

Carol DeSoto

From: applications@charlescountymd.gov on behalf of Charles County Government
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Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 5:07 PM
To: Public Record
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Required Face Coverings to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Required Face Coverings to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

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Are you:

Against Topic

Comment

I am opposed to the adoption of Resolution 2021-21 as a Health Ordinance in Charles County. I am disturbed/disappointed/outraged/to see the continued use of County resources directed toward the imposition of masks on private citizens. St. Mary's, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Fairfax, and King George counties do not have mask mandates and there has been no significant difference in the trajectory of the pandemic in those regions compared to ours. A return to masks, perhaps permanently, sends a signal to the community that we are only going backward in this nearly 2-year nightmare rather than moving toward real normalcy. This action seems to be a stubborn refusal to know when a government action is unpopular and the Commissioners seem oblivious to the true desires of their constituents. This is no way to govern After two years of systematic dismantling of institutions we've come to rely on, I don't think that we can take another winter of restrictions. Covid will be endemic; it has already proven to be seasonal (Dr. Abney implied this in multiple briefings when she referred to "last year" rise in cases around the holidays and through the winter). We cannot continue to be so singularly focused on disease mitigation to the detriment of other pressing matters in our county. Dr. Abney may be the Health Officer, but she does not seem to offer any expertise when it comes to masks and she offers unserious data-analysis in her presentations to the public. The community would like the chance to offer differing opinions on productive mitigation, prevention, or treatment options for COVID-19. For instance, Dr. Abney continues to make the false claim that "masks are proven to stop influenza". She seems to not understand the phenomenon of viral interference as a

reason why influenza saw record low rates last year (globally!). This in turn contributes to her, and by extension the Board of Commissioners grossly overstating the efficacy of masks.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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