

Good Morning All,

I am a West Haven mom of two.

I write this email with a heavy heart at the thought of our children wearing masks in the classroom. Wearing masks is not beneficial and creates many issues for our growing children.

For starters, wearing masks creates learning and teaching obstacles. As masks muffle noise, it makes it difficult for children to hear the lesson or instructions given. It's very hard for the children learning to read to hear the sounds letters make. Also, It inhibits the children from seeing the movement of the teachers mouth and they cannot fully see how to annunciate words properly. Masks are put children at a severe learning disadvantage. In addition, masks are a distraction. Many children play with them, and it inhibits their ability to focus.

In children that contract Covid-19 there is 99.8% recovery rate. Particles can still penetrate through cloth masks. Children can't help but touch their masks and then proceed to touch other objects and spread germs. Wearing cloth masks is ineffective against the spread.

If people can sit at restaurant tables unmasked, then why can't our children sitting at their desks be unmasked?

Socially our children are being isolated. They are being robbed of the warmth of a smile, a reassuring look, unable to read facial expressions and cues. We are damaging their ability to interact by handicapping their senses as we put them behind a barrier of a mask. This is affecting their ability to interpret camaraderie and unity.

My grade school age son has told me repeatedly how hard it is to breathe especially in gym class or at recess while wearing a mask. It breaks my heart to hear statements like that coming from my child. Their voices need to be heard, as it is an additional stressor on them that they do not need.

Please consider the long-term psychological effects this is having on our children.

Sincerely ,
Concerned Mom
Cori Powers
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