

From: [Lake County Masks!](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 7.4 -- Urgency ordinance -- SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:55:05 AM

To: Moke Simon, Honorable Chair

Lake County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Simon:

Please accept this letter of strong support for the proposed urgency ordinance establishing a civil enforcement process for Covid-19-related public health orders.

As you are well aware, Lake County's residents and businesses have been greatly impacted by Covid-19. The county's response -- led by the very capable Dr. Pace and the Dept. of Health Services -- has evolved over time as circumstances and available information have changed. The low infection rate in Lake County to date is the strongest testimony that can be offered in support of Dr. Pace's efforts so far.

Despite those early successes, much more work remains to ensure the safety of Lake County residents and visitors throughout the busy summer and tourist season. The urgency ordinance before your board addresses a real and pressing need to identify and work with business owners who may be violating public health orders, in particular those who are doing so willfully and without regard to the potential impact of their actions on public health. While 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.

I won't attempt to debate the scientific merits of social distancing or facial masking, because it's not supposed to be a debate. On May 21, our public health officer, a trained and licensed physician, amended the public health order to require that "All persons shall wear face coverings (cloth masks) when entering all local businesses or facilities, for workers and patrons, alike" in addition to other social distancing protocols. On May 28, an addendum to Order 20-06 was issued explaining the limited circumstances under which face masks may not be required. Unfortunately, the face mask issue has become politicized, even though more expansive health orders applying to school closures and group gatherings were issued earlier with little to no public opposition.

Again, this is not -- and should not be -- a debate. Dr. Pace has made a timely and well-informed decision, among many, to require facial coverings as part of the standing public health order. To date, the county's actions have not aligned with its words, and that mixed messaging can and does have a negative impact on compliance. Please enact the urgency ordinance to add another tool to the Covid-19 response toolbox, but also consider other means to boost compliance such as purchase and mass distribution of bulk mask supplies. CDPH and state lawmakers should be looped in to help facilitate those efforts.

In the alternative, should the urgency ordinance fail, and should mixed messaging continue to be issued regarding compliance with public health orders, please recall the attestation that Dr.

Pace signed in support of reopening. At the time he signed it, all parties involved claimed to be all-in on reopening with social distancing. Now, some appear to advocate reopening with or without social distancing, a most dangerous course of action indeed. If our county leadership cannot, or will not, give Dr. Pace the full support he and his department deserve, then it should notify Dr. Pace of that fact so the attestation can be revoked and further expedited reopening efforts halted.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Michael Green

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