



why wearing a mask is important to me

Mindy Sterner Leach 

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Hi,

I was asked to write in support of the Great Falls Public Library and their mask wearing policy. I am a healthcare provider in Great Falls. Our practice was not closed down but considered essential last spring. I felt at that time and still do, as I am practicing my profession, that science needs to rule in the mask debate. Masks decrease the spread of this virus because it is airborne, from viral particles released by our respiratory system. Our healthcare system is overloaded with COVID cases. The last I heard, Benefis was at 113% capacity. I guess they could set up a field hospital at the soccer park....but in this weather, that sounds ridiculous. What anti-maskers don't seem to get, is that part of the reason to wear a mask is to slow the spread so that our healthcare system does not become overwhelmed.

I totally support the Great Falls Public Library. I believe in literacy and science. I believe in wearing a mask to slow the spread of COVID. If the library capitulates on this unreasonable demand....then what is next? Will you ban books if a group demands it, like the Harry Potter series, or others? I finally joined a book club when the book they were reading was one that a local High School was asked to ban. People make unreasonable requests but we don't have to cave in. Please come down on the right side of this.

I would avoid the library if this issue is not carried out correctly.

Dr. Mindy Leach

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