it is up to law-enforcement to protect and serve. If we could rely on the citizens of Rapid City to voluntarily use protective gear, we would not be in this medical emergency. And the argument that a mask mandate would be unenforceable is specious because it could be applied to any behavioral restriction. Mayor Allender and Council members, thank you for your service to our community. Please support the mask mandate.

Name: Lillas Jarding

Address: 418 N. 44th St., Rapid City 57702 - Ward 5

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a high-risk person, I strongly support a mask mandate. With the high rate of covid lately and so many people wandering around without masks in Rapid City, I don't dare go much of anywhere. If there was an enforceable mask mandate, and I knew I would be safer going out and about, then I could leave my house more and contribute more to the local economy.

Name: Richard L Leie

Address: 3804 Meadowbrook Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Covid-19/ Masks

Comment:

I am writing in support of mandatory wearing of masks and social distancing. SD and Rapid City have seen a phenomenal growth in the number of Covid- 19 which based on science could be significantly reduced by wearing masks. We have experienced deaths greater than to total pop of Faith SD. I refuse to enter a non mask store or business. I had major surgery at Mayo a month ago. It was refreshing to see mask mandate in stores shooed etc. 90% of the people on the streets also wore masks

It's peoples rights to stay home. Not their rights to infect me or others

We mostly obey traffic laws, wear seatbelts etc bc it saves lives. Believe in science

Name: Karen Faas

Address: 5031 Hamlin Circle

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mandatory mask

Comment:

Please put a mandatory mask policy in place. Not all people will follow it but it will encourage more to do the right thing.

Name: Tamra Gruis

Address: 23809 Placer Place

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Mask is like breathing your own urine, drinking your own sweat. NO MASK! Who gives you authority, we the people, You have no authority over an individual in that area, civil rights. Do you smell farts, that's how effective they are, and Covid particles are much smaller. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN A PANDEMIC. Educate yourself on facts. Mask holes let in millions of particles just through on hole. MARXISM, COMMUNISM. TAKING MY RELIGIOUS RIGHT TOO! Please be smart!

Name: Anthony Lepore

Address: 5538 Bethpage Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

How about putting a mandate on those that fear this virus to stay indoors and let those of us who wash our hands and keep them off our face live our lives? Unfortunately, this virus has been politicized and the conflicting information we are fed leads me to only look at my 5-6 friends and acquaintances who have tested positive along with my two friends who are physicians and they all have said it is nothing other than a "bad flu". If this mandate comes to fruition I will guarantee any council member who votes for it will never get my vote. This is a single-issue decision for me.

Name: Sandra Cooper

Address: 1216 Copperfield Drive RC

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Mayor Allender is absolutely correct in requiring a city wide mask mandate. Wearing a mask in public places is the least oppressive thing considerate people can do to slow the spread of Covid. By now, everyone in our community knows someone who has contracted this virus and many know someone who has died from it. It's time to be personally responsible and stop being selfish. Wearing a mask isn't denying your freedom, it's giving you an opportunity to do your part in protecting your friends, family and community.

Name: MYRNA MITCHELL

Address: 4116 Heidiway Ct

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

please regard this comment as my request for a city-wide mask mandate in Rapid City, SD

Name: Lisa DeMary

Address: 300 Aspen Dr #201

Lead SD 57754

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I would consider shopping in Rapid City again if there were a mask mandate. Holiday shopping is starting and it will be all online for me if there isn't mask mandates in businesses. However, the economy should be second priority to the severity of the spread and we should do ALL that we can to help our healthcare workers!

Name: Bonnie Bjork

Address: 223 Enchantment Road

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Totally support a mask mandate in Rapid City. We need to do what we can to stop the spread of this disease and help our community stay safe and support the Healthcare community.

Name: Linda Holcomb

Address: 4711 Okpealuk Ct

Rapid city,SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please pass the mask mandate. Our numbers continue to rise as too many people continue to deny the reality of COVID and the risks to too many friends, neighbors and family members.

Name: Rachel Howard

Address: 135 E. St. Anne St., rapid city sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

The mayor and other leaders made a convincing, factual, and compassionate plea during the news conference on Tuesday. However, this information has already been repeated multiple times. The people who refuse to wear masks will not listen to this data any more than they have in the past. A mask mandate is the most basic step that can be taken. No one wants to limit space in restaurants and bars, curfews, lockdowns, or continue distance learning for our kids. With freedom comes responsibility. We have to enforce the responsibility so we can all enjoy our freedom.

Name: Eileen Leir

Address: 3804 Meadowbrook Dr, RCSD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

Please please pass a city wide mask ordinance.... our numbers have skyrocketed. Kids can not attend school. Our hospital is feeling the stress and we already have a shortage of nurses. Plus SD has made national and international news with our "do nothing approach" to protecting our citizens from COVID. Mask mandates are everywhere. We can not be served in a restaurant without a shirt or shoes nor can we smoke but people can go into restaurants and spread a virus like COVID. This is not freedom it is irresponsibility and a failure on the part of government to protect the health of citizens. Thank you for considering this courageous step in slowing the virus.

Name: Dana Connors

Address: 2434 Merlot Dr

RCSD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Facts

Comment:

Mayor Allender & Laura Armstrong-

When wearing a mask every breath results in an accumulation of moisture on the inside mask surface which promotes bacterial, viral and fungal growth. Resulting in formation of spores which eventually rupture causing a bacterial, viral and fungal overload in the lungs, resulting in bacterial/viral pneumonia.

Blue masks are sterilized with ethylene oxide—a known carcinogen. A US patent for the use of PTFE (Teflon) is used resulting in, "breathing these for extended periods can lead to lung cancer."

Denmark completed a valid double blind study last summer with 6000 participants. Results yielded no difference in cases between the 2 groups.

Fauci published a Spanish Flu study. Results, more died from bacterial pneumonia from masks.

No valid scientific studies exist. Masking up 100% of the population is harmed with

Name: John Murphy

Address: 23572 Burgess Road, RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please support this. We have to get this under control while awaiting the vaccine, which could take months. It is a minor inconvenience. By making it a mandate, it will take the pressure off businesses who feel reluctant to alienate potential customers who are opposed to masks. This is like the requirement that people wear shirts and shoes in stores. By making it a requirement, it doesn't pit businesses who require masks against those who don't.

Name: DAVID DEENY

Address: 8801 highland hills rd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: MASK RULE

Comment:

PLEASE Enact a mask rule.

Name: Karissa Loewen

Address: 3815 Brookside Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I strongly support a mask mandate in Rapid City. Its a simple thing that we can do to protect our community, and it seems at this time that people need that level of encouragement to make that choice to wear a mask. I hope this will be explicitly applied to law enforcement who have seemed inappropriately resistant to mask wearing while interacting with the public, and especially entrance workers at the courthouse who have been turning unmasked people away from the building since March while not wearing masks themselves. My hope is also that this mandate will be accompanied by mask distribution, and enforcement will first be handled by giving reminders and offering masks to the person in violation. I am also concerned that enforcement will be not handled in a discriminatory manner. If people refuse to comply I do think it is reasonable to remove them from public indoor spaces where they are putting others at risk.

Name: Christina Stewart

Address: 1010 Alta Vista Drive

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

No to mandatory mask wearing!! Let those who are risk take the responsibility of protecting their own bodies, by using the services provided like curbside pickups, deliveries, or just stay home. If they choose to venture out, let them choose to wear a mask. Let those that are healthy live. Government should stay out of it.

Name: Bill Wilson

Address: 1702 E. HWY. 44, #178

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Masks should be worn by those who are showing symptoms, should be optional for those who are healthy. Those working outside should not be forced to wear masks, businesses should make the final decision whether patrons should wear masks.

Name: Jim Leach

Address: 1617 Sheridan Lake Rd, RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mayor's COVID Mask Proposal

Comment:

Please pass this. I agree completely with every the Mayor said in the RC Journal article on Wednesday morning.

Name: Julie Penney

Address: 2556 Lindsey Dr, Rapid City SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I don't believe masks should be required. This should be an individual decision. I wear a mask in public but I believe we live in a free country. If someone doesn't want to wear a mask, it's their right.

Name: Dianne Milke

Address: 8140 Stirrup Court, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support implementation of a mask mandate by the city. It's our path to reopening schools and keeping them open. It will not be as effective as it could be, however, without a state or federal mask mandate also in place. People are mobile and we have a governor promoting SD as a place to flee from COVID restrictions.

Name: Dylan Walder

Address: 1110 Franklin St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Many of us are simply not going to participate in a mask mandate. The government doesn't tell us what to do here; that's why many of us are here. Are you going to fine or arrest people for not wearing a mask? That is liberal dictator-type of behavior. How about: if you're scared, stay home. We are each responsible for our OWN health. I'm not responsible for making you feel "safe." You can call me selfish, but the truth of the matter is this is about principle. We shouldn't be so willing, and even eager, to give up our freedoms to overreaching government.

Name: Brooke Romeo

Address: 605 Cleveland Street

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Requirement

Comment:

We absolutely need a city wide mask requirement. This isn't a political debate, it's public health. People not wanting to wear a mask because they claim it is a right is not a valid argument. You have to wear shoes into a restaurant, but no one complains about it violating their rights because it's a health issue, just like this is. People are dying as a result of this illness and we are the only state doing nothing to combat it. It doesn't look like freedom, it looks like selfishness and disregard for human life. It's inconvenient and not my favorite thing to wear a mask but it's better than dying or giving it someone who might.

Name: Mary Jo Gould

Address: 2870 Belgrade Blvd #106

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandate masks

Comment:

Please, please mandate masks. We (healthcare workers) are beyond frustrated at fighting antimaskers. How many more deaths until we are heard? Help us help the public. MANDATE masks! Please.

Name: Charlotte Shively

Address: 12919 Zion St

Hot Springs, SD 57747

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Potential mask mandate

Comment:

Please maintain the freedom of choice in SD by not mandating masks in Rapid City. At this point, a mask mandate targets social control, not public health. SD Residents are well versed in hygiene principles and the ramifications of poor health choices. Also there are plenty of companies making their own policies regarding mask wearing that provide ample commerce opportunities for people of either preference. Let the people of SD decide by showing their loyalty to the stores of their choice.

Name: Terry Ekstrand

Address: 2709 Cameron Dr

Rapid City, Sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

If we look around the world where masks are mandated we see the Virus is still surging, packages on the masks state does not prevent Covid 19. The health professionals tell us to not touch our face but I see people constantly adjusting the mask or the mask slipping down their face as seen yesterday by the Doctor from Monument Health. This Virus needs to take its course and burn out on its own no matter what we do it wont stop it, it will only stall it for a little bit and then it will start its course again. Lockdowns will hurt our economy and the mental health of people. According to the CDC this year mortality rate is just like the last three years and this info is available on their website.

Name: Justin Cox

Address: 354 enchantment road rapid city sd 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

Comment:

City council as this mask mandate is being discussed(which can't believe we even have to comment on) I would fully expect all of you the mayor and Lori Simon to have a mask on during thanksgiving dinner or when your with your family. Common sense with you guys continues to amaze me with this group and other elected officials. If a business wants people to wear or not wear a mask that should be their choice as they own the business which warrants them getting to make the choice. As Lori Simon and the school board have already destroyed the youth of Rapid City I guess it's the mayor and city council turn to contribute to mandate laws they have no business being involved in. It's funny as I write this I know you guys really don't care but doing my part to keep a little bit of freedom we have left in America.

Name: Dorothy Schmitendorf

Address: 2022 1st avenue, rapid city, sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Mandate masks!

As an aside... won't matter an iota to the idiots who equate wearing masks with loss of their freedoms...

Name: Mary Pembroke

Address: 3617 West Main St

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

While I am all for personal freedom, there are times when, for the good of the whole, community leaders should step up and make the call needed to protect the community. Wearing masks until the vaccine is well distributed will help us keep some level of normalcy. Avoiding crowds will lesson the spread of this virus. I support a mask mandate until we know the virus has stopped spreading. I leave it to the community leaders and the medical scientists to determine when that is. Thank you.

Name: Tesia (Teesha) Walker

Address: 5005 Homestead St., Apt. 205, Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Mask Mandate

Comment:

NO MASKS! I am absolutely horrified you would try to give into this Tierney! I refuse to give my civil liberties and freedoms away because you are afraid of a virus with a 99.9% survival rate. This is infringing on our freedom and constitutional right to live in a free nation. Are we really free if you are to impose this mandate? This is a slippery slope! What's your AGENDA? We are the land of the FREE! NOT The land of the scared and oppressed! I refuse to give into this! This is dehumanizing, demoralizing & creating slaves. My freedoms don't end where your fear begins! 85% of people who catch COVID-19 wear masks often! People get more sick wearing masks. This is ridiculous! You guys are acting like a bunch of pansy babies! Afraid of your own shadows!! Our bodies were fearfully and wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God! Our bodies were made to heal! Let go and let God! Wake up! This is a future lawsuit waiting to happen!

Name: Denise Johnson

Address: 4820 Charmwood Drive

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory Masks

Comment:

I think mandatory masking will cause Rapid City to go down a slippery slope of medical tyranny, & I object to it. More people get secondary illness such as bacterial pneumonia from constant mask use. This is a disease with a 99% or more recovery rate. It's flu season right now, but they're not counting those numbers, because the CDC & the pharmaceutical industry who stand to make a lot of money from vaccines want higher numbers for COVID. Everyone is so afraid even if they have a cold, & run to get tested. I find it so very interesting that even the tests test positive for CV. For most people it's like the common cold. For others with compromised immune systems, they should probably wear masks & stay home, maybe even double mask. You cannot change this thing by forcing free, healthy citizens to mask. I'd like to ask you, where do you think this thing will end? Forced vaccinations? Like communist China?

Name: Kay Kelts

Address: 22879 Pine Meadows Ct

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am a family physician in rapid city. Our COVID numbers are still increasing and I am having to see more and more patients on telehealth to try to keep them out of the hospital. Our staff is also being strained due to people being out due to exposures or being sick themselves. The main tool we have to combat COVID at this time is masking in public as well as social distancing. It is a respectful gesture to help protect us all.

Name: Gale Gire

Address: 415 E Liberty St

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Recommending or requiring masks in closed public establishments is ok but anywhere outside is not. Let stupid people be stupid.

Also tell Dr Shankar Kurra, a doctor for heaven's sake to wear his mask properly on TV. Sets a bad example.

Name: Susan McKinney

Address: 6754 Dover Lane, Summerset SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please, please.. go forward with the mask mandate, closing businesses and bars, enforcing a cerfew. As a nurse, I can tell you that my colleagues cant continue at this pace. We are tired, beat up, and frustrated. Many of us are getting sick. If you cant help us, we may not be there for you or your loved ones. This is far more serious than you realize. Please, take a moment to think of us, on the front line. We must fight ? together. We, as medical personnel, cannot do this alone. We are short on nurses, aides, and this isnt helping. Thanks to Laura Armstrong for fighting our fight. God Bless you. Please, all of you, stay well. Take CARE of each other, and help us win this battle.

Thank you.

Name: LaRae Huffman

Address: 4020 Oiler Lane

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please read this article by Maggie Seidel when discussing masks. They do not work and therefore, I do not want to see a city-wide mandate. <https://kelo.com/2020/11/16/86641/>

Name: Rebecca Kidder

Address: 8300 Red Deer Rd Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

56% of covid cases are Native Americans and this is not acceptable to keep going on without any controls to save lives. As a mother business owner whose business is located in Rapid City and grandmother I support the mask mandate. My children have been exposed repeatedly at work in Rapid City. My staff have been exposed and some contracted covid despite taking precautions. My relatives have died from this virus. It is imperative we slow this spread. We should have both a mask mandate and business restrictions to maintain distance. We have had coworkers exposed yet still coming into our workspace without masks and not quarantining. I volunteer with meals for relatives. We are overrun with requests for help right now. Slow the spread. Our citizens are not taking action for purely political reasons. The right to live is more important than dislike of masks. Please implement control measures to protect us all.

Name: Lola Peterson

Address: 212 E Nowlin St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: masks

Comment:

there is no agreement for masks even medical experts agree in fact it is harmful to wear one. I have my right not to wear one when I am perfectly healthy. I am no more afraid of the virus then the flu. I don't live in fear just like the Bible says fear not. I completely disagree with masks.

Name: Greg Logue

Address: 14881 East Valley View Drive

Piedmont, SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: COVID-19

Comment:

Dear Sir, Yes, I know that I don't live in Rapid City - but I shop and have relatives that work in the city. Question - Do you wear your seat belt when driving? Face Masks save lives just like seat belts. Looking at what is happening in this area and around the country - some people have to be forced to do the right thing. That is why wearing your seat belt is required by law. PLEASE - make wearing a face mask mandatory when in public places - so that we can slow the spread of this virus. Thank You for taking the time to read this.

Name: Anne Roisum

Address: 1528 Tablerock Rd

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Please, please, please vote IN FAVOR OF a mask mandate, along with any other restrictions necessary for getting COVID-19 under control in Rapid City!! We are in a dire situation with our hospital at capacity, healthcare workers in short supply because they are sick too, kids now out of school, and no one wants to visit this mess of a state. You tried Noem's approach of "trusting the people to do the right thing" - well they DON'T. People can't be trusted, so now we find ourselves in this mess. For the love of God and your neighbors, PLEASE DO SOMETHING!!

Name: Brandon L Scales

Address: 403 E Van Buren St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I wear a mask into stores when they ask or require me to, even if they are not enforcing their policy. If the city enacts a mask mandate I will not wear a mask anywhere except my place of business or in a medical setting. Businesses have the right and responsibility to do what they think is best for their customers and have the right to refuse service to anyone for not following policy. The City, State, or Federal Government have no authority to mandate that healthy people wear masks, I disagree with the governor on a lot of things even Covid related but she's absolutely right to leave it up to the people to choose their level of safety, If your worried about getting a virus that has such a low mortality rate, and mainly affects older people with pre-existing conditions then stay home we should focus on keeping the vulnerable population safe while the rest of society lives with the virus until we get herd immunity or this magic vaccine

Name: Jennifer Sabo

Address: 8420 Albertta Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

What are the rules then for the mask mandate?

Name: Tim Amdahl

Address: 21747 Coyote Ln., Piedmont SD 57765

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Masks have not proven to be successful. Just look at the statistics and don't you lead down the road. You will just hurt yourselves in your Businesses in rapid because people will go somewhere else.

Name: Arlene Lichtenecker

Address: 835 SAGEWOOD ST.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

This comment concerns the Covid 19. Yes, please implement a mask mandate and personal responsibility for Rapid City. As I submit this comment I am listening to an oxygen concentrator that my husband needs to use at this point in time at home. We had thought that we were cautious and doing the correct things to be safe. Maybe we got a bit over confident and went where we should not have gone, but in the assumption that others were being cautious. My husband spent 9 days in the Covid Intensive Care Unit at Monument Health and with the great care they gave him and his determination to get to well he is home and recovering. Not everyone can say this and I know his prognosis was not good when I left him at the ER Department on November 3. I also tested positive for Covid, but not experience symptoms or got sick. Very fortunate. In closing yes please implement the mask ordinance. Let's take care of each other. It is simple.

Name: Chris Doyle

Address: 13123 Michelle Drive Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Mayor Allender, What scientific theory are you basing your argument on when you use a Top 10 list from Forbes Magazine as a source for demanding a mask mandate. On what authority does Forbes publish or speak? The evidence you presented is not scientific and it only serves to spread the new national 'Anti-Kristi Noem' message which the NY Times specifically started two Mondays ago and which all major media outlets have now repeated. You should be embarrassed for repeating that sort of liberal-biased covid-cult messaging within our community. Countries across the globe, as well as many U.S. States, Counties and Cities with mask mandates have FAILED to prevent the spread of Covid-19. What makes you believe a mask mandate in Rapid City will now suddenly stop the spread of the virus? Stop spreading fear propaganda and stand up for our personal liberties as U.S. Citizens, before you have no liberties yourself.

-Sincerely, Chris Doyle

Name: Cindy Purdy

Address: 3520 Arizona St

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I believe , in light of the increase in covid cases, it is past time for all of us to wear a mask. Please don't discuss this matter and do nothing! A lot of people are sick and dying of "Hoax 19."

Governor Noem wants citizens to decide whether or not they want to wear a mask. It isn't working well, obviously.

Name: Phillip Shively

Address: 12919 Zion St

Hot Springs, SD 57747

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandated masks

Comment:

Please! Let us govern ourselves as the construction calls for. Please do not take our freedom away for a virus that is 99% survivable!!! Please lead the way among mayors and choose freedom. Thank you.

-Phillip

Name: Julie Brink

Address: 915 st. Andrew st.

Rapid City,SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask wearing

Comment:

I feel that the mayor and city council should take it upon themselves to make mask wearing a must for all businesses. There is so much backlash from both groups and small businesses are just trying to survive. Be the "bad" guys and make it mandatory. By doing so you are making it easier for the business owners.

Name: Janet Amundson

Address: 702 Alicia Ct

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I vote NO on a public mask mandate for Rapid City. I do not believe government has the right to take away my rights per the US constitution. I believe in personal responsibility. Whether I choose to wear a mask or not is my decision to make. I do not believe in mob rule or taking away my freedom.

Name: Ruth Beery

Address: 5310 PINEDALE HEIGHTS DR

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: No mask

Comment:

It is unconstitutional to force anyone to wear a mask!

Name: Brita Craven

Address: 316 Berry Blvd, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO on Mask Mandate

Comment:

You take on great liability for damages done bc of forced mask wearing, medical, economic etc. Actual illness, hospitalization and death rates do not support mask wearing for regular people in the public. Extended mask wearing does have measurable negative affects on individuals. When all the data is in, cities and businesses that imposed masks without solid evidence for their efficacy in significantly preventing viral spread, and safety for the wearer, and mandating without full disclosure of risk, will be called to account and held responsible, please avoid that. H risk and those who work with people at high risk know who they are take precautions appropriate to situation. Its up to them not you. I've seen many filthy masks on otherwise healthy youth, creating new problems. Please don't over step your bounds as elected officials trying to be benevolent health regulators. Mandates do not solve problems but create many new problems.

Name: Stephen Beery

Address: 5310 Pinedale Heights Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: No mask

Comment:

It is unconstitutional to force anyone to wear a mask.

Name: john sayles

Address: 2610 lawndale drive

Meeting:

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

85% of people wear masks already, even Japan where everyone wears mask is seeing a huge outbreak. Shutdowns have not worked in the past either have mask mandates.

This is the same Mayor who shut down the city, with his knee jerk, fear based decision in April, causing irreparable harm and permanent business closures, along with comrade Armstrong with her narcissistic attitude and views.

now the people cant make informed decisions concerning their own safety, the government will now do it by encroaching on everyones civil liberties. This virus has a 99.6% chance of survival and Moderna has a vaccine that is 94% effective.

I will not be a sheeple and live in fear.

Name: Stacie Smith

Address: 23905 Sun Country Rd, Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I do not agree with mask mandate for these reasons: 1) there is no proof they work-look at places where they have been mandated and didn't suppress covid numbers, 2) no way to enforce it-don't mandate things you can't enforce, 3) some people can't wear them due to health conditions, 4) people with covid antibodies don't need to wear masks as they are not contagious, cannot give or spread covid for about 3 months, 5) who will provide masks to homeless and poor 6) people will take their business elsewhere, Custer, Hill City, Deadwood, etc., 8) people will do more business on-line, 9) small business are already struggling and they need to make their own decisions on what is right for them.

Name: Karoline Neill

Address: 11872 Elk View Loop

Sturgis, SD 57785

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

My large family and I travel to Rapid City every weekend. On average, with meals and shopping we spend about \$100-\$500. If Rapid City chooses to pass this mandate, we will shop in other towns and online instead of going to Rapid City retail stores to shop and restaurants to eat. With all the services online nowadays, we really don't need to shop in Rapid.

Name: Ken Wilson

Address: 23956 S Rockerville Rd

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

No mask mandate! We moved here to be free from that sort of thing! Use good sense and trust the people. Let the virus run it's course- we'll get through this! A mask will not help- it will create a very toxic enviroment for all. When you tie recieving service to compliance you're completely stomping on the rights of free citizens. Thats tyranny! You cannot profess to respect the citizen and crush him at the same time. People will be resentful. And thats not the kind of enviroment we want for this city. Or its many tourists. Please No mandate!

Name: Tyron White

Address: 2703 Cakebread CT

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Masks are the most effective and least expensive way to keep our schools open, our businesses open, and our healthcare systems from being over burdened. A small sacrifice such as wearing a mask will prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will ultimately save lives. Just staying home when you are sick is not enough. People can spread the virus asymptotically and 48 hours before symptoms appear. A simple mask can provide source control and prevent transmission of the virus in this setting. My mask protects you, your mask protects me. We as a community must take this virus seriously. If we do not, we will continue to see lives lost.

Name: Michael Christy

Address: 4924 Springtree Ct

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

My wife and I want to encourage you in the strongest possible way to adopt a mask mandate for our city. We are extremely concerned about the worsening conditions and the demands being placed on our health care systems.

Name: William Purcell

Address: 23956 S Rockerville Rd

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

We left Washington state to escape this type of oppression and tyranny. Mandating masks is not necessary! Making people wear masks to receive service is communism at its most basic level. It's starts Rapid City down a very slippery path to denying people freedom to choose. A mask will not stop a virus (read the side of the box the mask comes in), common sense can slow it and keep it from spreading. Trust the citizens of Rapid City- NO Mask Mandate!

Name: Bob Ellis

Address: 2600 Plateau Lane

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Face Diaper Mandates

Comment:

The promotion of virtue-signaling feel-good exercises with the face diapers really needs to stop.

We knew at the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic that even surgical masks do little or nothing to protect from the virus. The boxes say so, and they are better than the cloth face diapers most people wear. Dr. Fauci and most major health organizations also admitted this.

Now, months later, mandates around the world are followed by increases in infection rates.

Are we really this stupid, or is it just an addiction to telling other people how to behave?

<https://thefederalist.com/2020/10/29/these-12-graphs-show-mask-mandates-do-nothing-to-stop-covid/>

<https://rationalground.com/mask-charts/>

<https://rationalground.com/more-mask-charts/>

<https://www.theblaze.com/op-ed/horowitz-pro-mask-study-withdrawn-after-virus-spread-in-counties-analyzed-by-researchers>

Name: Michelle Emmert

Address: 4802 Tanager Court

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

The nation has been dealing with COVID since March, some states have locked down and masked up. Covid didn't go away, it is still out there, regardless of wearing a mask. If you feel you need to wear a mask then do so, if not, you should have the right not to. We knew there was going to be a spike and here we are in the middle of it. We had very few cases at the beginning and it was only a matter of time before there would be more. There has been zero proof that any of the lockdowns or mask wearing has stopped COVID, or even prevent its, spread. The governor has not mandated that South Dakotans wear a mask, when does this all stop? Rapid City government should be just as mindful of over stepping its authority as is our governor. Further more it is especially unwise to pass a mandate that is impossible to enforce.

Name: Conner Wilson

Address: 23011 candlelight dr

Rapid city SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

My family and I recently moved from WA state to SD.

I am concerned by the proposed mask mandate as I have seen first hand the damage this would cause to american citizens. While I understand those proposing it may have good intentions the benefits of everyone wearing my masks are negligible at best and study's show that they don't help enough to outway the government over reach that a mandate would entail. Trust the citizens of your city to take preventive actions and make good choices. Let us have out right to chose.

Thanks for your time.

Name: Carin Wilson

Address: 23956 S Rockerville RD

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

We love Rapid City because it's a happy, friendly place. Mandating masks will change that. Especially when you tie the right to service with compliance. That's tyranny! Have faith in us so we can have faith in you- we'll do the right thing. You need to do the right thing- please do NOT mandate masks!

Name: Jimmie Lynn Manresa

Address: 915 E Tallent st rapid city S.D. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am against the mask mandate. Forced mask mandates are foolish and unlawful.

Name: Iain Wilson

Address: 23956 S Rockerville Rd

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Please do not mandate masks! We left Washington state to get away from that type of oppression. It's not necessary! Keep Rapid City happy and free. Free to do the right thing!

Name: Tanya White

Address: 2703 Cakebread Ct

Rapid City, SD. 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City mask mandate

Comment:

I work full time as a shift lead for the COVID triage line and I will let you know there are so many people, who are considered exposures to a COVID positive individual, that are not following the CDC recommended 14-day quarantine. These individuals are out there in our community; waiting on our tables, working in bars, selling cars, working in retail and home supply businesses and other trades. Some of these individuals tell me "I can't afford to not be at work".

We know that this virus can be spread two days prior to an individual having any symptoms at all, and with so many people who are considered close contacts or exposures to somebody who has tested positive, the least restrictive measure we can put in place to save members of our own community right now, our loved ones, is to simply wear a mask around anybody that we do not live with.

Name: Sandy Marlette

Address: 6013 Mountain Pine Lane

Rapid City , SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please provide the proof that masks prevent the spread of Covid. The scientific cold hard facts have yet to be discovered. Without those facts, you're just succumbing to peer pressure from socialistic control happy dictators. Please respect our freedom to choose. I've had the virus - I'm supposed to be immune and I shouldn't be forced to wear a mask.

Name: Zintkala Eiring

Address: 513 City Springs Rd. Apt. 3

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I thank the Council for this opportunity to consider a mask mandate. I fully support this and would feel much more safe living in this city if everyone in public wore a mask. It is common in much of the United States and across the world. It is time for Rapid City to join in on portecting others. It's already too late because we have lost so many because of covid. Please put your personal opinions and political beliefs aside because this should not be controversial. It should be about protecting the health of our community. Please think everyone else who this may impact and benefit.

Thank you.

Name: Colleen Welch

Address: 4262 Canyon Lake Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

It is increasingly necessary, for the health and wellbeing of the public, that the city initiates a mask mandate.

Name: Mary F. Ireland

Address: 13243 Daybreak Ridge Rd

Rapid City, SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Dangerous Mask Mandate

Comment:

The city council needs to thoughtfully resist the worst tendency of government: "to do something." You will not control this virus by council action. You can be good leaders and encourage and educate but punitive measures are not appropriate. Look around the nation at the various draconian measures that have been implemented and judge for yourself if they've been effective in the broad sense of that word. The Council needs to continue to trust the citizens to make informed choices for themselves and their community.

Name: Alicia Bruch

Address: 20400 gravel rd sturgis sd 57785

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

We go to church in Rapid. Please allow us to have our American Freedom. Do not Mandate Masks. Masks do not keep virus from spreading. In fact it helps the spread of the virus by providing a moist warm place in which to grow. Plus people then become comfortable and do not take the precautions that they normally do to keep healthy. They get a false sense of security.

Name: Jill Kelly

Address: 1250 E Minnesota

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please support a mask mandate for Rapid City. I realize this will not stop this pandemic but we need to do something. The hospital is full and our healthcare workers need us to use every option to help curb virus transmission. We are in a true crisis.

Name: Natalie Slack

Address: 550 Texas St. Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

We required our kids to wear masks in school in order to learn and to protect our teachers. But as my son (Stevens Junior) said, "as soon as the lunch bell rang we were in each others cars without masks headed to restaurants." When adults are inconsistent and inconsiderate, our kids see the example. We must begin wearing masks in all public places until we can relieve the strain on our healthcare workers, medical facilities, and teachers. It's six or more months too late. But better now than never.

Name: april oedekoven

Address: 1707 space ct

Rapid City, sd 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

please listen to the SD NPR on Vermont and South Dakota handling of the virus.

<https://listen.sdpb.org/post/two-states-different-paths-vermont-keeps-virus-low-while-rivaling-sds-economy>

Vermont did it. Look how much better they are doing.

We need this mask mandate. Please help keep our kids in school and reduce stress on our hospital.

Name: Marla Conrad

Address: 7010 Prestwick Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I highly encourage to not try to implement a mask mandate in Rapid City. With the political climate already at high tension, issuing another government mandate is just going to create more tension & disputes while doing very little to minimize Covid cases. Considering that most stores, city buildings & schools already require mask, it's rather obvious that they aren't all that effective and accomplish nothing more than a false sense of security. This virus is not going away and the majority of cases have very little symptoms if any at all. Most people wearing mask are constantly adjusting them, taking them off/on, storing them in a pocket/purse, etc. This actually puts people more at risk than not wearing a mask at all. Allow people the freedom to choose what is best for them rather than mandating more rules. Thank you

Name: Anthony Ireland

Address: 13243 Daybreak Ridge Rd

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: possible mask mandate

Comment:

The city council needs to thoughtfully resist the worst tendency of government: "to do something". You will not control this virus by council action. You can be good leaders and encourage and educate but punitive measures are not appropriate. Look around the nation at the various draconian policies that have been implemented and judge for yourself if they've been effective in the broad sense of that word. The Council needs to continue to trust the citizens to make informed choices for themselves and their community.

Name: Jennifer Kozel

Address: 10540 Nemo Rd, Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Kozel. I'm a psychologist who has worked in Rapid City for 19 years. Daily I learn of the incredible hardships of our citizens. As SD Covid numbers grow, people are growing more despondent, burdened & threatened. I hear weariness from so many- the elderly, parents, at-home & frontline workers, teachers, the disabled, medical providers, students, & the folks with underlying conditions. People who could live another 20 years are preparing themselves and their families for their possible deaths. Others are frantically trying to protect the vulnerable around them. People are angry at the misinformation & lack of unity. Many can't believe this is happening in friendly SD. We need some hope. We need something to go right! We need to know that we have each other & we can successfully work together. Negative emotions will diminish when something finally works. Success is contagious. Please pass the mask mandate.

Name: Sarah Conrad

Address: 4855 Dusty Trail

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I think we need a mask mandate

Name: Matt bruch

Address: 13271 hwy 34

Sturgis S.D. 57785

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Do not instigate a mask mandate.

They do not help they are only a means to divide the country even further.

the CDC itself has come out with numbers showing people who wore the mask all the time accounted for 70% of people infected.

The moist environment and re-breathing the same air over and over again may actually increase infection according to those numbers.

For every doctor that says they help there's a doctor that says it doesn't make a difference.

You need to follow spirit of freedom this country was founded on and allow the people to make their own decisions Allow businesses to make their own decisions when it comes to masks

Name: Michelle Wasson

Address: 10251 Echo Valley Ct

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

You don't have to read my comment to the crowd as I know time is limited.

As a practicing healthcare provider for over 20 years I am begging you consider a mask mandate for the city. It is not closing us down it is just protecting our community so we can care for the health needs of our citizens. Please help us out as healthcare providers as this is really now out of control.

Name: Alphonsus Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Anna Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Tyler O'Connell

Address: 5520 S. Pitch Ct.

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am against the mask mandate proposal. If people are that uptight about it, then THEY can where a mask...if their mask works then they should have nothing to worry about.

Name: Angelo Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Joseph Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Lynn Taylor Rick

Address: 4904 Breckenridge Ct

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please issue a mask mandate as personal responsibility doesn't seem to be working. Rapid Cityans are not taking care of themselves or others - very few are wearing masks in public. A mandate would help businesses enforce a mask rule and prevent the need for a shut down due to increasing Covid cases.

Our healthcare workers need our help in preventing more cases. They deserve our help.

Name: Mary Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Dr. Jackie Gilbertson

Address: 623 Quincy Street, Rapid City, South Dakota

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

As a Licensed Psychologist in Rapid City for 20 plus years I have never observed the trauma and anxiety that residents of our city are experiencing as the result of COVID-19. As our numbers rapidly increase the rate of anxiety and fear has increased as well. I am excited and extremely optimistic that the council and Mayor are providing Rapid City with a possible solution to this crisis. From my professional experience, individuals feel empowered and less anxious when given guidance and knowledge. I am hopeful that taking this step will provide our community with a sense of compassion and the need to act in a caring fashion towards one another. I thank the council and Mayor for taking on this issue

Name: Loretta Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Solvatore Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Katie Rigitano

Address: 4708 Steamboat Circle

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory masking

Comment:

My family finds it unnecessary for mandatory masking. We had relocated from Illinois to escape their tyrannical restrictions. Please, do not mandate masks!

Name: Jay Schmit

Address: 2333 S Valley Drive

Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I urge all of you on the council to please approve this mask mandate! Our community and hospitals are overloaded with this virus right now and we as a community have proven we can not or won't use personal responsibilities to curb it on our own! This is not a political issue, this is a health and safety issue only and we need to look at it like that. Please for the health of this community pass this ordinance before more people and family's are affected needlessly. Thank you

Name: Rev. Fr. Gregory Bartholomew

Address: Immaculate Conception Church

922 5th Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: COMMUNITY MASK REQUIREMENT

Comment:

As a Catholic pastor, spiritual director and confessor, I have witnessed the deep pain and suffering inflicted on religious communities because of mask mandates and overbearing restrictions in other cities of the country. This is in some cases irreparable and an infringement on religious freedom. Please do not force us against our will to wear masks; my faithful have suffered enough through the past eight months. Let them bear their own responsibility and make their own health decisions.

Name: Chris Hislip

Address: 4304 Brookside Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Please require a mask. Consider renewing the resolution that was enacted when the pandemic started hitting closer to home. Thank you.

Name: Victor F. Reston

Address: 4232 Brookside Dr.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

No to the masking mandate--absolutely not!! Our liberties and freedoms are trees in a forest that are being chipped away little by little. Where then will we find shelter when the cold winds of tyranny sweep over our land.

Name: Shauna W Reston

Address: 4232 Brookside Dr

Rapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

NO to mask mandate. If masks actually worked, we would be happy to wear one. I do not appreciate Mayor Allender's recent comments portraying those who are against mask wearing as being personally irresponsible. Masks cause a very real threat to our immune system and are not just a little "piece of fabric". Many doctors and scientists dispute the myth that masks prevent the spread of this infection. I am in total agreement with our fantastic governor; We live in a RED state, after all.

[https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors.com/custom\\_videos/the-obsession-with-masks-lockdowns-helpful-or-hysteria-interview-with-dr-simone-gold/](https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors.com/custom_videos/the-obsession-with-masks-lockdowns-helpful-or-hysteria-interview-with-dr-simone-gold/)

Name: Jim Simons

Address: 8711 Highland Hills Road, Rapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masking requirements

Comment:

By all means we support a masking mandate for the City of Rapid City. Absolutely necessary to allow us to contain the virus and allow business to continue on. Brookings should not be the only city in SD that makes sense! Since our governor will not listen to reason and has failed to lead, each municipality in SD should introduce a masking mandate, for all indoor spaces in the city. I'm a hospital employee and yes, this is crucial to pass this in Rapid City - thank you!

Name: Marcia Dunsmore

Address: 3311 Dover Street, Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support this.

Name: Dominique Lawrence

Address: 626 E Meade St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I'm for mandatory masks. If this saves only one life, it will be worth it.

Name: Scott Wood

Address: 5330 Conifer Ln

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am fully in support of a city-wide mask mandate.

Name: Christine Howell

Address: 1702 E Highway 44 #79

Rapid City South Dakota 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

As of 5:45 p.m. November 17th 2020. The covid-19 capacity is 21%, in this state. This does not constitute a crisis situation. There is no need to institute a mask mandate for the rest of the population. If you checked your numbers you would realize that the death rate is .97%. So is it fitting that 99% of the rest of the population should be made to wear a mask?

Name: Erin Larson

Address: 520 belmont drive

Rapid city, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please do not require masking when we are exercising outdoors and when children are in gymnastics classes. I have read several accounts of people dying due to exercising with a mask. I do not mind wearing mine in stores or the library but exercise and outdoors are very different. Most people are already wearing masks every time they shop. I think little would change with a mandate except to make some people angry.

Name: Barbara Horton

Address: 7185 Prestwick Rd

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Medical professionals have shared privately that wearing masks all day could actually be making us ill.

Our bodies always have germs/viruses that are dormant. If we keep breathing our own air those germs could take hold. We need fresh air often during the day. Yes, masks in stores and health care centers should be worn. Masks while outside or in private homes should be a choice not a mandate.

Name: Steve Flanery

Address: 3024 Palmer Drive

RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Face Masks

Comment:

Mayor Allender & City Council:

Our friends and family members are either sick and dying from COVID19 or they are taking care of those who are sick with the virus. Pass the mask mandate, it is only about saving lives.

Name: Mallory Holz PA-C

Address: 2430 Willow Ave, Rapid City, SD 5770-

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a local healthcare provider I wholeheartedly support the implementation of a mask mandate in Rapid City.

The majority of research shows that masks are beneficial at stopping the spread of COVID-19 and work best when worn by a majority of people.

I have heard much recently regarding how difficult a mask mandate would be to enforce. Of course enforcement will be difficult at times, and not all citizens or visitors will follow the mandate at all times, but having the mandate in place will increase mask use. Any increase of mask use above our current level will be helpful in reducing our numbers here. Furthermore, having a mandate in place will help embolden businesses to personally enforce mask wearing among their patrons.

A mask mandate is necessary to improve the situation in Rapid City and in South Dakota. Only when we have COVID-19 infections under control can we get people back to work and children back in school.

Name: Robert Aberle

Address: 4870 Berry Pines Heights. Rapid City.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

It is the right of each business to request masks for any patrons. It is the right of each citizen to decide where to do business. It would be an overreach of power to require a city wide mandate. A big part of the reason we live here, is because of limited infringement on freedom. No mask mandate.

Name: Lana Bradley

Address: 523 Harter Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

It is long past due for a state mandate to wear masks in SD! This hands off approach does not and has not worked. It is ridiculous how high the infection rate is here per capita. This easily could have been a huge help had a mandate been done at the very beginning. I am an essential worker at a grocery store and every day have been nervous about bringing this virus home to my elderly mother because not all people do the right thing and think of others besides themselves by wearing a mask even though it is store policy! Now it's the City Council that needs to do the right thing! Please.

Name: Brett Sutton

Address: 14030 Birdie Ln.

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I ask again as I have asked prior. Will the proposed city mask mandate being discussed Thursday night include a requirement that all Rapid City Police inside the office or out in the field wear a mask at all times to protect us the public. My prior request to the Mayor to date has not been answered after not 1 but 2 submissions? Also will this apply to all Pennington Co. Sheriffs and SD Highway Patrol while within the jurisdiction of the city?

Regards,

I look forward to following the entire proceedings online due to COVID restrictions and look forward to my questions and concerns finally being addressed.

Name: Mary Jensen

Address: 912 Saint Patrick St.

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Yes, require masks, even knowing some will not obey. It's important that our leaders take a public health stance in leading the citizens. Masks are. Strongly supported with a firm scientific basis!

Name: Timothy Shatraw

Address: 805 E Indiana St. Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to a mask mandate!

Name: Ben Lamke

Address: 213 East Liberty Street

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

With the mask mandate, Please consider those that have recovered from Covid 19. Recovery comes with immunity to the virus. If i am immune,, i cant get it, or give it to someone else.

Name: Kelli Trebil

Address: 2423 Shad Street Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Public Mask Ordinance

Comment:

With COVID cases rising at an exponential rate and no statewide direction to mitigate the spread, I ask the Council to pass a public Mask mandate. It is in the best interest for public health to do so.

Name: Tricia Nelson

Address: 2628 Smith Avenue Unit B

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Covid

Comment:

MASKS ARE A MUST!! This is long overdue. Government has failed it's people and it's now time to do what's right! Protect the people. Our medical staff is overwhelmed. We are now in crisis mode! It didn't have to get to this point. Do the right thing. Mandate masks!!

Name: Deborah Harrowa

Address: 219 Nordby Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Please issue a mask mandate. As an educator, I want my students safe and healthy and back in school, as a daughter I want to hug my 81 and 83 year old mother and father, and as a friend, I would like to visit my friend who has leukemia and lives in solitude and has no visitors because he knows if he gets the virus he will die. Let's get rid of this horrible virus and just wear masks.

Name: Jennifer Shining

Address: 1512 Forest Court

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a city mask mandate. It is the right thing to do and a small sacrifice for the greater good. My aging parents and school age daughter might have a better chance of normalcy if the community can bring the numbers down through working together.

Thanks for considering this mandate for our community. I know it is a difficult decision. There is much anger lately with any policy, and I don't envy having to make this decision. However, a mask mandate is necessary at this time.

Thank you.

Name: Curtis Groote

Address: 3535 Park Dr.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: COVID-19 masking

Comment:

I have been in favor of mandatory masking all through the pandemic.

With the ascending numbers, hospital capacities, etc., etc., we are behind the ball. Nonetheless, it is never too late to start doing what makes sense. The definition of a leader is one who leads. I'd encourage the leaders of this town to take the action of mandatory masking.

Thank you.

Curtis Groote, M.D.

Name: Polly Collins

Address: 6312 Mountain Meadow Road, Black Hawk, SD 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate.

Comment:

Good job Mayor Allender!! ☐!!☐ It takes guts to break with the extremist ideology of the South Dakota governor and those who blindly follow her poor example, ignoring the obvious threat to public health. I pray that your upcoming mask mandate will be enforced, rather than being tossed onto the trash heap of empty talking points.

Name: Simuel Blosser

Address: 3905 Kyle St.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I know that this mandate is being considered for the businesses of Rapid City, but is there also consideration for churches as well? The mandate needs to be clear for all parties where mass gathering can occur, so I believe it would be helpful to address gatherings like church services.

Name: Robert VandeVenter

Address: 223 Wedgewood Dr

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Not only does the government have a right to pass rules/laws etc to protect it's citizens, it has a duty to do so. Our Governor has been derelict in exercising her duty in protecting the citizens of SD so it is up to to local governments to step up to the plate. People need to realize that by not wearing masks because they think it interferes with their freedom, they are depriving their fellow citizens of their right to a safe environment.

Name: Susan Vannorton

Address: 5161 Greenwood Lane

Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I feel that since all schools in Rapid City are now closed and in Phase 3 we have taken care of a huge gathering place of students, so the next step should be closing down the big gathering spots for adults such as bars / restaurants, bowling alleys, pool halls ETC

Name: Calvin Luke

Address: 714 Halley Ave apt3 Rapid City,SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am strongly against a mask mandate it has absolutely no exceptions for people medically mental health including PTSD people on the Autism Spectrum. Science and other states are learning the hard way mask mandates do nothing for the virus. Our police have other duties they have don't have time money to enforce and pressure people on the mask mandate. Forcing govt will on people opens city wide open for lawsuits for civil rights violations the Mayor has shrugged off his behavior towards a citizen.

Name: Kyle Krause

Address: 515 Belmont Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Enact a mask mandate for all public indoor spaces. This should be simple and is a bare minimum.  
Leaders lead. Be a leader.

Name: Carol Zielike MD

Address: 4818 Enchanted Pines Drive

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am a family medicine physician in Rapid City since 1982. I would strongly encourage the city council to pass a mask mandate. "Personal liberty" is endangering the health of our citizens. Our seniors in assisted living and long term care facilities are literally imprisoned. Many have not had a visit from their family since March. Our ICU is filling up and our health care workers are falling ill. Please encourage everyone to stay home and limit nonessential gatherings

Name: Mark J. Hazel

Address: 121 Cleveland Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We are OPPOSED to any Mask Mandate in Rapid City!

No!

Name: Deanna Lassegard

Address: 7050 Nameless Cave Road

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

My name is Deanna Lassegard, I am an emergency medicine physician in the Black Hills. I am begging you to help us in the fight against COVID. Our hospitals are full and our staff is sick and over worked and we need the public's help. Unfortunately encouraging and educating on mask usage has not gotten us to where we need to be. Masking and social distancing are not perfect and we can all agree it is uncomfortable, but it is all we have right now and we need everyone's cooperation. Please mandate masks and help us have a fighting chance in keeping our community safe. People's lives are depending on this.

Name: Nell Krsnak

Address: 907 Fairview St. Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Community Mask Requirement

Comment:

I am writing this comment to accompany your consideration of an ordinance that would require masks to be worn in public within Rapid City. I am unable to find the exact wording of the proposed ordinance so please forgive any arguments that aren't applicable. The safety of every individual can only be assigned to that individual or their caregivers and putting further restrictions on our municipality is only going to heighten tensions that are already exasperated. At this point, people need to take responsibility for themselves and not be forced into it. Not everyone will act as the responsible adult that we all hope for, however, that should not enable our government to overstep its bounds. If the ordinance passes, please be specific on how it will be enforced and what options are available for those who cannot wear masks for a variety of reasons (health, PTSD, etc). I would also request that an expiration to the ordinance be listed.

Name: Jessica Sever

Address: 27 Giants Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I find it ridiculous that so many people don't want to wear a mask if you are out in public. It truly makes me sick that my fellow human beings aren't willing to put on a mask to protect others and themselves. Yes, I get it some people do not get super sick, but some people do and really for no known reason. I would feel awful if I knew or didn't know that I had COVID-19 and passed it along to someone else. It doesn't even matter if I knew that person or not. Because I care about my fellow humans.

Never in my life did I ever think that it was going to be okay for me to walk into a grocery store, gas station, or even a bank with a mask on and not get arrested, but the script has been flipped and we need to require people to do so, so that maybe someday soon we can all return to normal.

I ask that the city council vote to adopt a mask mandate.

Name: Becky Holloway

Address: 4902 Stoneybrook Ct,Rapid City,SD57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Please pass a mask mandate. Our town is out of control. Positive case...

Name: Carol Shatraw

Address: 805 E. Indiana St.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Mayor Allender,

Please DO NOT enact a mask mandate for Rapid City. Leave it to each citizen to decide what protection measures work best for him or her. Put city resources into protecting the most vulnerable and allow responsible life to go on as normally as possible for the good of the rest of the population, especially our children who are not largely at great risk from Covid-19.

Respectfully,

Carol Shatraw

Name: Sybille Hanson

Address: 3411 Meadowbrook Court

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am so glad, that the mayor has decided to put a mask mandate on the table. We have to stem the tide of infections!

Name: Mike Olson

Address: 1800 Shaver St #308

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I realize Covid-19 numbers are up. And I know the mayor's feelings about implementing a mask mandate. But I think businesses should be asked to make that decision for their store. When I'm in stores in Rapid City would guess that 80-90% of the people are wearing masks. I've started wearing masks in most places. But I firmly disagree with a mandate on wearing a mask. A plea, ok, but the people of South Dakota don't like being told what they have to do, especially when the Governor won't call a mandate.

Name: Tyler voght

Address: 815 east new york street lot 62, rapid city, sd, 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

NO MASKS! UNCONSTITUTIONAL! YOU WILL BE IMPEACHED OR THROWN OUT FORCIBLY IF YOU DO SO!

Name: Kathey Wilson

Address: 5247 Autumn Place

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate. There are too many people not wearing them and this puts the community at risk. If people can't take responsibility they need to be forced when it is in the best interest of the public

Name: Victoria hall

Address: 2541 jolly lane # 4

Rapid city sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I hope I have this in the correct area. I've never done this before. So if it isn't can you help put this in the correct are for me :).

Regarding the elk vale and mall drive intersection. Could there be rumble strips inserted on the mall drive side and a flashing stop light as well?

This would be to add for public safety in lieu of the recent deaths

Thanks for the consideration

Name: Jennifer Anne Nelson

Address: 4834 Baldwin st, Rapid City, Sd.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please listen to the medical professionals who are begging you to institute this mandate. Masks hurt no one and help everyone.

Name: Eileen Fleishacker

Address: 2522 Chancery Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I've always thought that personal rights extended only as long as to they do not do harm or present risks to others. That's why we have seat belt laws, DUI laws, and smoking restrictions. Those laws, at first, met with the same opposition as a mask mandate, although they are now common practice in society. I am asking the City Council to do the right thing and pass an ordinance in favor of mandatory masks for as long as the CDC says they are needed. Let's help make South Dakota number 1 for its friendly, caring people, its beauty, and its down-to-earth common sense; not for its pig-headedness and ignorance.

Name: Robert William Polk Jr

Address: 5440 Weathervane Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

We have been told for months that wearing a mask decreases our chance of passing the virus to folks close by. The CDC is now saying that wearing a mask decreases our chance of catching the virus, even if only by a relatively small amount. It seems utterly foolish to NOT mandate using a mask,,,,,,the cost is miniscule compared to possible benefits. That's my 2 cents worth!

Name: Diana Boyle

Address: 6324 Cog Hill Ln

Rapid City SD, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Mayor Allender, you are our only hope of making masks mandatory. The Gov is not taking responsibility for this. With all the cases on the rise here in Pennington County, more people need to take this virus seriously. I hate being out in public and seeing these citizens not wearing a mask, I really want to say something to them. Please make masks mandatory, I know its a big job to enforce this, but how many more deaths do we need to have before people wake up.

Name: Laura Brunmaier

Address: 1074 pennington street

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I personally know people in the community who have had mild COVID symptoms and refuse to get tested because they don't want to quarantine. This level of irresponsibility is a public hazard. This is not the personal responsibility Noem assumes happens. In order to protect people and dampen further spread, a mask mandate should be in place because convenience takes a higher precedence for people than public health. City council members and mayor, it is your job to pass laws that protect your constituents. Allowing police intervention when necessary and issuing fines is similar to traffic violations. That money can be used to afford more testing since our governor thinks tourism is more important.

Name: Tyler One Horn

Address: 5 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Possible City Wide Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am a healthcare worker whom has personally worked with those who have been affected by the virus and I think there is an extreme need now for masks everywhere. While I understand that people may not agree with their effectiveness, I firmly believe doing "Something" to curb the spread in the community is better than doing nothing. I wear KN95 masks for a period of 8 to 12 hours at a time at work, it isn't impossible to wear one for less than an hour if your at the grocery store or out in public spaces in general, wear a mask, save a life.

Name: Jennifer Buell

Address: 4023 Prairie View Dr

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please mandate masks. Our only hospital is nearing capacity. As a worker in the service industry I know people are not wearing them and taking it seriously. Me wearing a mask protects you so it's not simply personal choice. We would not say, "It's fine if you want to drive sober but don't shame me for choosing not to." If those of us advocating for mask-wearing are wrong, then we've all been inconvenienced. If we are right, we are saving lives. And that's not even talking about the COVID long-haulers with devastating symptoms. Please mandate masks.

Name: Paula Wahl

Address: 3417 Monarch Ct

Rapid City, SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please enact the mask mandate effective immediately. Additionally, thought should be put into curfew for bars and restaurants (10:30pm) and limited hours for places like gyms. We are facing mental and physical exhaustion of our health caregivers which leads to exposure of losing friends and family members as we close in on the holiday season. Changes put into place now will impact how long we remain in this current crisis setting. We need to and can do better but for some it will require a mandate. Thank you!

Name: Lynn DesLauriers

Address: 4631 Cambria Circle Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please initiate a mask mandate.

Name: Trish Anderson

Address: 3124 Palmer Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Pro Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please institute an immediate mask mandate for the entire city. Masks are the only tool in Covid protection available to us now. The rampant community spread is stressing our health services to a breaking point. For the so called freedom of a few, the rest of us have lost our freedom to move about the community safely. Our children and families cannot come home to visit nor can they attend school in the community due to the extremely high positivity rate. City Council representatives were elected to lead...now is the time to be leaders and make the tough decisions for the health and welfare of our community.

Name: Jamie Schaeffer, MD

Address: 23751 Pine Haven Drive

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a physician, I absolutely support and request a citywide mask mandate.

Name: Daniel Sorbel

Address: 2990 1st Ave S

Sturgis, SD 57785

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please, please, please enforce a mask mandate! I do my secular work in convenience stores, mostly in Rapid City, & myself & my helper are usually the only people in the building wearing masks. It's horrifying. Such a simple thing we can all do to suppress transmission of this virus. Please, help me keep my wife & two small children safe by enforcing a mandate for citizens to wear masks! Thank you!

Name: Lisa Knigge

Address: 604 44th Street

Rapid city, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

please do a city wide mask mandate as Noem will not do it and I would really like my high school son to have a senior year next year. My 83 year old mother would like to be able to go out and feel safe again without fear of contracting this virus from others who refuse to wear a mask or to respect distances. She has lung cancer and I am immunocompromised, if we get it means we have a poor survivability rate. Stores put up signs and then do not enforce it. please please please do a mandate and keep us safe from others who do not care. I do not wish to die because someone else doesn't care my son would grow up motherless.

Name: Hillary Lynn Presecan

Address: 3421 Idlewild Ct.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

There has been various scientific journals and subject matter experts urging us to enforce a mask mandate to curb this second wave of Covid19 in our community. I endure you to please votes yes on protecting our community members.

Name: Sarah Shewbrooks

Address: 4034 Canyon Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am an Epidemiologist with a local public health organization. Every day I compile all the COVID infection and death data in our service area and consolidate it for use in our communities. I have watched this pandemic unfold through the numbers, as well as through personal stories loss since the beginning of the pandemic. I am writing in strong support of a mask mandate for Rapid City. As a public health professional, the science on masks is non-debatable, they slow the spread of the virus. I am also a military veteran. I deeply value the freedoms that we have in our country and I don't take recommending limitations to our freedoms lightly. While I value our freedoms, I value lives more. We need a mask mandate to save lives. Plain and simple. It's a small thing we can do that has an important and irrefutable impact. I know this is a difficult and controversial decision, but please, mandate masks.

Name: Nicholas Hill

Address: 2348 Ambush Ranch Rd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Universal use of masks in public settings (e.g. mask mandate for indoor environments where people congregate) will reduce transmission according to CDC. As importantly, mask use (source-control for the infected and the exposed) reduce the dose or amount of virus that a susceptible person is exposed to. There is evidence of a dose-response relationship in the prognosis of an infected person, likely most pronounced in the elderly and those with health conditions. Lower dose exposure presumably allows more time for a successful and more controlled immune response. Applied across our population, this effect should result in lower hospitalization and death rates...even if the overall transmission rate were to remain constant. Masks are a visual prompt for physical distancing as well. A mask mandate is important to ensure continuity of healthcare. A mask mandate is wise so businesses can remain open if/as this pandemic worsens.

Name: Sean Jackson

Address: 1704 Riley Ave.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Yes, please mandate masks. The right to not wear a mask does not exceed another's right to life. Just because you don't have to look the person in the eyes when they die, doesn't make you any less of a murderer. To the idea that it would divide our city, i say BS. It is already divided, there are those that care about others, and those that don't.

Name: Rob Carl

Address: 1900 Harmony Heights Lane

Apt 315

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

in making a mask ordinance I would like to see you put into place an ordinance like Costco has for its stores. If someone claims that they can not wear a mask for health reasons, then make them wear a face shield in lieu of the mask. There should not be an exception to wearing some type of face covering at all times.

Name: Ruby A Fanning

Address: 425 Founders Park Dr

#105

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of having a mask mandate. I believe that the only way to get a handle on this pandemic is to have a mask mandate. I have been wearing a mask since the beginning and it is frustrating that wherever I need to go there are people not wearing masks. They just don't care. It's time!

Name: Becky Vogt

Address: 1219 Burns Circle, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I absolutely support a mask mandate in Rapid City, South Dakota. We NEED a mask mandate. Masks are supported by the medical community. Our hospitals are overrun. Our schools are closed. We NEED a mask mandate PLEASE. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Name: Geryl Schwab

Address: 309 E. Elk St.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: COVID-19

Comment:

I fully agree with a mask mandate. But I also feel we should go one step further and have a ban on all eat-in options in restaurants. Bars should also be closed unless they have food take-out options. Some may say these are harsh measures, but I see them as necessary measures to get the pandemic under control.

Name: Karl Schwab

Address: 309 E. Elk St

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: COVID-19 Mask Ordinance

Comment:

I am 100% in favor of implementing a mandate to wear masks at all buildings and facilities in Rapid City. I further urge you to close inside dining and drinking in restaurants and bars.

Name: Sue Kimball

Address: 6153 Green Tree Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: COVID 19

Comment:

If we as a people of Rapid City do show responsibility by wearing a mask and practice social distancing - I would encourage the city to do so also - as we approach the holiday season - encouraging large gatherings with tree lighting ceremonies and city hosted festival parades do not portray that the city is alarmed with the current COVID situation and saying that they encourage masks and social distancing -- it is a suggestion of the other sort -- It would be a more responsible action to cancel these gatherings to lessen the temptation of poor choices of some of our fellow citizens part

Name: JoAnne Pryor

Address: 4215 West Saint Louis Street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Covid 19 mask mandate

Comment:

First let me say I am not apposed to wearing a mask. I do have 2 questions. 1. How will you deal with those who refuse due to civil liberty. Will you really waste our tax money for fining or arresting? 2. I assist with the physical and mentally disabled as well as having a husband who is extremely claustrophobic. Even a mask for him causes severe PTSD. This is due to the loss of his leg and 36 surgical procedures to heal. Will you excuse those who have severe mental health concerns such as above if they have a medical note from their physician? Thank you for your time.

Name: Naomi Hambek

Address: 2063 Harney Dr

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory face masks

Comment:

Our family does not agree with a mask mandate. We watched your press conference on 11/17 and we are very disturbed by the draconian measures you are willing to take to "protect" people. I teach science and just taught the kids about viruses. I wish that medical professionals would be honest with us and tell us what viruses really are and that there is no stopping a virus. They learned this, just like these kids did. Have they forgotten or do they gain from scaring us? You said it yourself, Mayor Allender, the viruses job is to spread. If you ask a medical professional how they would face a truly deadly disease, they put on an N-95 or greater, gown, gloves and goggles, enter the hospital room, help the patient, and when they leave, they immediately throw it away. How would a cloth mask help? Ludicrous! This is not like 2nd hand smoke. I hate to imagine what you plan on doing in the future with seasonal flu, which is just as deadly.

Name: Twila Dell

Address: 935 Sagewood St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I have wrote before on this subject and I feel strongly that if this state is going to stay open then they need to follow guidelines of the CDC. I will not do business with a business that does not require masks. Both my children are health care workers and they are being stretched to their limits! It's beyond political and it's about responsibility, some people care to be responsible and some don't. Please mandate mask use!

Name: Tami Applegarth

Address: 1018 11 th st Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Please do a mask mandate. There are too many people that need it to stay alive

Name: Lesley Wilkinson

Address: 23645 Strato Rim Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support implementing a mask mandate to reduce the spread of coronavirus for all of the reasons Mayor Allender listed in his press conference. Our hospitals need our help! Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Jerry Cole

Address: 2520 Springbrook Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory Masks

Comment:

Please enforce a mask policy. I am high risk and I have two family members who work downtown who are high risk. We need people to wear masks when visiting businesses. Thank You