



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Q on cloth masks vs face shields

Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 8:55 AM

To: "Carfrae, Alex" <alex.carfrae@idph.iowa.gov>, "Carver-Kimm, Polly" <Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov>

Re-upping this never-answered question from four weeks ago. Why isn't IDPH recommending that all lowans wear face coverings in public at this point? The department's guidance makes it sound like an option for people who feel vulnerable. We know that asymptomatic people who do not feel vulnerable can inadvertently spread COVID-19 and we know that more widespread use of face masks or shields would reduce the spread. Is there some reason Dr. Pedati hasn't strongly encouraged lowans to wear masks, at least in the counties with the highest per capita infection rates?

Also, what is Iowa's current reproduction number, according to the IDPH epidemiological team's best estimate? By some estimates, it is well above 1.0 at this point.

<https://rt.live/us/IA>

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

From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 4:26 PM

Subject: Fwd: Q on cloth masks vs face shields

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Circling back on this, Amy. Interested to know IDPH's reasoning on not recommending face shields as a way to protect the eyes, which are unprotected by cloth masks.

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 1:29 PM

Subject: Q on cloth masks vs face shields

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Hello Amy,

At today's press conference, Dr. Pedati discussed proper use of cloth face coverings. Is there a reason why IDPH's epidemiological team does not recommend face shields? I have not found guidance on that specifically on the IDPH website.

As you may know, some of the University of Iowa's epidemiologists have written that face shields offer superior protection because they cover the eyes, can be easily cleaned and reused, and tend to discourage touching the face.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2765525>

Does the IDPH team or Dr. Pedati have a specific reason for encouraging cloth masks rather than face shields for vulnerable populations? To an outsider it looks like a deliberate snub of advice from University of Iowa experts.

Thanks in advance for any comment or clarification you can provide.

Yours,

Laura

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