

## Bristol Town Administrator

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**From:** Maura Donnelly <info@simonsaysvt.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:33 PM  
**To:** bdysense@comcast.net; peeker@gmavt.net; joelbouvier@yahoo.com; ianalbinson+sb@gmail.com; heydarla712@gmail.com; Bristol Town Administrator  
**Subject:** Re: Masks in Bristol

Hi all

Resending because I have the town administrator email wrong. Apologies Valerie.

Thanks

Maura

On Sun, Jul 12, 2020 at 1:25 PM Maura Donnelly <[info@simonsaysvt.com](mailto:info@simonsaysvt.com)> wrote:

Dear Bristol Selectboard

I own Simon Says on Main St. I am writing to you today to ask the selectboard to issue a mandate that masks be worn in all indoor spaces. I require masks in my store and have a sign stating this. I have free masks on offer in my store in case someone forgets their mask. I also ask folks to take a squirt of hand sanitizer before coming into the store. We also continue to offer curbside pick-up and local delivery for those not comfortable coming into the shop. We reopened on 6/22 and until yesterday, everyone was compliant.

Yesterday afternoon two teenagers were working on their own in the store when a customer came in and refused to wear a mask. When she was told she had to wear a mask, she said it made her "uncomfortable" and that she "didn't agree with wearing a mask." They told her these were the store rules and she left saying that if she had to wear a mask she wouldn't shop there. It is, of course, her right not to shop in the store and the two young people who were working in the store handled the situation beautifully. The customer was rude and somewhat confrontational with my employees and also made an unfortunate remark to them concerning the BLM sign in our store window.

It seems to me that most shops on Main St (if not all) are requiring customers to wear a mask. That being said, one more than one occasion I have witnessed people reading a sign requiring masks and disregarding it by entering into a store without one or complaining loudly at the Creemee Stand about the mask requirement. It is one thing for store owners to step up and enforce a mask requirement in their business and possibly lose business because of it. It is another for the young people in our community who are working, many in their first job, to have be in the uncomfortable and unsafe position of enforcing a mask requirement with a potentially confrontational adult. If Bristol were to mandate masks in all indoor spaces, this would give business owners and their employees the clout and confidence to enforce the requirement, which is there for everyone's safety. It would normalize the wearing of masks in public spaces in the village and make note of the continued seriousness of the COVID pandemic that we in VT have been lucky and smart enough to minimize.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

All the best,

Maura Donnelly  
Simon Says: a general store for kids & families  
12 Main St

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802 453-6945  
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