August 3, 2020

What the Medical Exemption Says About Masks

Consider the medical exemption for face masks. The fact that there is a medical exemption means breathing through a mask is not like breathing without a mask. A piece of fabric between you and your lungs makes it harder to breathe. It also means that even if you don’t have a medical condition, you are not breathing as well behind a mask.

But people with medical exemptions face harassment. Someone contacted our office saying he wasn’t allowed to buy groceries until the manager got involved. The clerk at the check-out counter was insisting he wear a mask or show proof of his exemption.

As Americans, this strident citizen enforcement of government dictates is perhaps more frightening than the coronavirus, which will go away. The uptick in government power because of the virus, and citizen acquiescence to that power, may not.