



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

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Date: 10/26/20

To: Great Falls Public Library Board

From: Jeremy Jones, Fire Chief

Re: Governors mandate on covid

The subject of social distancing and mask usage has unfortunately become a political topic that has been lost in all of the minutia of this pandemic. I will not attempt to sway your personal preferences about this particular topic, but I will provide some data from a department head point of view.

We implemented mask usage in our department even before the governors' mandate and have adjusted our operating protocols to accommodate his directive in our workplace. Social distancing and wearing masks has had a significant reduction in our sick leave usage from both normal sickness and direct covid exposures. Without an aggressive policy in the fire department, we would not have been able to maintain a workforce to protect the citizens of this community. With all of the information that is available to the masses, one must use a reliable **scientific** method in determining the best practices in making sure all of us remain as safe as possible during this pandemic.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Jeremy M. Jones, Fire Chief
Great Falls Fire Rescue