

## Communications

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**From:** Sanford Alexander <sjalexander3@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2020 8:21 PM  
**To:** Meitzner, Pete  
**Cc:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Comments on mask issue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Members of the County Commission and City Council,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who has many years of experience in the disability and rehabilitation arena. I served over 20 years on the Access Advisory Board and 6 years on the Transit Advisory Board. I was one of the principle authors of the Audible Pedestrian Signal (APS) policy, adopted in 2010 by both the City and County. I have a career in rehabilitation that spans almost 52 years. It is with this perspective that I share some concerns regarding unintended consequences looming on the horizon as a result of the mask orders coming from the Governor, the County Commission and the City Council. In trying to keep my remarks as brief as possible, I will address both bodies in this document.

Order 20-52 is riddled with questionable aspects and is clearly unconstitutional in a number of places. The effort the County Commissioner rendered last Thursday did little to clarify the situation. Not to be outdone, the City Council took confusion and elevated it into chaos. The net result is a populace that has been frightened to a frenzy and taken to the brink of doom. Many who were beginning to think life was returning to normal have been pushed to the edge of despair. On the face of it, a virus, the most intelligent which has ever landed on the planet Earth, has threatened our way of life and endangered our children in a way we could never have dreamed possible.

On 6/19/2020 Sedgwick County reported 846 cases with 523 recoveries and 25 deaths. On 6/26/2020 1026 cases with 633 recoveries and 28 deaths was reported. On 7/7/2020 1652 cases with 767 recoveries and 28 deaths was reported.

The number of cases has increased but over the past 11 days no new deaths were reported with the number from 6/26/2020 being 28. The number of cases has increased but the death rate has flattened, reducing the mortality rate. This is notable when we consider the following: the death count in Kansas today is 280, compared to Sedgwick County's 28. So, Sedgwick County reports 10% of the state's total deaths. Compare this with Johnson County, with a population of 591,178,, approximately the same size, reports 90 deaths or 32%, over 3 times the rate in Sedgwick County.

I am not minimizing the importance of the fact that anyone has died but must point out that the risk in our County is much lower than in the KC area. This is important when we consider that a tremendous amount of long-term damage is being spawned as we try to keep things safe. The psychological damage being generated among our children will reap negative results for years to come. The physical harm caused in the general population as a result of breathing issues that will be created will cause more damage than we are seeing from the virus. Depression and suicide will leave lasting marks on our society. Interpersonal hostilities and aggressive behavior leading to uncivil, destructive interactions will cost us more than has the virus.

Commissioner Howell rightly pointed to the concerns regarding the unintended consequences because of the impact of the orders on the disabled community. Actually, there are two areas over which to be concerned. The first is that exemptions contained in the state order and reflected in varying degrees in the County and City orders rest on a person's being able to cite a medical condition, physical disability or psychological condition. Many of these elements

will not be visible or obvious and all of them are protected by HIPAA, ADA or both. All of the documents to which the public has been exposed talks about the mask order but fails to mention any of the numerous exemptions.

This leads to the second area of concern. Members of the public who have been whipped into a frenzy regarding the ominous and dire consequences by which they are being threatened. A person not wearing a face covering because of the inability to do so is open to hostile actions or statements from people who see them as not following the rules without understanding that they may have valid reasons for not complying with the mandate. People already vulnerable likely may be confronted by hysterical people who fear that non-compliance will endanger them. None of the signs posted at Towne East talk about exceptions. Not only may a person legitimately not wearing a mask be confronted by a fellow citizen, but merchants in businesses may also demonstrate belligerent behavior, some of which can open them to HIPAA or ADA legal actions. Please don't let this happen in our community.

Another element which is open to serious criticism is the fact that all of the documents include exemptions in legislative or judicial venues. This looks like another case of governing bodies making the rules for the people while exempting themselves from them. Other than the intelligence of the virus to which I mentioned above, there is no differentiation the virus can make in a restaurant, a store, a bus, a courtroom or City Hall. These exemptions don't look like sense but more like privilege.

One last point. I noted that the newspaper stated that a \$2500.00 fine could be levied. I did not find this figure in any of the documents. This looks like a scare tactic being presented to the community in what becomes a "fake news" story. Please take steps to get the press and media lined up with the facts. If you continue down the road on which you have collectively ventured to this point, chaos, confusion, anger and civil unrest will surely be the fruit of your efforts.

Thank you,

Sanford Alexander

## Communications

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**From:** Wendy Letter <wlletter@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Briefing on 7/8/2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Hi,

I just caught the tail end of the meeting where Dr. Minns states that hospitalizations have increased “significantly” as well as community spread has increased “significantly”.

What does that mean? What is significant to one may or may not be significant to another, especially in this context.

WE NEED ACTUAL NUMBERS. WE NEED ACTUAL % INCREASES in order to make sense of what is going on.

If this is a novel virus, aren't ALL of us going to be exposed eventually? Isn't community spread a necessary step on the way to herd immunity, especially since a vaccine does not exist yet?

I am very disappointed with the LACK of professionalism & objective data being given out in these press conferences. We deserve better information than this, especially given the attack on personal liberty we've all witnessed here & across the nation.

Are area hospitals near capacity? What % of beds occupied are covid-related, & what % of those comprise total number of beds?

What % of Sedgwick County has been tested? What % of those are negative? Positive? What comorbidities do those positive cases have? Is each positive test counted as a “new” case or are these tallied per individual only?

The above information is the sort that should be given, WITHOUT using subjective terms like “significantly” which can only contribute to the fear & politics of this pandemic.

I sure hope that's not intentional.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Letter

Wendy 😊

## Communications

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**From:** Elizabeth Mattke <reverend\_0717@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2020 3:27 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Cc:** Jared Mattke  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Tyrant

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Dear Sedgwick County Commissioners,

I will never comply to any executive order set forth by Governor Kelly, and neither should you. This is tyranny, and you know it, especially since it's all based on lies for something that never existed. You no longer have our support for forcing masks since you clearly worship Satan.

Shalum,

Jared and Elizabeth Mattke  
All Rights Reserved  
Without Prejudice  
Without Recourse  
Non-Assumpsit

## Communications

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**From:** Kenneth Sublett <kennethmsublett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Re: No longer an epidemic

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

You better quit being cowards and stop dr minns order...it makes no sense..he keeps moving the goal post...first it was because of deaths...no deaths in two weeks....then it was ICU beds, that was reported today to be down by 5...so now its how many people are in the hospital. Thus is ridiculous. Masks were never an issue until this month. Why. Minns himself admitted last week as long as you are social distancing and washing hands masks had no added benefit. If anything should be mandated it should be social distancing not masks. What about the actual sedgwick county hospital numbers? Is he differentiating between those actually from sedgwick county and those from other counties seei gs how wichita hospital s are regional hospitals meaning not everyone in wichita hospitals are from this area? Get it straight and stop this madness.

On Tue, Jul 7, 2020, 15:54 Kenneth Sublett <[kennethmsublett@gmail.com](mailto:kennethmsublett@gmail.com)> wrote:  
<https://bit.ly/2ZbAUEp>

Look at the data. Not the emotions....  
Stol with the panic porn.

## Communications

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**From:** Val Creswell <valcreswell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) We should absolutely support mandatory masks

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Good morning,

As an Infectious Disease specialist who lives in this community, I have watched in utter disbelief as most Commissioners continue to ignore science and believe that they have more knowledge and expertise about this pandemic than the multitude of medical experts who have made recommendations to mediate the effects of this pandemic on our community. Some of you have shown at best ignorance and at worst blatant disregard for the guidelines. Enough is enough, it is time for you to support public health in this county and follow the recommendations that Governor Laura Kelly and Garold Minns MD have repeatedly made to protect the lives of our neighbors and allow for our communities to slowly and carefully open up again.

Be leaders or at least be supportive of those who know the data, follow the science and are willing to make tough decisions.

Practice the 3 Ws-  
Wash your hands  
Wear a mask  
Walk away(socially distance)

Thank you, Commissioner Lacey Cruse for listening to the science and supporting our medical community.

Val Creswell MD

## Communications

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**From:** JANICE M AUGUSTINE <msgaugustine@prodigy.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2020 1:09 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) 3rd District Commissioner David Dennis

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Dear Commissioner Dennis:

Not sure why you did not support the governor mask mandate. This show lack of leadership on your part. The health and well being of the people you represent should not give in to pressure of untested theories persosed by non qualified people. We will all get back to work when it safe to do so. Stay safe!

Gary Augustine  
316-706-8847

## Communications

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**From:** Michelle L. May <mlmay0114@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Reopening schools  
**Attachments:** icon.png

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

Good morning,

I am an educator in Derby. I am very concerned about the push to reopen in-person learning, with the surge in COVID-19 community spread.

I urge you to recommend that our schools begin this year virtually. Despite loosening restrictions way too early, and not upholding a mask ordinance until the Health Department stepped in, you still have the opportunity to act in the interests of public health and safety, instead of engaging in partisan politics.

I am high risk, as are many of my coworkers, and many other staff and students across our state. I know that some of us will have the opportunity to work remotely. I also know that social distancing guidelines and hand hygiene guidelines are in place. However, I guarantee those suggestions will be next to impossible to implement, as anyone who has spent time in a crowded school building knows. Knowing that, I can also tell you that otherwise perfectly healthy teachers, staff, and students are likely to get sick and possibly die. Why would we risk that, when we don't have to?

For the sake of our staff, students, and communities, we need to utilize remote learning until COVID cases show a significant downward trend. We realize it's not an ideal way to teach or learn, and we desperately want to be with our students. However, we shouldn't be asked to risk our lives to do so.

Schools are not in place to serve as a daycare. If the primary reasons for going back to school in the middle of a pandemic are that kids need to eat, be away from abusive parents, need mental health care, need to make sure they are receiving their meds, etc, it's time to fix the systemic problems in our communities, instead of continuing to put those problems on the backs of the education system.

Other counties in hot spots around the country have committed to beginning the school year virtually. The question we should be asking is not "HOW can we open schools safely during a pandemic?" We should be asking "WHY are we considering opening schools in the middle of a pandemic, when we have other options?"

Thank you for your time.

Michelle May  
Derby



### Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to [communications@sedgwick.gov](mailto:communications@sedgwick.gov) because the address couldn't be found, or is unable to receive mail.

The response from the remote server was:

550 5.1.1 User Unknown

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Michelle L. May" <[mlmay0114@gmail.com](mailto:mlmay0114@gmail.com)>

To: [communications@sedgwick.gov](mailto:communications@sedgwick.gov)

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 14 Jul 2020 11:10:19 -0500

Subject: Reopening schools

----- Message truncated -----

## Communications

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**From:** Jan Swartzendruber <janinkansas2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) WE WANT MASKS! 130-plus Kansans sign local petition supporting Dr. Minns' mask order

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

For reading at the meeting at the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 9:00 am

To the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners:

On behalf of over 130 signers, mostly in Sedgwick county, Jan Swartzendruber, residing at 1422 N. Woodrow Ave., Wichita, presents a petition titled, "**Tell local leaders: Mandate masks for public health!**"

The text of the petition states:

"We ask you as Sedgwick County's elected leaders to show that you hold our lives sacred by joining the fight against the killer disease, COVID-19, and mandating mask-wearing in public. We want you to:

1. plan a creative and effective educational campaign to convince the public that we can protect each other and slow spread of the virus by mask wearing;
2. offer free masks to unintentional violators;
3. give citizens a channel to assist and educate non-wearers, not a reporting system to "turn them in"; and (
4. offer willful violators a choice of either paying a fine or assisting in the public education effort."

**In other words, the petitioners are asking the Board of Commissioners to creatively implement the mask order issued by Public Health Officer Dr. Garold Minns last week.**

**Jan writes that she started this internet-based petition on July 3 as a way for people in Sedgwick County to join their voices and bring their needs to your attention!**

"We as citizens are tempted to believe that our opinions somehow get mystically communicated to our locally-elected officials. But the reality is that each of our county commissioners is tuned in to hear slightly different advocates. While you may think that most of your constituents believe X" you may have been prioritizing some voices over others who believe Y.

"Much of America is suffering for lack of nationally-supported, science-based leadership to defeat this novel coronavirus. We should have had massively more COVID-19 test capacity months ago in order to test millions of Americans daily and quickly learn the results. This could have triggered contact-tracing and isolating only those who were exposed.

"Since we didn't have that capacity, the only alternative was general lock-down. Now we have learned that without mandatory stay-home orders, cases of COVID-19 will continue rising. Given that our testing and

contacting tracing ability is still limited, mask wearing is the one immediate, simple step we can take against this virus."

The Rationale for the petition request states:

## **"Why is this important?"**

"COVID-19 is a new virus that researchers are working to understand. Worldwide records show that **this virus spreads much more easily than seasonal flu and kills people at all ages more often than the flu.** You are **exposed when you're close enough to inhale droplets from an infected person,** and once infected, you may not feel sick or have any symptoms. **Getting a test isn't as quick and simple as it should be.** COVID-19 often kills by causing an extreme inflammatory response that waterlogs the lungs. A sick person fighting for air may need to be sedated and connected to a respirator, which requires constant care by a team of providers for days -- or weeks. **Most of us will contract the virus before 2021, when a vaccine will hopefully be available.** To **slow the spread, lower the demand for hospital beds, and give our medical heroes some rest,** we ask that you mandate mask wearing in public now! We will all be happier taking this simple step to protect our neighbors from the virus we might unknowingly have."

On the attached pdf, "Mandate Masks Signers - July 14," you can *read names and Zip Codes* of **people who saw this petition via email or social media and took time to sign.**

*To read their comments,* you must open the GOOGLE SPREADSHEET at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cwWCd2WqHFD2Jo2w22EuNo3rE3p-FMLnoSar7Xk2nIE/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you! Please call or email with any questions.

## **Jan Swartzendruber**

Editor, Building Bridges e-letter (Subscribe [here](#))

Owner, Serifim: Communications for Good Causes

[www.serifimcomm.com](http://www.serifimcomm.com)

620-951-4078 (cell)

1422 N. Woodrow Ave., Wichita KS 67203

## Communications

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**From:** martharn1969 <martharn1969@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL) Covid/Mask Mandates

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Sedgwick County Division of Information and Technology

What is being done to enforce the mask madate?

We need to find a way to hold businesses accountable when they do not require customers to follow the city/county mandates. They should be held accountable by their perspective licensing bodies (liquor/food).

There needs to be a group of employees who will oversee compliance and respond to complaints, perhaps even mystery shop.

Any complaints should have follow up provided to the person filing the complaint.

Some local businesses not enforcing code:

Wal Mart (many)

O'Malley's on 31st St So

Dollar General (many)

Delano BBQ

Let's hold adults accountable before its too late.

Martha Slack

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## **BOCC MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**7/15/20**

These are questions and comments received through the County website and through the Strategic Communications email.

**Name:**

Angela Royer

**Contact Information:**

Angelaroper24@yahoo.com

**Received By:**

This comment was received through the online form on the County website.

**Subject:**

**Transferring tag**

**Comment:**

Is there anyway I can transfer a tag to another vehicle online ?

**Name:**

Jan Hong

**Contact Information:**

jjshong@gmail.com

**Received By:**

This comment was received through the online form on the County website.

**Subject:****Hospital Protocol for planning for Covid****Comment:**

1) How did the 3 main hospitals in our area plan for the Covid surge that we knew would happen after opening up? We would like know the details of how they planned ahead. Did they add more ICU beds? Do they have a plan in place to ask the Federal government for traveling nurses, maybe Army etc? 2) What is the percentage of hospitalizations that is coming from nursing homes? Please add this to the dashboard (or at least age groups of hospitalizations. 3) How are businesses being asked to accept exemptions on the mask ordinance? Are they asking people if they are exempt? Are the stating the ordinance and including "unless you are exempt" while stating it to incoming clients?

**Name:**

Jon Shain

**Contact Information:**

bigredshain@gmail.com

**Received By:**

This comment was received through the online form on the County website.

**Subject:**

**Masks**

**Comment:**

The wearing of masks needs to end. It goes completely against the Constitution and you have no authority to make it mandatory for people to wear them all the time. If the people of Wichita were smart we would all refused to wear them. You can't put everyone in jail.

**Name:**

Audrey Koehler

**Contact Information:**

Audreydkoehler@gmail.com

**Received By:**

This comment was received through the online form on the County website.

**Subject:****Requested Change to County Policy Regarding Vehicle Registration****Comment:**

Hello, I am a District 1 resident and recently learned that persons who move to Sedgwick County from another Kansas county must visit the tag office in person to update their address, even though all other major changes can be made online (DMV address update, voter address change, etc.). It is my understanding that this policy is not required by law and I don't understand why this is required in Sedgwick County. Especially in light of Covid, this does not seem to be a particularly efficient or necessary policy. What is the reason for this policy, and could it be altered during this pandemic, or permanently? I emailed the tag office asking for reasoning behind the policy and didn't receive a response. Thank you.

**Name:**

Rachael Weber

**Contact Information:**

wichitapma@gmail.com

**Received By:**

This comment was received through the online form on the County website.

**Subject:**

**Let people choose**

**Comment:**

I run a business in wichita and do not want a shutdown I want the American people to get to choose. If people are afraid to get the virus stay home. We literally live in a society that everything can be delivered to our door step. If you want to wear a mask then wear one. If you don't then don't wear one. I think you guys should just recommend and let the people do what the hell they want. As far as businesses keep us open and let the owners decide that is best do their business. I do not think anyone should get to tell the American people to wear a mask everyone should know what is going on and should be able to make decisions. Yes stupidity is always going to be around but the government can't fix that. Let us choose!!!