

## **East Millstone Yard Sale**

I've been asked to comment on the East Millstone Yard Sale. I spent 2 days thinking about it and a day writing and rewriting my opinion. It was 2 ½ pages long including two graphs. My opinion was less opinion than information so you could make your own decision. I was waiting a few hours to make sure that was what I wanted to say when The Governor made the announcement that he was signing an executive order requiring the use of masks when people are outside and cannot socially distance.

I explained that recent research had shown masks useful in preventing the spread of the virus. I related that health care workers at my hospital who had direct contact with COVID patients had a very low infection rate because they wore masks.

In my original opinion about the yard sale I had criticized the Governor for not having taken this step. I had stated that it was my opinion that masks, while not perfect are very effective at preventing the spread of the virus. I further felt that the mandatory use of masks could allow us to open up more of our society.

His announcement made that original writing worthless.

The organizers of the East Millstone Yard Sale have stated they want people to wear masks, much as the Governor has instructed and to properly social distance. My concern was that unless masks were a requirement many people would ignore their request. They may still do so but now they will be breaking the law. I therefore am more hopeful that people will properly socially distance and wear masks.

I need to be true to my beliefs. While I do not encourage large gatherings, I believe if people wear masks and socially distance, the East Millstone Yard Sale can be done with relative low risk.