

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Thomas Bolger >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:27 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the Mandates

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Re: End the Mandates

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

It is difficult to quantify the damage perpetrated on our children by the state and local governments as a result of online learning, mask wearing, testing and living in a state of fear and uncertainty. The current environment where kids must test, quarantine and endlessly mask on a massive scale cannot continue and is not viable.

The never-ending state of emergency, by which unelected officials maintain power and mandate policies, and the lack of transparency on science and data on which these policies have been based, have resulted in a massive disruption to our children's lives and education. Pasadena residents, and most especially parents, are tired of being governed by unelected health officials in violation of our constitutional rights to transparency, public participation, and due process. We as parents would like to decide what is best for our children's health and safety.

The Emergency Services Act states that an emergency can be declared when there exists "extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state." The act also states that the government must terminate the state of emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. A state of emergency cannot be indefinite.

Mayor Gordo and City Council, you are the officials elected by the people and we ask that you start to question this state of emergency and the decisions being made by the leaders that hold the powers under this order. You are the voice for We the People and we are questioning orders that defy science and facts and logic and do more harm than good. This is the first time in history where we have used children to protect adults. It is time for us as adults to now let go of the fear and look at the truth and start standing up for and protecting our children. Not from the sniffles, but from policies that keep them out of school, derail their development and learning and damage their mental health.

**WE CALL FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

1 - We urge an immediate end to this perpetual state of emergency.

2 - We urge that children, our least vulnerable group, have all restrictions removed for them. No more mandatory masking, no more testing, let them lead normal lives. The time of them carrying the burden for adults is over.

3 - We urge the removal of mandates for the majority of COVID policies in public including masking, mandatory vaccines and boosters. **THEY SHOULD ALL BE OPTIONAL.** You want to wear a mask - great. You want a booster - go for it. Feb 15 the state mandate lapses - the mandate must end.

4 - We urge PPHD to refocus its efforts where they will do the most good - protecting the vulnerable, and offering therapeutics for people who contract symptomatic COVID.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Bolger

Pasadena, CA 91103 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Christina Baker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:36 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the Mandates

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Sincerely,  
Christina Baker

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Berne evans  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:45 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Stop Depriving Kids of Normalcy

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Re: Stop Depriving Kids of Normalcy

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

In recent days, governments across the US and around the world have rolled back their restrictive Covid 19 mandates. They have done this for a variety of reasons – covid numbers are rapidly declining, scientists are openly questioning the lack of science supporting the efficacy of the mandates - as well as the real-world realization that they just aren't working, and citizens are expressing frustration over the mixed messaging and outrage after witnessing the toll mandates have taken on our communities and especially our children.

On Monday, Governor Newsom announced the end of indoor mask mandates in California as of February 15th. That is, of course, except for children, who must continue to wear masks in school and day care, all day, every day, likely indefinitely. School children and masking are not even part of the discussion when it comes to ending these harmful mandates. This is outrageous for so many reasons but mainly because the LEAST at risk population are being forced to protect anxious adults and they are suffering immeasurably for it. The United States is uniquely aggressive in masking children as young as 2 years old, against the recommendation of the WHO. According to Vinay Prasad, oncologist at UCSF, Jonathan Darrow of Harvard University and Ian Liu of the University of Colorado, "We are well past the emergency phase of this pandemic, and it should be well-known by now that wearing cloth face coverings or surgical masks, universal or otherwise, has a very minor role to play in preventing person-to-person transmission. It is time to stop overselling their efficacy and unrealistic expectations about their ability to end the pandemic."

The argument that students must wear masks all day at school seems to be that they must protect teachers and vulnerable people in their homes. With vaccinations available to teachers and those vulnerable relatives, why do students need to wear masks? We have made this unforgivable decision to shift the anxieties of adults onto the youngest members of society that count on us to defend their interests before our own. Kids don't protect adults! Vaccines and masks protect the individual that chooses to take and wear them. We can no longer place the burden of protecting the vulnerable on our children. They have suffered enough. NO one needs "normal" more than children. We have deprived kids so much already these last two years, and it is time to stop restricting their ability to achieve normalcy when COVID is now on par with the flu in terms of risk to kids.

Sincerely,  
Berne evans

Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Kristin Harrison  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:02 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the Mandates

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Re: End the Mandates

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

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4 - We urge PPHD to refocus its efforts where they will do the most good - protecting the vulnerable, and offering therapeutics for people who contract symptomatic COVID.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Harrison

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Kirsten Clougherty  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:56 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the State of Emergency in Pasadena

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Re: End the State of Emergency in Pasadena

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Pasadena and Los Angeles County children are the most masked and mandated children in America, yet we now know kids are the least affected from COVID-19. It is concerning that we have data showing COVID-19 is not impacting children, yet our children statistically have paid the highest price, and still do. So far, our track record of keeping kids less impacted from strict measures is nowhere near stellar here in California. After almost two years of COVID taking over our lives, we now know children still have not regained their learning loss from previous school closures, cases of mental health problems are skyrocketing, suicide attempts have risen by 51% according to the CDC, and sadly, many schools still have not returned to normal. It is time to end the never-ending state of emergency.

The newest post surge masking requirements do not get our kids closer to what we all consider a normal return to school like we all remember; running, playing, learning and eating without concern for the latest variant or the newest mandated mask variety. The lack of transparency on science and data on which these policies have been based, have resulted in a massive disruption to our children's lives and education. Masking kids needs to end on February 15th when the state order expires.

We are not distributing the risks of mandates and protocols fairly by having kids in stifling surgical masks, quarantining at home for close contacts for days on end, and going beyond CDC recommendations for COVID protocols like masking during outdoor playtime. Even more concerning is that we will soon have the Super Bowl here in LA while kids face even stricter protocols than any child in the nation. If LA County can hold the Super Bowl, there is no state of emergency. Period.

It is time to return to the normal we all once knew and take kids into consideration and start treating them as growing human beings with the ability to reach appropriate developmental milestones without having to overcome more unnecessary obstacles. There are many kids around this country, and the entire world, who do not face the type of archaic policies of masks and quarantine in which our children continue to be entrenched. Let's move beyond the COVID cases in our dashboard and begin treating our kids who remain in crisis by recognizing their needs first and foremost by getting them back to normal. Public health does not let one group fail to support another.

Sincerely,  
Kirsten Clougherty

Pasadena, CA 91107 Constituent



## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Trevecca Terrile  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:16 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Emergency Services Act and Kids

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Re: Emergency Services Act and Kids

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

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Sincerely,  
Trevessa Terrile

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Tanya Pitre  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End Mask Mandates, Asymptomatic Testing and Close-Contact Quarantining for all Pasadena Schools

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Re: End Mask Mandates, Asymptomatic Testing and Close-Contact Quarantining for all Pasadena Schools

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am writing on behalf of my child to ask that the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) follow recent and accurate scientific data and allow our students to return to normalcy without harmful and unnecessary policies like mandatory masking indoors and out, excessive quarantining, and ineffective routine asymptomatic testing. All of these policies have kept thousands of Pasadena students from attending and fully participating in classroom instruction for two years.

The PPHD must stop looking at public health from the singular lens of eliminating COVID-19 cases and weigh the consequences of public health restrictions on healthy innocent children who have suffered immensely as a result of harmful school closures, masking and other needless restrictions.

There is significant evidence that children do not need to wear masks. In fact, the science for masking is underwhelming, inconclusive and unreliable and especially counterproductive when not worn properly. Kids are plainly the least likely to be struck ill by COVID-19 and probably are the least likely to spread it. At the same time, our city has ignored that children living in mask-mandate states have had essentially identical COVID-19 fatality rates as kids living in mask-free states.

With teachers, staff and kids all having had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated, the perceived risk of death, hospitalization and severe illness to school communities has been alleviated. There is now no public health justification for forcing children to wear masks in school. When balanced against the physical, mental and emotional harm that is now becoming evident, it is clear that masks do more harm than good. Studies have found that masks cause anxiety and depressive feelings, and impair a child's social development and ability to communicate. Masks should never be considered the new normal for our children.

PPHD must start following the latest scientific data that shows current requirements for masks, quarantines and testing are outdated and overcautious. PPHD must also weigh the physical, mental and academic harm to students from these policies that unnecessarily deny students their fundamental right to a thriving and proper education.

I am calling on my local elected representative and health agency to discontinue these harmful policies on February 15th when the state indoor mask mandate expires and finally act in the best interest of our children. If we can host the Super Bowl in California, we are no longer in a state of emergency. Please let my child return to normalcy.

Sincerely,  
Tanya Pitre

Pasadena, CA 91105

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Kelley Forgatch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** No More Mandates

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Re: No More Mandates

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Dear Honorable Victor Gordo,

K-12 student mask mandates, asymptomatic testing and close-contact quarantines are now ineffective, unnecessary and damaging to children. These policies must end February 15th when the state indoor mask mandate expires.

The virus is becoming endemic - we have all the tools we need to live with it, and it's clear our local health agency has never understood the significant mental health concerns and loss of learning their over cautious policies have caused-

1 - We urge an immediate end to this perpetual state of emergency.

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Pasadena parents are calling on our local elected representatives and health department to discontinue these harmful policies and act in the interest of what is best for our children.

Sincerely,  
Kelley Forgatch

Sincerely,  
Kelley Forgatch

Pasadena, CA 91107 Constituent

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** James Banta <jm>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:49 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Updates to K-12 Mask Mandates

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Re: Updates to K-12 Mask Mandates

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James Banta

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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**From:** Harper burge  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:58 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** No More Mandates

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Sincerely,  
Harper burge

Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

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**From:** Dana Banta  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** ENOUGH IS ENOUGH; MY CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY

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Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am writing on behalf of my children to ask that the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) follow recent and accurate scientific data and allow our students to return to normalcy without harmful and unnecessary policies like mandatory masking indoors and out, excessive quarantining, and ineffective routine asymptomatic testing.

I can tell you first hand that my four and six year old children are suffering mentally, emotionally and physically due to Covid restrictions set forth by PPHD, LA County and the state of California. They have fear in their eyes about having to wear a mask for seven plus hours a day or "what if they aren't wearing a mask". They are being taught to think logically and the mask mandate is not logical. It instills confusion in them. Emotionally they panic about wearing a mask. Physically, we are now enrolled in speech therapy for both of them due to masks. They cannot properly see how to annunciate words. They are falling behind in their learning.

I am dumbfounded that you would want children to suffer such harsh, grave consequences. What are the repercussions of this in five years, 10 years, when they are applying for colleges outside of California and must compete with other students who have been learning without masks and having a normal childhood education?

In good conscience, can you tell me that the increase in depression, anxiety, suicide, drug use and additional costs of mental health and speech therapy to families in your city is not due to your mandates? That these feelings and actions are better than Covid positive cases? It saddens me to live in a city, which I have grown up in and loved so much, would value their own priorities and not stand up for what is right and the science affirms.

All of your policies have kept thousands of Pasadena students from attending and fully participating in classroom instruction for two years. They have primarily targeted Latino and Black students, giving them an unfair disadvantage.

The PPHD must stop looking at public health from the singular lens of eliminating COVID-19 cases and weigh the consequences of public health restrictions on healthy innocent children who have suffered immensely as a result of harmful school closures, masking and other needless restrictions.



There is significant evidence that children do not need to wear masks. In fact, the science for masking is underwhelming, inconclusive and unreliable and especially counterproductive when not worn properly. Kids are plainly the least likely to be struck ill by COVID-19 and probably are the least likely to spread it.

At the same time, our city has ignored that children living in mask-mandate states have had essentially identical COVID-19 fatality rates as kids living in mask-free states.

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When balanced against the physical, mental and emotional harm that is now becoming evident, it is clear that masks do more harm than good. Studies have found that masks cause anxiety and depressive feelings, and impair a child's social development and ability to communicate. Masks should never be considered the new normal for our children.

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Dana Banta

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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**From:** Jennifer Hyll  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:16 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** It's Time to free our children from Masks

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On Monday, Governor Newsom announced the end of indoor mask mandates in California as of February 15th. That is, of course, except for children, who must continue to wear masks in school and day care, all day, every day, likely indefinitely. School children and masking are not even part of the discussion when it comes to ending these harmful mandates. This is outrageous for so many reasons but mainly because the LEAST at risk population are being forced to protect anxious adults and they are suffering immeasurably for it. The United States is uniquely aggressive in masking children as young as 2 years old, against the recommendation of the WHO. According to Vinay Prasad, oncologist at UCSF, Jonathan Darrow of Harvard University and Ian Liu of the University of Colorado, "We are well past the emergency phase of this pandemic, and it should be well-known by now that wearing cloth face coverings or surgical masks, universal or otherwise, has a very minor role to play in preventing person-to-person transmission. It is time to stop overselling their efficacy and unrealistic expectations about their ability to end the pandemic."

The argument that students must wear masks all day at school seems to be that they must protect teachers and vulnerable people in their homes. With vaccinations available to teachers and those vulnerable relatives, why do students need to wear masks? We have made this unforgivable decision to shift the anxieties of adults onto the youngest members of society that count on us to defend their interests before our own. Kids don't protect adults! Vaccines and masks protect the individual that chooses to take and wear them. We can no longer place the burden of protecting the vulnerable on our children. They have suffered enough. NO one needs "normal" more than children.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hyll  
jahyll@yahoo.com  
1374 Edgehill Place Pasadena, CA 91103 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Denise Botsford  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Public Health, COVID-19, and Pasadena Students

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Re: Public Health, COVID-19, and Pasadena Students

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Pasadena and Los Angeles County children are the most masked and mandated children in America, yet we now know kids are the least affected from COVID-19. It is concerning that we have data showing COVID-19 is not impacting children, yet our children statistically have paid the highest price, and still do. So far, our track record of keeping kids less impacted from strict measures is nowhere near stellar here in California. After almost two years of COVID taking over our lives, we now know children still have not regained their learning loss from previous school closures, cases of mental health problems are skyrocketing, suicide attempts have risen by 51% according to the CDC, and sadly, many schools still have not returned to normal. It is time to end the never-ending state of emergency.

The newest post surge masking requirements do not get our kids closer to what we all consider a normal return to school like we all remember; running, playing, learning and eating without concern for the latest variant or the newest mandated mask variety. The lack of transparency on science and data on which these policies have been based, have resulted in a massive disruption to our children's lives and education. Masking kids needs to end on February 15th when the state order expires.

We are not distributing the risks of mandates and protocols fairly by having kids in stifling surgical masks, quarantining at home for close contacts for days on end, and going beyond CDC recommendations for COVID protocols like masking during outdoor playtime. Even more concerning is that we will soon have the Super Bowl here in LA while kids face even stricter protocols than any child in the nation. If LA County can hold the Super Bowl, there is no state of emergency. Period.

It is time to return to the normal we all once knew and take kids into consideration and start treating them as growing human beings with the ability to reach appropriate developmental milestones without having to overcome more unnecessary obstacles. There are many kids around this country, and the entire world, who do not face the type of archaic policies of masks and quarantine in which our children continue to be entrenched. Let's move beyond the COVID cases in our dashboard and begin treating our kids who remain in crisis by recognizing their needs first and foremost by getting them back to normal. Public health does not let one group fail to support another.

Sincerely,  
Denise Botsford

-- Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Victoria Waite  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 2:21 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Public Health, COVID-19, and Pasadena Students

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Re: Public Health, COVID-19, and Pasadena Students

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It is time to return to the normal we all once knew and take kids into consideration and start treating them as growing human beings with the ability to reach appropriate developmental milestones without having to overcome more unnecessary obstacles. There are many kids around this country, and the entire world, who do not face the type of archaic policies of masks and quarantine in which our children continue to be entrenched. Let's move beyond the COVID cases in our dashboard and begin treating our kids who remain in crisis by recognizing their needs first and foremost by getting them back to normal. Public health does not let one group fail to support another.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Waite

· Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Frances Morrison  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:09 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Stop Depriving Kids of Normalcy

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Re: Stop Depriving Kids of Normalcy

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

In recent days, governments across the US and around the world have rolled back their restrictive Covid 19 mandates. They have done this for a variety of reasons – covid numbers are rapidly declining, scientists are openly questioning the lack of science supporting the efficacy of the mandates - as well as the real-world realization that they just aren't working, and citizens are expressing frustration over the mixed messaging and outrage after witnessing the toll mandates have taken on our communities and especially our children.

On Monday, Governor Newsom announced the end of indoor mask mandates in California as of February 15th. That is, of course, except for children, who must continue to wear masks in school and day care, all day, every day, likely indefinitely. School children and masking are not even part of the discussion when it comes to ending these harmful mandates. This is outrageous for so many reasons but mainly because the LEAST at risk population are being forced to protect anxious adults and they are suffering immeasurably for it. The United States is uniquely aggressive in masking children as young as 2 years old, against the recommendation of the WHO. According to Vinay Prasad, oncologist at UCSF, Jonathan Darrow of Harvard University and Ian Liu of the University of Colorado, "We are well past the emergency phase of this pandemic, and it should be well-known by now that wearing cloth face coverings or surgical masks, universal or otherwise, has a very minor role to play in preventing person-to-person transmission. It is time to stop overselling their efficacy and unrealistic expectations about their ability to end the pandemic."

The argument that students must wear masks all day at school seems to be that they must protect teachers and vulnerable people in their homes. With vaccinations available to teachers and those vulnerable relatives, why do students need to wear masks? We have made this unforgivable decision to shift the anxieties of adults onto the youngest members of society that count on us to defend their interests before our own. Kids don't protect adults! Vaccines and masks protect the individual that chooses to take and wear them. We can no longer place the burden of protecting the vulnerable on our children. They have suffered enough. NO one needs "normal" more than children. We have deprived kids so much already these last two years, and it is time to stop restricting their ability to achieve normalcy when COVID is now on par with the flu in terms of risk to kids.

Sincerely,  
Frances Morrison

Pasadena, CA 91106 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Katherine Johnson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the Mandates on February 15

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Re: End the Mandates on February 15

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

K-12 student mask mandates, asymptomatic testing and close-contact quarantines are now ineffective, unnecessary and damaging to children. These policies must end February 15th when the state indoor mask mandate expires.

The virus is becoming endemic - we have all the tools we need to live with it, and it's clear our local health agency has never understood the significant mental health concerns and loss of learning their over cautious policies have caused-

- 1 - We urge an immediate end to this perpetual state of emergency.
- 2 - We urge that children, our least vulnerable group, have all restrictions removed for them.
- 3 - We urge the removal of mandates including masking, mandatory vaccines and boosters. **THEY SHOULD ALL BE OPTIONAL.**

Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) must start following the current scientific data that shows that its requirements for masks, quarantines and testing are outdated and overcautious. PPHD must also weigh the physical, mental and academic harm to students from these policies that unnecessarily deny students their fundamental right to a thriving education.

Pasadena parents are calling on our local elected representatives and health department to discontinue these harmful policies and act in the interest of what is best for our children.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Johnson

Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Matt Forgatch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** End the State of Emergency in Pasadena

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Re: End the State of Emergency in Pasadena

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Dear, Honorable Victor Gordo,

Pasadena and Los Angeles County children are the most masked and mandated children in America, yet we now know kids are the least affected from COVID-19. It is concerning that we have data showing COVID-19 is not impacting children, yet our children statistically have paid the highest price, and still do. So far, our track record of keeping kids less impacted from strict measures is nowhere near stellar here in California. After almost two years of COVID taking over our lives, we now know children still have not regained their learning loss from previous school closures, cases of mental health problems are skyrocketing, suicide attempts have risen by 51% according to the CDC, and sadly, many schools still have not returned to normal. It is time to end the never-ending state of emergency.

The newest post surge masking requirements do not get our kids closer to what we all consider a normal return to school like we all remember; running, playing, learning and eating without concern for the latest variant or the newest mandated mask variety. The lack of transparency on science and data on which these policies have been based, have resulted in a massive disruption to our children's lives and education. Masking kids needs to end on February 15th when the state order expires.

We are not distributing the risks of mandates and protocols fairly by having kids in stifling surgical masks, quarantining at home for close contacts for days on end, and going beyond CDC recommendations for COVID protocols like masking during outdoor playtime. Even more concerning is that we will soon have the Super Bowl here in LA while kids face even stricter protocols than any child in the nation. If LA County can hold the Super Bowl, there is no state of emergency. Period.

It is time to return to the normal we all once knew and take kids into consideration and start treating them as growing human beings with the ability to reach appropriate developmental milestones without having to overcome more unnecessary obstacles. There are many kids around this country, and the entire world, who do not face the type of archaic policies of masks and quarantine in which our children continue to be entrenched. Let's move beyond the COVID cases in our dashboard and begin treating our kids who remain in crisis by recognizing their needs first and foremost by getting them back to normal. Public health does not let one group fail to support another.

Sincerely,  
Matt Forgatch

Sincerely,  
Matt Forgatch

Pasadena, CA 91107 Constituent

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## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Tracy Grohs  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:17 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** We Are Going on Two Years- End the Mandates

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Re: We Are Going on Two Years- End the Mandates

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am writing on behalf of my child to ask that the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) follow recent and accurate scientific data and allow our students to return to normalcy without harmful and unnecessary policies like mandatory masking indoors and out, excessive quarantining, and ineffective routine asymptomatic testing. All of these policies have kept thousands of Pasadena students from attending and fully participating in classroom instruction for two years.

The PPHD must stop looking at public health from the singular lens of eliminating COVID-19 cases and weigh the consequences of public health restrictions on healthy innocent children who have suffered immensely as a result of harmful school closures, masking and other needless restrictions.

There is significant evidence that children do not need to wear masks. Kids are plainly the least likely to be struck ill by COVID-19 and probably are the least likely to spread it. Studies have shown masks provide little to no benefit in stopping the spread of viruses and can obviously be counterproductive when not worn properly. At the same time, our city has ignored that children living in mask-mandate states have had essentially identical COVID-19 fatality rates as kids living in mask-free states.

With teachers, staff and kids all having had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated, the perceived risk of death, hospitalization and severe illness to school communities has been alleviated. There is now no public health justification for forcing children to wear masks in school. When balanced against the physical, mental and emotional harm that is now becoming evident, it is clear that masks do more harm than good. Studies have found that masks cause anxiety and depressive feelings, and impair a child's social development and ability to communicate. Masks should never be considered the new normal for our children.

PPHD must start following the current scientific data that shows that current requirements for masks, quarantines and testing are outdated and overcautious. PPHD must also weigh the physical, mental and academic harm to students from these policies that unnecessarily deny students their fundamental right to a thriving and proper education.

I am calling on my local elected representative and health agency to discontinue these harmful policies and act in the best interest of our children. If we can host the Super Bowl in California, we are not in a state of emergency. Please let my child finally return to normalcy.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Grohs

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Courtney Hotchkis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Let Kids Be Normal Again

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Re: Let Kids Be Normal Again

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

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Sincerely,  
Courtney Hotchkis

Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

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