

<http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/abrams-contact>

Public Health Committee

Informational Hearing on the Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Please be sure to plan and set goals for removing masks in schools.

February 7, 2022

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Gabriele. I am a resident of North Haven where I serve on the Board of Education. I am writing to you as a private citizen, though, not on behalf of the Board. While personally I am a mom of 2 professionally I work with public health data daily. The past two years have been challenging for everyone, especially our children. They have had to show flexibility and resilience when it comes to learning, socializing, and staying safe. As the Omicron variant fades sharply, I understand that there will be a strong push to get the school environments back to their pre-pandemic standards - especially when it comes to masking and distancing. I would also like a return to normalcy, but with a few caveats.

- 1) Case rates are closely monitored with goals in place based on metrics
- 2) Testing continues within schools on a voluntary basis
- 3) A plan is in place to reinstate masking and distancing requirements should conditions change.

For example - masks and distancing can go with a Per 100K people rate of under 30 and a Positivity Rate less than 5%. Setting metrics such as these will allow districts and the public to plan and have a consistent playbook, as opposed to the patchwork we saw at the beginning of the pandemic that caused many contentious debates.

I am firmly of the opinion that this decision take place at the state level. Local Boards of Education are under fire as it is and should not be a battleground for public health issues. Making this decision at the state level will ensure consistency and equity across the state. I hope you agree with this testimony and consider this.

Thank you for your time,
Amanda Gabriele
18 Renee Lane
North Haven, CT 06473

Connecticut Vaccination Rate: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-tracker>
Connecticut Covid Rates & Forecast:
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/map/connecticut>

