

From: [Susan Negele](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 4:48:52 PM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

That sounds like a negative. Doing any thing without a mask in Venice has become a reason for sending your towns police to force compliance of your obscure ordinance. 500\$ fine is outrageous. With a heat index of 110 the added stress of impaired breathing on the island can cripple a strong person. Please rescend your mandatory mask policy

From: [Elizabeth Donofrio](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Mask ordinance
Date: Saturday, September 5, 2020 4:21:46 PM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of the city council,

I respectfully request that you do not extend the mask mandate at your next meeting. As our COVID numbers continue to decrease in every category, and the citizenry of Venice has been voluntarily compliant with business requests to wear masks prior to your last vote mandating masks, extending a legal ordinance does not appear necessary for public health. It leaves me wondering what your purpose for the ordinance is.

Sincerely,
Beth Donofrio

From: [Brian Smith](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please listen to the kind and logical requests
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 11:12:49 AM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information

Watching the statistics, Venice is now having its highest rates of corona and its highest mortality. The owner of Dakin, though not of Venice, was one example. Although many seem to recover well after mild or symptomatic illness, we now know that many young people take months to recover. My healthy daughter is one of those.

Please listen to the differences between those advocating for continuing the mask ordinance until we meet known public health criteria. Those who speak for the ordinance are logical and caring; those who speak against the ordinance sound unhinged, angry, waving their hands, and ranting with bulging eyes about their rights over the rights of protecting others.

The guidelines from public health officials and infectious disease specialists, and have been consistent for months, with substantial evidence. I have spent my career in this field and this is the true information. Please follow logic and those who post signs around town about "Be kind".

Brian Smith, MD, MPH

Venice

From: [Janet Kinne](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Mask Mandate Extension
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 3:24:12 PM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

September 6, 2020

Mr. Edward Lavallee, City Manager
Venice City Council
Venice, FL

Dear Council Members,

Please let the "Mask Mandate" expire on September 30. There is no reason to continue requiring citizens of Venice to wear a mask. No matter what the "numbers and science" show it has all been made meaningless due to policy changes over time. Each county, state, and indeed, country report figures differently to make it nearly impossible to make comparisons.

Please, let each individual practice self-responsibility. To wear or not to wear a mask should, at this stage, be a personal decision. It is time we all start living our lives. This is not the first virus or the last. The only difference is the media's use of scare tactics to tell us what we should or should not do. All the businesses I have shopped in require a mask. What more can you demand of local businesses and citizenry?

Kind Regards,
Janet Kinne
10063 Crooked Creek Dr
Unit 201
Venice, FL 34293
JFKinne@outlook.com

From: bill@flackbroadcasting.com
To: [Ron Feinsod](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Mask Order
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 4:44:08 PM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to renew the mask order for at least 90 days and start enforcing the order. As you know, the case of Covid 19 have been decreasing in the state for the past few weeks. Why? Because most big businesses in the state require shoppers to wear masks. I will never understand why our political leaders have politicized this issue and I have been disappointed by the the action of some of the board members who continue to vote against the safety of the residents of this city. We depend on you! Most of us are over 65 and many of us have health conditions that would make us very sick if we contact Covid 19.

Mask use has been on the increase but frankly, it still seems to be a problem here in Venice. We had relatives who were visiting from the East Coast over the weekend. They decided to take a walk on Venice Avenue and they said they were appalled by the lack of masks being worn. They decided not to spend money on the Island because they were uncomfortable.

I commend you voting for the mask order last month but I see no enforcement of the order. I walked to the South Jetty last week and turned around and walked back to my car. NOBODY, I mean nobody was wearing a mask. Yes, it is outside, but with the amount of people there, it was impossible to social distance. The Venice P.D. was parked at the jetty and was there the whole time. No enforcement!

Some of you have said that it's the right of the individual whether to wear a mask or not. It is also my right to go to a store, walk on the street, or visit a restaurant for take out without the fear of being infected. Many of these anti maskers or making a political statement or being selfish...all at the risk of those of us who are being responsible to fellow residents while trying to stay healthy.

Please put away the political card, stop worrying about your financial supporters and vote for the safety of the residents of this city. Many of us will be watching and voting accordingly!

Thank you!

Bill Flack
Pinebrook South

From: [Link Maxwell](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Mask Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 10:02:09 PM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

Good evening,

I am writing to you this evening as a citizen of Venice and a supporter of the recent mask mandates. While a Libertarian at heart, I can appreciate that local governments can have a broad range of options when responding to crisis situations like the one we're currently seeing with COVID.

I understand that many people in the city object to feeling forced to wear a mask by their government, seeing it as an intrusion on civil liberties. I am not unsympathetic to this argument, as we have seen the over-aggressive hand of governments across this country seemingly ignoring science when imposing draconian lockdowns with no clue as to when to reopen. However, given the comparative seriousness of the literal plague we face, and the fairly light requirements and penalties of the masking ordinance, I feel that we should maintain this policy at least through the 2020-2021 flu season. Not only will it be beneficial in fighting COVID, but we can hopefully see fewer cases of the flu, lightening the burden on our county's emergency medical staff.

In closing, I recognize that I am fortunate to be in my thirties, and well outside the most dangerous age group for COVID fatalities. However, I see it as part of my civic duty towards my fellow Venetians, both full-time and snowbird, to help keep the spread of disease from reaching the most vulnerable among us. I would implore all citizens to do the same.

Thank you,
William Smith

Mercedes Barcia

From: Rosemary Nero <rosemarynero@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:50 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Suicide

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

Dear City Council members,

Consequences of mandatory masks ordinance....

I can only speak for my myself. I have been confronted, ridiculed and denied access to public buildings since I am unable to wear a mask.

I am not able to participate in taking art classes at the Venice Art Center.

People do not understand the ordinance, its implications or exemptions.

I feel terribly depressed and hopeless, and I am one of the lucky ones...I have a home and a husband.

Please vote against the mandatory mask ordinance.

Could the coronavirus lead to a national suicide crisis? Here's what experts are saying.

Article by:

- [Rebecca Dolgin](#)

We've already seen a steady rise in deaths by suicide over the past two decades and [a new report by The Well Being Trust](#) released last month found that 75,000 additional people could die from what they called "deaths of despair," (which include [suicide](#) and [substance use](#)) because of Covid-19.

The Risk Factors For Covid-19 Suicides

The [physical symptoms of the novel coronavirus](#) of the novel coronavirus have been well-reported for months, but it's the handful of psychological and sociological factors that are just starting to ring alarm bells. The combination of physical distancing, economic stress, barriers to mental health treatment, pervasive national anxiety, and a spike in gun sales are creating what [JAMA Psychiatry](#) referred to as "a perfect storm" for suicide mortality.

"Suicide is likely to become a more pressing concern as the pandemic spreads and has longer-term effects on the general population, the economy, and vulnerable groups," according to David Gunnell, professor of

epidemiology at the University of Bristol and head of the [Bristol Suicide and Self-harm Research Group](#), and his research team who recently published their findings in *The Lancet Psychiatry*.

And these projections are not without precedent. There's evidence that deaths by suicide increased both after the 1918 flu pandemic and the 2003 SARS outbreak. We're already seeing this with frontline workers. In the past few weeks, two stories stood out in the media: Dr. Lorna Breen, of New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital, and New York City E.M.T John Mondello.

Social Distancing and Isolation

The research has been clear on this one for years: isolation and loneliness is bad for our health—both physical and mental. According to a meta-analysis co-authored by Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, lack of social connection heightens health risks as much as smoking three-quarters of a pack of cigarettes a day...every day. “There is robust evidence that social isolation and loneliness significantly increase risk for premature mortality, and the magnitude of the risk exceeds that of many leading health indicators,” Holt Lunstad says.

The coronavirus has obviously exacerbated the problem. Right now (as of May 8), almost 200 million people in the United States are under some kind of stay at home order, with most face-to-face socializing limited to members of their own households. That is, if they're lucky enough to not [live alone](#) like 35.7 million Americans do. And, even in states where restrictions have been lifted, many people are still staying at home.

Rosemary Nero
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone