



STATEMENT REGARDING THE REINSTATEMENT OF A MASK MANDATE (GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIVE 047)

The Libertarian Party of Nevada stands in staunch opposition to the recent order issued by Governor Sisolak. **This new mask mandate is nothing more than authoritarian health security theater.** It promotes an irrational mindset of fear, it impinges on our individual prerogative of self-determination, and it will accomplish absolutely nothing of value in terms of public health outcomes.

This order is nonsensical from a scientific perspective. While officials can make the argument that masks “work” in some abstract sense, the real-world results from our collective experience since March of 2020 demonstrated that *mask mandates* don’t work to control the spread of this virus. Any objective analysis of the available data shows there is no clear impact from any of these restrictions. Cases, deaths, and hospitalizations all rose and fell with no change in trajectory following these policy changes.

By applying this requirement to all individuals regardless of vaccination status, the state government has implicitly taken the stance that the vaccine is not effective. If they had confidence in the ability of these vaccines to protect individuals, there would be no need to require *anyone* to wear a mask - since everyone would have the option to protect themselves. This policy change undermines every previous effort on the part of the state to promote vaccines as the path out of the pandemic.

This invasive masking requirement was misguided the first time it was instituted in 2020. In 2021, it is unjustifiable. By now, all of us understand the risks of this virus, and those who are vulnerable have had ample time to make lifestyle adjustments to minimize their risk of exposure. The hard fact of the matter is that this virus is likely to be endemic, and there is no policy prescription by which government officials can control it. It is only their hubris and dictatorial impulses that lead them to think they can.

We at the Libertarian Party are unequivocally opposed to this mask mandate, as well as any form of vaccine requirement or vaccine passport. We believe that Nevadans are capable of assessing the risks of this virus and making their own medical decisions *without* coercion or manipulation by their elected officials and by unelected bureaucrats.

We call upon the people of Nevada to reject this mandate. *Widespread non-compliance and civil disobedience is the only path forward.* If you are in a position to refuse this mandate, we encourage you to do so.

In Solidarity,

The Libertarian Party of Nevada