

Brenwynne Grigg

From: Bill Leighty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Epidemiology insight. Masks in Juneau: mandatory ?

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Assemblymembers, 20 May 20 PM

We immediately need a CBJ ordinance and / or other action to prevent the 22 May "opening" of Juneau businesses and other entities and venues, as announced by Gov Dunleavy, as subject only to "guidelines". We particularly need to require, at least within CBJ:

- All persons at indoor venues of any kind to wear adequate masks covering nose and mouth;
- Minimum 6 ft or 10 ft social distancing of all persons not from the same household; preferably wearing masks if enjoying the minimum distance
- Group size limited to X persons indoors; perhaps Y persons outdoors, maintaining distancing;
- Continued 14-day isolation and quarantine of all persons arriving in Juneau from anywhere outside;
- Cooperation with all testing, tracing, and tracking that we may need to impose upon ourselves.

The virus remains virulent, very contagious, stealthy, and often deadly, worldwide. Alaska's and Juneau's relative success, to date, in preventing large community spreading is no defense, but rather induces a dangerous "fat, dumb, and happy" complacency.

One infected, asymptomatic person from Outside, unmasked, jumping quarantine, and socializing -- at a wedding, or for fish processing, for example -- could quickly force Juneau back to hunker and / or lockdown; transformed from complacent to afraid by a single report from Manager Watt that, "We had XX new COVID cases in Juneau yesterday, apparently from community spreading."

Humanity's only defense against the virus is the simultaneous presence and enforcement of the several conditions demonstrated by successful COVID-19 suppression in other countries: (See resources, below.)

- Travel limitation(s) and screening, plus minimum 14-day isolation and quarantine of anyone arriving from outside the community jurisdiction, via airline or boat
- Masks, of adequate quality, to be worn at all times, by all people, in all retail and other business establishments and govt offices; and in confined public spaces. (What is adequate mask quality ?)
- Social distancing, as defined; 6 ft may be too little. How to exercise and socialize outdoors -- wind and other environmental effects that may help prevent virus infection transfer. We suspect that virus is spread via normal breathing.
- Testing: abundant, immediate, with rapid results and high reliability. How, where, what type of test, for whom ?
- Trace and track and monitor contacts of infected persons, by a large enough team of trained people dedicated to this task
- Cell phone location data immediately available to the trace and track team, via recommended privacy-protecting software tool(s) -- extant or nascent
- Isolation and quarantine of "positive" people; enforcement thereof
- Specify "max group size"; ad hoc rules for weddings, for example. Masks rules still apply

- Accomplish a public compliance attitude; a civic responsibility culture allowing minimum enforcement to achieve good compliance with all these measures, thus safe collective behavior
- Prevent food panics, by preparing to feed those needy, via locally-made and individually-made breads and soups from low-cost commodity ingredients

I'm afraid that the "opening" announcements by Governor Dunleavy, other governors, and President Trump will result in a large second surge in COVID infection and death, because we do not have in place, at either state or national levels, the several conditions above.

Our national government has proven disinclined for, and incapable of, coherent implementation of these several conditions.

CBJ should not suffer Gov Dunleavy's emulation of Trump administration belief and behavior.

If this diverse, federally-abdicated, state-led "opening" inflicts another surge of infection and death upon our country, we might not be able to recover from its economic and social costs. We cannot print money forever. We should contemplate such collapse: what would it mean? What is Juneau's responsibility to prevent it? May we set an example for AK and USA?

At least we need a rules-setting new ordinance, plus an extensive campaign to build the community spirit to enforce it.

We do not yet have a public attitude of "waging war, all hands on deck". We are still enthralled by our well-managed escape from a dangerous first wave, by confidence men assuring us that recovery will be swift. We must disenthral ourselves, and then we may save our country -- and Juneau.

We can probably "open", but we must follow the rules imposed upon us by the virus, which will probably rule us for many more months. Please install the rules for us.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Assemblymembers, 12 May 20 AM

Here is a resource you should find helpful in deliberating "opening", among so much already published. Thank you for your study and attention and caring work for us all.

https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20200511&instance_id=18384&nl=the-morning®i_id=20114&segment_id=27239&te=1&user_id=6b9aec03656ff03d12f556448437d822

The intro is the essence:

It seems many people are breathing some relief, and I'm not sure why. An epidemic curve has a relatively predictable upslope and once the peak is reached, the back slope can also be predicted. We have robust data from the outbreaks in China and Italy, that shows the backside of the mortality curve declines slowly, with deaths persisting for months. Assuming we have just crested

in deaths at 70k, it is possible that we lose another 70,000 people over the next 6 weeks as we come off that peak. That's what's going to happen with a lockdown.

As states reopen, and we give the virus more fuel, all bets are off. I understand the reasons for reopening the economy, but I've said before, if you don't solve the biology, the economy won't recover.

I haven't heard today's Senate testimony of Dr. Fauci, et al. The virus still rules.

Bill

Assemblymembers, 12 May 20 AM

I listened to the entire 11 May Assembly meeting. Thank you for your best efforts in dangerous and uncertain circumstances.

I was disappointed in the several ways presented in my notes, below.

I felt a general lack of sense or gravity of the situation, probably from:

- Juneau's success in COVID-19 suppression, to date
- Fatigue from "hunkering"
- Our anecdotal experience of seeing so many of our Juneau citizens and friends without masks, in retail stores, for example
- Urgent need to get Juneau, AK, and USA economies functioning, because we cannot print more fed money forever
- Limited competence of the USA and AK gov't executive branches
- Failure to understand the probable exponential spread of COVID-19 in Juneau from a single, or a few, infected and contagious returning residents and / or visitors

Please accept my following notes as an alternative to a text memo. Thank you.

We now need:

- An Assembly meeting, soon, to enact several new ordinances:
 - Requiring adequate-quality masks to be worn by all persons in all retail establishments and all offices at all times
 - Establishing rules and protocols for intercepting and evaluating all persons, residents and visitors, entering Juneau by sea or air.
- A letter to Gov Dunleavy, as you plan, requesting that he demur on further "opening" until AK has in place all of the components of safety that other countries' experiences have demonstrated to be necessary to prevent COVID-19 propagation of great cost to economy and human life:
 - Test: how, what type, for whom; results delay; reliability See "Economist" resource, below
 - Trace and track and monitor contacts of infected persons
 - Isolation and quarantine; enforcement thereof
 - Masks, of adequate quality, must be worn at all times, by all people, in all retail and other business establishments and govt offices; and in confined public spaces. What is adequate mask quality ?
 - Social distancing: define; 6 ft may be too little; how to socialize outdoors -- wind and other environmental effects that may help
 - Specify "max group size"; ad hoc rules for weddings, for example. Masks rules still apply

- Accomplishing a public compliance attitude; a civic responsibility culture; minimize enforcement to achieve good safety behavior
- Prevent food panics, by preparing to feed those needy, via locally-made and individually-made breads and soups from low-cost commodity ingredients

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Leighty

NOTES on 11 May meeting:

- Casual conversation; lacking sense of emergency and costs -- economic and life.
 - Nothing has changed: COVID-SARS-2 still raging.
 - Juneau smart, disciplined, well-managed, responsible -- and lucky
- Questions and answers vague; lack of research and understanding; study resources
- Fat, dumb, happy "100 hours" "Exceptionalism:" Alaska, USA, human
- Disenthrall ourselves, and then we may save our country
- Need Assembly meeting, two new ordinances:
 - Masks mandatory
 - Screening, tracing, and tracking for non-resident visitors
- Dr. Fauci 11 May email: "Opening too early ... very costly" Define: when "ready" ? What needs to be in place, to be ready ?
- Balance: safety, economy
- Benefit - cost calculus; ratio
- Failure to understand the consequences of a single, or very few, COVID-contagious people arrival in Juneau. Ability to infect a large number of people
- Virus is in charge until vaccine(s) and pharmaceutical(s) available. We cannot change virus behavior; only ours.
- Abdication and decapitation at USA Administration; political favoritism via suppliers; thus, localities and states must lead in this mismanagement vacuum . Lead our Gov, Congress delegation
- Cannot safely "open" in absence of ALL essentials demonstrated by other countries' success, and negative consequences of their "opening" attempts
 - Test: how; results delay; reliability; availability at scale with materials and fast response See "Economist" resource, below
 - Trace and track and monitor contacts of infected persons
 - Isolation; enforcement of infected or quarantining persons
 - Masks, of adequate quality, must be worn at all times in all retail and other business establishments; gov't offices; confined public spaces. What is adequate quality ?
 - Public compliance attitude; civic responsibility; allow minimum enforcement
 - Social distancing: define; 6 ft may be too little; how to socialize outdoors -- wind and other environ effects
 - Specify "max group size"
- "People have already decided how they are going to respond. We can't change that." WRONG. We have public responsibility to set the rules for safe behavior for all, for both short-term and long-term economy and life. Gov'ts basic function. Response to public's evident "fat, dumb, happy" and "exceptionalism -- AK, USA, human" attitudes.
- Dr. Zink: "We're talking about ... a, b, c ... " Now, must get beyond talking: decide, formulate plan, ordinance(s). Indicates limited competence of Dunleavy Admin., even given pervasive uncertainty.

- Letter to Gov: need rules for visitor screening and confinement. Requires availability of quick test (30 min) for every arriving visitor: airline, other. See CRISPR, below. Prevent Juneau community infection and spreading.
- " With Crispr, a Possible Quick Test for the Coronavirus " A pioneer of the gene-editing technology has devised a diagnostic test for the infection that could be as simple as a pregnancy test. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/05/health/crispr-coronavirus-covid-test.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_200506&instance_id=18224&nl=todaysheadlines®i_id=52120084&segment_id=26690&user_id=d9e378d02e9ad7c95e368e2d91ac68ba
- VE potential for "Trace and track, contact, monitor, enforce" network; TLF website
- Assume everyone is a virus "spreader"
- Assume spreading by breathing, as well as by other means, esp by asymptomatic people
- Resources: Atlantic, NYT, other (below)
- Enlarge context: Juneau's "sustainable, resilient future", for long-term "economic stabilization" refuge, as an "island", from COVID, rapid sea level rise.

Resources: See Attached

Resources: Other

" The Real Reason to Wear a Mask " <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/dont-wear-mask-yourself/610336/>

" Masks are a Tool, Not a Symbol " <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/05/masks-are-tool-not-symbol/611134/>

" Everyone Thinks They're Right About Masks

" <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/coronavirus-pandemic-airborne-go-outside-masks/609235/>

" Should You Wear a Mask ? " <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/social-distance-should-you-wear-a-mask/609490/>

Can masks be sterilized and reused ? Can disposable medical face masks be sterilized and reused? No. Disposable medical face masks are intended for a single use only. After use they should be removed using appropriate techniques (i.e. do not touch the front, remove by pulling the elastic ear straps or laces from behind) and disposed of immediately in an infectious waste bin with a lid, followed by hand hygiene.

" How to build and deploy testing systems at unprecedented scale: Countries will have to do it to end their lockdowns safely " <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2020/04/23/how-to-build-and-deploy-testing-systems-at-unprecedented-scale>

" France mandates masks to control the coronavirus. Burqas remain banned.

" https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/france-face-masks-coronavirus/2020/05/09/6fbd50fc-8ae6-11ea-80df-d24b35a568ae_story.html?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_most

Food chains: BBC "The Real Story" <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3cszcmn> 53 min

BBC "Foodchains" <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/episodes/7Drb742/>

Juneau Friends, 8 May 20 AM

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/dont-wear-mask-yourself/610336/>

The Atlantic has produced many important articles about the COVID disaster. This one reminds us that everyone must wear a mask in all public places, including all stores and indoor venues, if USA and Juneau and AK are to succeed in any useful degree of "opening", avoiding a pulse of COVID infection, sickness, death, propagation, and consequent reversion to "hunker" and closure.

However, when people are widely separated -- for exercise or yard work, hiking and boating, for example - - masks would not be required.

Please see attached.

This universal mask use is apparently the quickest, least expensive, most effective way to maximize our prospects for continuing Juneau's good fortune -- resulting from good CBJ management and civic cooperation - - of no community propagation in two weeks, with 27 COVID cases.

This is our best defense against "fat, dumb, and happy", whereby we relax our guard and become vulnerable. Arrival of an asymptomatic COVID-infected person in Juneau seems inevitable, with some degree of consequent community spreading likely. That's when the declaration and enforcement of wearing masks will be worth its cost.

We've all observed maskless people in Juneau retail and public indoor venues, and within the 6 ft "social" separation. This would not be tolerated in countries and cities that have nearly arrested COVID spread. This is just natural human laziness, lack of discipline, lack of public policy and enforcement with wide public support, and "fat, dumb, and happy" -- to which we humans are all vulnerable.

In the absence on national leadership, we need to assert local and state leadership, beginning in CBJ. Mask-wearing policy declaration and enforcement, now, in Juneau, would be good public policy for CBJ. Please discuss this next week with Dr. Zink, with other mayors and experts, within Juneau and beyond.

Juneau's continued good behavior and performance in protecting its citizens, visitors, and non-resident workers from COVID propagation and infection will enhance our reputation and prospects for "economic stabilization".

Thank you for your consideration and devotion to this emergency.

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