

I'm writing to you as a concerned parent in the town of Stratford. Our Governor, Ned Lamont, is looking to continue to mandate masks in our schools on February 15th when his executive powers are set to expire. I want to share my position on masks and want to urge that each and every parent should have their parental rights restored to them by allowing the parents to decide whether or not to send their children to daycare or school in a mask.

All adults have had the opportunity to receive 3 doses of a vaccine and have the option to continue wearing a mask if they so choose. Students ages 5 and older are also eligible for vaccines if their parents so choose to vaccinate them. There have also been studies and data that has shown that cloth masks do not work in stopping the spread of an aerosolized virus.

There have also been multiple studies that suggest that there is not enough of a statistical difference in outcomes in masked groups versus unmasked groups. So if there is not enough data or the statistical difference in masking vs non-masking is insignificant, why are we continuing to push for masks for all? Why haven't we treated influenza with such measures? 5 Children have died in total in the state of Connecticut from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic (one of which didn't die from COVID, but tested positive - the infant was suffocated). The other children had multiple comorbidities. What about hospitalizations? We are seeing an uptick in hospitalizations in pediatrics, but as Dr. Fauci mentioned, that data is not entirely clear because a child may be in the hospital with a broken arm and tests positive for COVID and will be counted as a COVID hospitalization.

In my research, I did look at current pediatric hospitalizations where they tested positive and I looked at our state and then a state like South Carolina where there is no mask mandate in place and hospitalizations seem to be lower. Just on January 24, 2022, the number of pediatric hospitalizations in CT was 46 and in South Carolina was 25. We are one of 13 states who have universal masking of children in schools and only one of six who mask our preschool children in this state. Take a look at the rest of the country. Why aren't we seeing news reports of children dying at alarming rates due to mask choice? We all know why, it's because it's not happening.

Our children are not at risk of developing a severe COVID infection and these mitigation efforts are not solving the problem at hand. Our children are suffering and we have no idea of the long term effects of masking, but what we do know is that children wearing a mask for 7-8 hours a day at school is inconclusive really in stopping the spread of this virus. It sickens me to see politicians inside schools and taking photos without a mask surrounded by children who are totally masked (yes, Stacey Abrams, we are all looking at you). It sickens me to know and see footage of adults having the ability to decide for themselves if they want to go to a concert or a club or bar, fully packed, singing at the top of their lungs and not have a mask on, yet my child is forced to wear one for 7 hours a day and made to sit away from her classmates at lunch. That athletes can play sports on a national level without a mask on, sweating and breathing on one another, but my child can't play on the jungle gym outside without her mask on (therefore she chooses to only play on the blacktop and the swings because she doesn't want to wear a mask while playing outside). Why are we continuing to punish our children? Why aren't we choosing to pay attention to the actual numbers that in fact aren't lying and why aren't we celebrating that children aren't affected by this terrible virus? It should be a win in everyone's book, instead, we are choosing to ignore the data and continuing to mask them, for what? Financial gain?

I am not advocating for a ban on masks, I believe that each parent and family should be able to decide and what I'm fighting for is a return of parental rights. Let us parents who take care of them, raise them, love them, provide for them and want their very best in life determine what is best for our child. I kindly ask that you, State of Connecticut, Governor Ned Lamont, every single representative that voted for the continuation of this state of emergency, and each and every commissioner, director or employee who furthered this abuse to step aside and SIT DOWN.

Thank you

Virginia

Sources:

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