

Connecticut Public Health Committee

February 8, 2022

Dear Legislators,

We are writing on behalf of our three children ages 6, 4 and 4 months. Our children have not known a normal school day in TWO years.

It is now YOUR duty to prove that these soiled bacteria laden rags two of my children breath into for 30+ hours per week actually do prevent community transmission in a truly significant way through a multitude of peer reviewed studies to even attempt to continue these illogical EOs and mandates. The fact that parents are pleading with you to return basic rights relating to our own children back to us reflects just how far gone all of this is. Parents should always trump politics. Children are PEOPLE to be PRIORITIZED not to be profited from.

"...school should go back to normal for everybody. Like 2019 normal. Stop the quarantine, stop the silent lunches, stop making kids eat out in the cold. It's no necessary and it's doing a lot of harm." (Dr. Kristen Walsh, Pediatrician)

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends against masking children ages 5 and younger, because this age group is at low risk of illness, because masks are not in the overall interest of the child, and because children are simply unable to wear masks properly. For children ages 6 to 11, the WHO does not routinely recommend masks, because of the "potential impact of wearing a mask on learning and psychosocial development." The WHO also explicitly advises against masking children during physical activities, including running and jumping at the playground, so as not to compromise breathing. A far cry from the masked indoor gym classes (even when it is 80°F outdoors) our 6 year old has had to endure.

There are arguments against ending the mandates, sure, but the most common of those are a simple answer away if you remove the incentive of federal money in return.

"We're in a state of emergency!" If stadiums with 10s of 1000s of people gather, restaurants and bars have been packed for months upon months, we are not. Can kids sit at restaurant tables instead of desks since Covid disappears there? End the emergency orders. End mask mandates.

"Kids are resilient." No, they are not. Therapists will always be employed as a result of childhood trauma. Adults say this to make ourselves feel better. Psychologists are very concerned with ramifications of the ongoing measures. <http://www.drchloe.com/blog/psychologists-perspective-on-masks-and-children>

"My kid doesn't mind wearing them." Great, your kid, your choice. Mine and many others' kids do.

"Surgeons wear them for many hours and are fine." Toddlers, school age children are not highly trained Adult medical experts who are well paid to do so. Crazy that I have to point that out.

“Masking: Your body, Government choice. Reproduction: My body, My choice.” Huh? For the record, government should have no say in either.

“Masks make me and some others feel safe.” No one wants to stop you or your family from one way masking if you choose to. Knock yourself out. I guarantee you my 4 year old’s old navy mask that’s been touched 45 times within the first hour of the day is not “protecting” anyone.

“Democracy is the government of the people, for the people, by the people” NOT an oligarchy. Children are PEOPLE to be PRIORITIZED not to be profited from.

Our 4 year old has now spent nearly half of her life in a mask under the guise of “protecting others.” Half of her LIFE masked. Despite not being sick, she has been made to believe that she herself is a carrier of disease who will cause harm on her friends and teachers if her nose and mouth are not covered. This little girl, who was able to assist with her older sister's preschool work at age 2, her speech and pronunciation and what can only be described as rage when asked to repeat herself at home because she has to do it SO much as school. A school she was asked to leave school for the day due to “failure to follow Covid protocols” due to her pulling her mask down to use a tissue and wash hands. 4 years old.

Our 6 year old had her last year of preschool stunted in March 2020, only to begin Kindergarten virtual, then hybrid and now in 1st grade with no change in the masking. If anything, school has become more mask-crazed than ever before, despite the overwhelming information that children are NOT at any severe risk. She is being held to the same standards of the 1st graders of 2019 despite the extreme learning loss. She says she’s stupid because her teacher can never hear her answers and she hates school. She is only now beginning to being able read and write as a result of the very much needed private tutor (maskless) we are fortunate enough to be able to hire. These are the years where children are meant to develop a love of learning, not the opposite.

Anecdotally, our 4 month old was recently examined at the pediatrician's office ...except it was in the parking lot, being held through the car window in the middle of January... all a result of the fear that is being jammed down the public's throats.

"Children are THE most-masked people in [CT], and clearly the people least needing to be masked."

Policymakers like yourselves “who, when it comes to Covid, are almost always governors, public-health officials, or public school administrators, rather than representative [legislators](#)—suggest that children are resilient, that whatever doesn’t kill them will make them stronger. The truth is almost surely the opposite. Being taught to cower in the face of Covid, while being told not to show one’s own face or interact with the faces of others, is not making these kids stronger. It is not making them more socially adept. It is stunting their growth, stifling their potential, and sapping their happiness.

Young children need to see human faces in order to connect with others and develop fully and normally. Adolescents often wrestle with adopting facial expressions that are both natural and appropriate, a challenge certainly not made easier by being delayed by years of faceless interaction. Children of all ages [need to see their fellow human beings’ expressions](#) in order to be able to interact richly and wholly. Yet

we are cavalierly denying our children these crucial opportunities for social, emotional, and intellectual engagement—undermining both their happiness and their potential in the process."

<https://www.city-journal.org/school-mask-mandates-are-unnecessary>

"18 months ago it was irresponsible and wrong to say: • Covid is similar to the flu • Many people hospitalized or dying just have positive tests, are not sick from Covid • It's most important to protect the vulnerable.

Omicron is different. Now, that's basically correct. Covid is adapting to us, we need to adapt."

-Former CDC Director Tom Frieden, January 7, 2022

We now can and must adapt. End government masking mandates now. Our children deserve so much better.

Respectfully,

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