

I write in support of extending the mandate for wearing masks in our schools and around town. Only CT public health officials should determine when masks are no longer required. It is a matter of respect for our school's teachers and staff, but perhaps more important, respect for our healthcare workers. Our hospitals are clogged with anti-maskers/anti-vaxxers, which has led to skeleton crews of overworked, exhausted staff. Anti-masking shows disrespect for accident victims and those with critical diseases such as heart attacks and strokes. Even if a bed is available, who will be available to treat these patients in timely fashion? And surely the best of us make mistakes when we are exhausted.

People ask, "where is the data that masks work?" The real question is, "where is the data that they do not?" Afterall, masking and handwashing are foundational principals of infection control ever since bacteria and viruses were discovered to be sources of disease.

Wearing masks is a minor inconvenience relative to the centuries-old mountain of data that they are effective. Wearing masks shows respect for those in whom we entrust our children and our lives.

Sincerely,
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