

Keri O'Brien

From: Nathalia Mellies
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Cheri Smith
Cc: Keri O'Brien; Shawn D. Smith; Patti McLaughlin; Teri Johnston
Subject: FW: Update on Masks

Cheri,

Could you please add the below email to the face mask ordinance item on the Agenda?

Respectfully,

Nathalia A. Mellies
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From: Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Nathalia Mellies <nathalia.mellies@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on Masks

Per Dr. Whiteside.

Teri

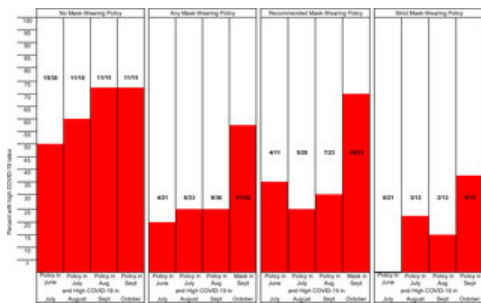
From: Whiteside, Mark E <Mark.Whiteside@flhealth.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:52 AM

To: Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: Update on Masks

Dear Teri,

Hope all is well with you - FYI here is a scientific article "hot off the press," Fischer, C. et al. Mask adherence and rate of COVID-19 across the United States. PLoS One 16(4) e0249891 or <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249891> - it further documents the efficacy of masks. If you go to the CDC website Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19 and click on Variant Proportions in the U.S. and then look at Florida - over 50% of our new cases are now the UK or B117 strain - the point at which it usually takes off. The UK strain is more transmissible, just as potentially deadly, and affects younger age groups more than the original strain - vaccines are thought to still be protective against the this strain - as you may know, multiple European countries have experienced surges due to the UK variant (despite lockdowns and restrictions!) and it is probably responsible for the alarming spike in cases in states like Michigan and Minnesota. New cases, positivity rates (now 6-8%) and hospitalizations are just starting to go up in Florida - you are welcome to share this information with other City Commissioners - any questions or concerns please let me know. Mark.



Mask adherence and rate of COVID-19 across the United States

Mask wearing has been advocated by public health officials as a way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In the United States, policies on mask wearing have varied from state to state over the course of the pandemic. Even as more and more states encourage or even mandate mask wearing, many citizens still resist the notion. Our research examines mask wearing policy and adherence in association with COVID-19 case rates. We used state-level data on mask wearing policy for the general public and on proportion of residents who stated they always wear masks in public. For all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC), these data were abstracted by month for April – September 2020 to measure their impact on COVID-19 rates in the subsequent month (May – October 2020). Monthly COVID-19 case rates (number of cases per capita over two weeks) >200 per 100,000 residents were considered high. Fourteen of the 15 states with no mask wearing policy for the general public through September reported a high COVID-19 rate. Of

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