

July 29, 2020

Kim Reynolds, Governor
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Governor Reynolds:

We would like to start by referring the following quote from the CDC Director Robert R. Redfield:

“We are not defenseless against COVID-19. Cloth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus – particularly when used universally within a community setting. All Americans have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.” Dr. Redfield further adds, “If we could get everybody to wear a mask right now, I really think in the next four to eight weeks, we could bring this epidemic under control.”

As you know his statement comes after an extensive review of latest science, and at least two case-studies (references are given below), which revealed that adherence to universal masking policies reduced SARS-CoV-2 transmission within a Boston hospital system, and another from Missouri showing that wearing a mask prevented the spread of infection from two hair stylists to their customers.

The finding adds to a growing body of evidence that cloth face coverings provide source control. In other words, they help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others. Masking benefits when everyone in the community wear face coverings.

Therefore, Iowa’s local health department directors would strongly urge you to consider mandating the use of cloth face coverings to reduce/avoid the spread of COVID-19. This is not only a public health win but also an economic win.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Sincerely,

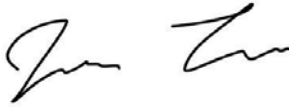
Iowa’s Local Health Directors



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	Patrice Lambert RN, MSN Dubuque County Health Department Executive Director
	Jenna Lovaas, MS, MPH Jones County Public Health Director
	Charity Loecke, BSN, RN Delaware County Public Health Coordinator

References/Resources

- MMWR Article: No Transmission of Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 After Significant Exposure With Universal Face Mask Use at a Hair Salon – Springfield, Missouri, May 2020 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm?s_cid=mm6928e2_w
- CDC Editorial in JAMA: Brooks JT, Butler JC, Redfield RR. Time for universal masking and prevention of transmission of SARS-CoV-2. JAMA. Published online July 14, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.13107 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/10.1001/jama.2020.13107external icon>
- CDC's Information on Cloth Face Coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>