**From:** esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
**To:** "Andrew Celwyn"; Brownie W. Newman
**Cc:** "Brad Branham"; "Debra Campbell"; Fletcher Tove
**Subject:** RE: Suggestion for policy re: stores opening & masks
**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2020 10:48:21 AM

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Andrew – The question of requiring masks has come up several times now. I just got off a call with NC mayors and still the only city in NC requiring people to wear masks is Durham and that's be cause they have the highest per capita rate of COVID 19 in the state.

**But, to answer your question about individual businesses, yes, they are definitely allowed to require mask wearing and many are already. The County may want to make this clear at their next briefing, or when we move to Phase 2, good idea.**

**Esther Manheimer**
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**From:** Andrew Celwyn <andrew@herbiary.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:37 AM
**To:** Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>; Brownie W. Newman <brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>
**Subject:** Suggestion for policy re: stores opening & masks

Good morning Esther & Brownie,

I can't imagine how much you have to tackle behind the scenes to keep things going at the city & county level. Thank you for efforts both seen and unseen during this incredibly difficult time.

Many have been asking for the City/County to make masks mandatory for anyone in public or going into establishments. I know you're both also facing pressure from people who want to reopen faster and people who feel the government is overreaching by asking people to wear masks.

While I'd prefer that the County or the City have a mandatory mask/face covering policy for going into stores, I know that it is probably not what everyone will agree to.

Would you consider a policy letting store owners dictate their own policy and having the weight of the City & County behind them to determine what is best for them? In other words, store owners can require masks/coverings for their customers and have the weight of the local government behind them. Even having the County put out a specific notice that shops have the option to put in their windows requiring a mask would be helpful (we are already using the Employee Screening Daily Log put out by the County).

FWIW, I'm not opening my shop anytime soon. It's a small space and I value my workers too much to expose them to what is still a growing crisis.

Hope both of your families are well. Again, thank you for your work for our community.

-Andrew