

Dear Oak Harbor School Board and Administrators,

We want to start by recognizing & commending you for your hard work and efforts you have put forth in this unusual school year. It has been a challenging season for everyone, and we know it has come with significant burdens especially for educators and administrators. We applaud the efforts you have made to keep our children safe while still striving to provide quality face-to-face education when in the classroom.

It goes without saying that just over a year ago, we were entering the school year with many unknowns. We were doing our best to make decisions with the information and data we had available, which was minimal at the time. The priority was to get the children back to in-person school and in doing so, to flatten the curve. We congratulate the district for having a vital role in accomplishing that. As we are now eight months into the school year more information has become available. As parents, we continue to ask questions and keep updated on forthcoming and most recent research for the protection and wellbeing of our children.

With just a couple months remaining in the school year, and as we look to September, we ask you to remove the mask mandate in our beloved Oak Harbor schools. Research is proving that the spread is not occurring within elementary schools, and the administration/faculty have now had the opportunity to be vaccinated if that was their desire. As parents, we strongly believe that it is our fundamental right to be able to ask questions, inquire about plans in place, and offer current research for this mandate to be overturned. Conversations have been had between the administration and concerned parents, however, the research and evidence were not considered, as the CDC appears to be the dictating guidelines for our children's health and protections.

At the beginning of the year, no available research was available on the prolonged wear in children and adolescents. Several months later studies have been done indicating the adverse health effects of mask-wearing in children is actually placing them at greater risk of infection than risk of exposure or outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. Current and recent statistics do not justify continued masking in children, and more importantly, masking has proven ineffective as we review a year's worth of data between states and cities that have had mask mandates, lockdowns, etc. versus those that have not. Children are being scarified as part of the experiment.

The virus is real. The narrative is not. Per a study in Germany (references provided below), children who were masked reported 60% increase in irritability, 53% increase in difficult concentrating, 49% less happiness, 44% more reluctance to go to school/ kindergarten, 44% increase in malaise, 42% impaired learning, and 37% increase in drowsiness and/or fatigue. Our children are whole people with minds, souls, emotions, and social needs. They need to stop being viewed as potential virus-spreaders and treated as such. The research supports lifting mandates for masking.

If the direct impacts on the children's health and well-being wasn't enough, let's consider the impact of the curbside drop-offs, masked teachers, distanced seating and

social interactions. Or maybe the soaring cases of abuses, neglect, children's anxiety, depression, panic attempts and record-setting childhood suicides. The microbiomes of children are being destroyed, their immune systems weakened. We are no longer following the science at this point, we are witnessing the collapse in mental health of a generation of children. This so-called cure is exponentially worse than the disease. It's cruel and inhumane. We are no longer content to be complacent, hiding behind CDC guidelines that continue to contradict themselves. As concerned parents, we are highlighting the evidence, because it is time to reevaluate. Although we lack long-term research regarding the negative effects on children from long-term mask wear, we can already see the detrimental effects from the studies that have been done up to this point and the personal experiences shared from our children. It is our duty to look at the evidence-based research, listen to our children, and be their advocate.

The curve has not only flattened, it has nose dived. There is minimal, if any, credible information showing the spread of COVID-19 occurring within elementary schools. Not only that, many Oak Harbor Staff have been vaccinated to date. Our children NEED normalcy. They need to see their teacher's faces. They need to be able to participate in school events, programs, and activities with their parents in the audience. They need to see their classmate's faces. They need to come home without stomachaches and headaches from all day masking.

Please unmask the children. Please stand up for them. What we are asking them to endure is wrong. Hiding behind the excuse that they are "resilient" is not an acceptable response. While children may have "adjusted" or "adapted" that doesn't mean they are thriving. Many of these children have "adapted" simply out of fear of embarrassment or discipline if they don't comply. We are not only considering the evidence-based research in our request we are basing it largely on the personal testimonies of our children and their peers.

We love our Oak Harbor School District. We love our children. We ask that you again entrust the parents with the right to make the choice that is best for their children. Collectively, we know we must do what is in their best interest and we firmly believe another week, month, year of required masking is NOT what is in their best physical, mental, or emotional health. It is our job as parents to advocate for our children and so we implore you to listen to our voices and reevaluate required masking. The science indicates that what is being done is not actually science. It is an overreach of power, an assault of human rights, and a danger to our children. Please remove the mask mandate. The science backs it, and our children deserve it. We understand there are hard decisions to be made. As always, we are available for kind and respectful discussion. As parents of the children being entrusted to your care, we felt led to speak up and share truth. The references are being provided. Please consider taking the time to review the facts, and we thank you for your time in listening to our concerns, and considering removal of the mask mandate on our children. Thank you.

Respectfully,
The Community of Oak Harbor

References:

<https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors.org/legal/masks-the-law>

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1-k0xtg-wOCovH4qH-VaEmlkVqj9iTM9N8vOX3vm0Mc/mobilebasic>