

**From:** [Amy Marsh](#)  
**To:** [Moke Simon](#); [Eddie Crandell](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 7.4, June 16, 2020. Civil Enforcement Process for Covid-19 Public Health Orders  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 3:22:56 PM

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To: Moke Simon, Honorable Chair  
Eddie E.J. Crandell, District 3 Supervisor  
Lake County Board of Supervisors

Dear Mr. Simon and Mr. Crandell,

I urge strong support for the proposed urgency ordinance establishing a civil enforcement process for Covid-19-related public health orders, known as: *Consideration of Urgency Ordinance Establishing Temporary Compliance Officers to Assist Local Businesses and Members of the Public in the Gradual Reopening of Lake County During the Continuing Public Health Emergency and to Provide a Process for the Assessment of Administrative Fines for Violators of State and Local Public Health Orders 7.4.*

I ask you to consider the urgency of this ordinance and compliance with public health recommendations through this comparison:

During fire season in Lake County, we all get pretty upset when we hear of a careless action which has resulted in a small or large wildland fire. Each fire has the potential to overwhelm our local personnel and resources and each one puts first responders in danger. Sometimes just one small spark results in loss of property and even human life. It can even become catastrophic. As a community, we often condemn the foolish and careless individuals (or companies) who have caused unnecessary heartbreak, death, and disruption in our lives and community and we heartily wish we were not at the mercy of feckless fools who disregard common sense safety for their own convenience. And so we take precautions. We weed-whack our property and cut back our trees. And we rely, uneasily, on the goodwill and precautionary actions of our neighbors.

Think of each Covid-19 virus as a small spark. The virus, under the right conditions, infects a person who then begins to shed more viruses about two days before actually feeling ill. That's TWO DAYS of potential contagion before the sick

person is aware of his or her illness, according to the Johns Hopkins University Covid-19 Contact Tracing Course which I am taking via Coursera.com. That's like carrying a lit match for two days, and waving it around, not caring if the living room drapes or a box of cereal or someone's t-shirt or backyard catches fire.

***It's a free country, right? I'll carry a lit match if I want... Got a problem with that? Stay home!***

Okay, so we can see the person with the lit match or the maskless face, and maybe we have enough room to grab our groceries and back away slowly, but Covid-19 viruses are also like underground fires that burn undetected. A significant number of people who are infected never feel ill and roam the world shedding the virus everywhere they breathe, speak, or sing. Until they're tested and quarantined, at least. *And we don't know enough about this virus yet to know when the asymptomatic carriers stop shedding.*

Each positive case is like a fire with potential to spread. Each positive case, on average, infects two other people, who then infect two more people, and on and on unless stopped, causing hundreds and maybe even thousands more cases. That is why preventative measures, such as frequent handwashing, social distancing, and wearing a mask in public, is so important. These strategies enable us, as a community, to "put out" the fires before they start.

But can you imagine how frightening it would be to see our police, sheriffs, firefighters, and elected and appointed officials decide--right in the middle of fire season--that they aren't going to take fire prevention seriously because some people insist on their right to carry around lit matches? **That's the feeling most of us have when we see lip service paid to temporary pandemic de-escalation strategies, but hear some people decide they won't abide by or enforce these precautions.**

And do you really want an actual surge in Lake County happening at the same time as we have a major fire? That's a possibility in the next several months and you know it. Do you want shelters full of people passing along the virus? The science is clear on the benefits of prosocial mask-wearing: "I protect you, you protect me." Numerous countries have benefited from making this a key part of their strategy.

So those people and businesses who are willfully violating public health orders are bullying us. They say it's their right to be careless, to expose us to a potentially deadly disease while the rest of us are trying to stay safe

and healthy. Code Enforcement may not be the preferred resource for enforcement of common health and safety issues, it is the county division best poised to assist in temporary, time-limited enforcement of standing public health orders while carefully observing the applicable property and due-process rights of business and property owners.

Do the right thing, please, and whether you have to levy fines, send people to "Covid-19 School" (like traffic court), or assign them to community service (cleaning up ER rooms would be fitting), please take action NOW to stop things from getting out of hand here. If nothing else, let those who **don't** want to wear masks shop at special hours, so the rest of us aren't exposed to their carelessness and viruses. And then pay hazard pay to the grocery clerks who work those shifts.

Finally, our frontline medical people need this protection too--and accountability and consequences for public health scofflaws. They need US to help take care of them by doing our part to cut back on the incidents of infection.

Thank you,

Amy Marsh, Glenhaven