From:

Nathan Jakubiak

Sent:

Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:39 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

COVID-19 Health Mandates City Council February 14

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Dear Dr. Goh, Mayor Gordo, and City Council,

Please consider lifting the indoor and outdoor mask mandates for my children. It is time to bring normalcy back to their lives. Children have a near-zero risk from COVID, and it's not fair to them to force them to wear masks all day at school. There are real emotional, social, and psychological impacts from being forced to wear a mask, which at this point are likely greater than any remaining risk from COVID. The data are clear – states with mask mandates and states without mask mandates had exactly the same COVID curves during the Omicron wave. Based on this and the fact that kids have little impact from COVID – why are we forcing them to wear masks still? Please remove all COVID mandates for our kids.

Nathan Jakubiak
District 2 Resident and PUSD Parent

From:

Melissa Eaves

Sent:

Friday, February 11, 2022 5:26 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

City Council Meeting 2/14-Agenda Item 10

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I am writing as a concerned citizen on agenda item 10. It is HIGH TIME to abandon mandatory masking - indoors and outespecially for school aged children. There is no scientific data supporting this and we ought to not be lemmings to the irrational LA County health director and her refusal to follow state guidance.

The pandemic is now endemic. Like the flu, we need to learn to live with it. Masks should be optional for those who feel more comfortable wearing one. How ridiculous and pointless is it to have to wear a mask to walk 10 steps into a restaurant and then take it off? It's a joke. Kids should not be tortured anymore. Please do not continue masking requirements.

Melissa Eaves

From:

David Berk

Sent:

Friday, February 11, 2022 5:39 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Public Comment on February 14 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 10

"INFORMATIONAL REPORT REGARDING STATE AND LOCAL MASK MANDATE

REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19"

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Good evening mayor and Pasadena city council members,

I am a Pasadena resident and a teacher at Hamilton Elementary School in Pasadena Unified School District. I write to you to urge you to preserve our city's mask mandate in our public schools. During this past month during the omicron covid surge, there were multiple school days when my PUSD colleagues and I had more than half of our classes absent due to covid infections or the necessity of quarantining during the omicron surge. Fortunately, due to our school district's and our community's safety measures including required masking, the vast majority of our students are back in class.

During my 24+ years as a teacher, I have learned that one of the most important factors in education is consistency. This factor is far more important than the exposure of our faces during class time. The worst thing that we could possibly do for the consistency of our students' learning is to get rid of the mask requirement in our schools. Our most trusted and credentialed public health professionals are warning us that lifting the mask requirement in our schools will certainly increase the spread of the virus among not only our students, but among our community as well, and will lead to a rise in covid-19 cases and student absences from school. Please see the following links for specific quotes.



Doctors warn ending school mask mandates will lead to rise in COVID cases as several states lift requirements - ABC News

Doctors warn ending school mask mandates will lead to rise in COVID cases as several states lift requirements. Experts say not enough children are vaccinated for school mask mandates to end.

abcnews.go.com



Riding the waves: A framework for the future of SARS-CoV-2

Si quiere leer la versión en español, pulse aquí. One thing is consistent after the peak of every wave: A highly charged debate on how we move forward as individuals, as a community, as a nation, and as a globe. For example, right now we have one side suggesting to drop masks from here on out and another side that says keep mask mandates.

yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com

Please perform your duties as protectors of our public-school students' safety and learning and continue to maintain our community mask requirement.

Thank you for your time and attention.

David Berk Teacher, Hamilton Elementary School Pasadena Unified School District I am sure there is **no** place you all would rather be on Valentine's Day, so I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to each of us regarding Pasadena's Covid mandates, especially the masking of our kids. Obviously, if nearly 150 residents wrote letters, this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. I am writing tonight to ask for more than just hand-waiving dismissals, that "case numbers are too high" or "we just aren't ready" or "there might be another surge or variant." I am asking that you stop mandating that children wear masks at school. If you choose not to, I am asking for actual science and data to prove that continuing to mask is in fact beneficial to kids and that those benefits greatly outweigh the obvious and serious harm which we as parents, as well as doctors and scientists, see on both a cumulative and daily basis.

The data is clear and has been for months. Kids are the least vulnerable to serious disease. Forcing children as young as 2 years old to mask all day is causing immeasurable and long-lasting harm that is completely unnecessary and some are now calling child abuse. I am sure many parents have listed those harms tonight.

Even the most stringent supporters of masking have backed off and have lifted mandates, even on school children. If the Governors of Nevada, Massachusetts, Virginia and others can do the proper risk calculation, then so can Pasadena. The CDC and Dr. Anthony Fauci have admitted the masks we have been forcing kids to wear don't stop Covid spread. Most recently, Dr. Leana Wen, former Baltimore Health Commissioner who has been a staunch supporter of masks, said on CNN Thursday, "The first restriction removed should be the restriction on children because there actually is a harm that we should be discussing of children continuing to mask...the risk/benefit has really changed." She went on to say, "The responsibility should shift from a government mandate imposed from the state or local district to an individual response from the family who can still decide that their child can wear a mask if needed." We know masks protect the wearer, so using the narrative of "my mask protects you and your mask protects me" is incorrect and an unfair burden to place on any child. Kids don't protect adults. That's not how it works. We have used them as shields to our anxiety and it is truly shameful.

I also have questions for Dr. Goh that I would appreciate answers to:

- 1- Why are we aligning with LA County and not creating our own timetable to end mandates? We have separate health departments for a reason. Their case numbers are 10x ours. Plus, LA County has made 3 changes to their metrics in the last 8 days which is very confusing.
- 2- Why are we using the same metrics for Omicron that we used for much more serious and dangerous variants like Alpha and Delta?
- 3- If we are assessing risk in schools, why do we focus on community spread and not just on spread in schools?
- 4- If we are using hospitalizations, how can we be sure patients counted are (a) admitted to a bed and (b) are admitted because of covid and not with inconsequential covid. We have been misled before on this.
- 5- How many Pasadena children have been hospitalized because of Omicron?
- 6- Do you have plans to use vaccination rates of children (Pfizer just pulled back their push for EUA on kids under 5 until April) as a condition of removing masks on children? If so, why? A vaccinated 50-year-old remains at higher risk from Covid than an unvaccinated child. Any "at risk" person that comes in contact with children has likely been vaccinated. Plus, I am sure you would agree that it would be shameful to use children as pawns to increase vaccination numbers.
- 7- Are you willing to consult with Pediatricians and Psychiatrists in Pasadena to see what they witness in their practices as a result of 2 years of mandates on children?
- 8- After 2 years of scaring school children and their parents into compliance so they don't get "Teacher" or "Grandma" sick, are you willing to put out messaging that Omicron is in fact much milder, that kids don't get and spread covid in schools whether masked or not, that kids' masks don't protect "Grandma", and that Pasadena cares about the overall health of its children, not just whether or not they get Covid?

I also have questions for the Council. Does Pasadena get extra federal funding as a result of being in a "state of emergency?" If so, how much? Does this have anything to do with wanting to continue this "state of emergency?"

Finally, Dr. Goh, you have attempted to normalize and rationalize masking children in the most developmentally important years of their lives. This isn't normal, nor is it based on science. Kids need to see faces – all kinds of faces – but especially the faces of their teachers, their classmates, and their friends. They have already lost too much time to "protect us." Now it's time for us to protect them. This cannot wait and it shouldn't wait any longer.

Thank you, Alyson Pernecky Pasadena Resident

From:

Jennifer Collins

Sent:

Saturday, February 12, 2022 3:32 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Supporting masks in schools, comment for Special Meeting, February 14, 2022

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I am a parent of a child who attends public school in Pasadena, and a resident of District 5. This correspondence is in support of continuing the mask mandate in PUSD schools, to maintain increased safety for children, faculty, staff, and community.

Masks have allowed children to return to in-person learning with decreased risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19. With only 32.9% of PUSD 5-11 year olds fully vaccinated (source: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/vaccine-dashboard.htm, accessed 2/12/22), it makes no sense to eliminate a measure that provides protection to 100% of students.

Sincerely, Jennifer Collins

Jennifer L. Collins, LCSW (she/her)

From:

Dr. Andrea Davis

Sent:

Saturday, February 12, 2022 4:50 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Feb 14 Council Meeting Agenda Item 10: Mask Mandates

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As a business owner of a large mental health practice that serves local children and their families, I am urging the Council to weigh most heavily the opinion of epidemiologists or experts in the science of public health versus being pushed by angry citizens who have been fed misinformation on Facebook and entertainment news about the pandemic.

The physicians' and epidemiologists' concerns about lifting mask mandates and subsequent sharp rises in cases affecting the overwhelmed healthcare providers and endangering the most vulnerable members of society is well reported here in this ABC health news article on doctors warning that ending mask mandates leads to rises in case numbers.

https://abcnews.go.com/Health/doctors-warn-ending-school-mask-mandates-lead-rise/story?id=82722570

Please do not let selfish individualism take over the spirit of a caring community that Pasadena stands for. Freedom from a mask mandate when we are still in a pandemic puts more patients on ventilators and more physicians and nurses burning out and leaving the overburdened field entirely. Our hospitals are going to be even more short-staffed leading to an unstoppable tipping point tidal wave of burnout, career exits, and permanent shortages.

Andrea Davis, PhD Founder/Owner of Greenhouse Therapy Center

Pasadena, CA 91106

Andrea Davis, Ph.D., Director Greenhouse Therapy Center....for growing people

GreenhouseTherapyCenter.com

Facebook.com/GreenhouseTherapyCenter

President,
DIR/Floortime Coalition of California

Floortime Strategies to Promote Development in Children and Teens: A User's Guide to the DIR Model

by Andrea Davis, Lahela Isaacson, and Michelle Harwell

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From:

Vanessa Hill

Sent:

Saturday, February 12, 2022 5:02 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Masking in Schools

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more...https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263.

I am submitting public comment for the Feb 14 City Council meeting, on the topic of masking in schools.

We now know after two years that cloth masks do little if anything. We also know that most of the population has either been vaccinated or had the virus, and both result in immunity. We also know that N95s benefit the person wearing them, with no need for others to mask around them.

Now that the virus is entering into the endemically stage, we need to take the steps to control the virus while also balancing the mental health and educational needs of our children. Masks create educational barriers, not just for young babies, but for older children. My son, a native English speaker, attends a Spanish language immersion school. It is quite difficult for him to understand his teacher not seeing her lips move. Not to mention the level of impersonal mess masks create. This is a time when kids need to thrive socially. I feel that the negatives of masks simply outweigh the positives.

It's time to remove the masks in schools. Do test to stay measures, continue social distancing. But masks do little for healthy children, other than harm them.

Many professionals, including Dr. Wen on CNN agree.

Thank you for listening,

Vanessa Elliott

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Caroline Botsford

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:30 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Public comment for Feb 14th

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more...https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263.

Please read the below comment out loud at the Pasadena City Council Meeting February 14th.

Hi

My name is Caroline and I was raised in Pasadena and am now raising my 3 young children here. I have long supported this city and community but I can no longer continue to give back unless something changes. I have had enough. When will our city start listening to its residents, it's parents and most importantly it's children? Our children are the future of this city and when we all leave and raise them elsewhere you will have nothing left but regret for not trying harder. After two years we have the science and common sense to know that this virus just does not affect children enough to warrant continual masking, asymptomatic testing, and the constant shut down of schools. At some point we need to favor the mental health of our children over the virus. My daughter cannot learn to read from a teacher in a mask. Not to mention how she is so soft spoken in a normal situation that when she wears a mask all day she just simply cannot be heard. It is heartbreaking. Please I feel like begging you at this point, stand up for our kids and make a change. We WANT to raise our children here but soon you will leave us no choice but to go elsewhere where we are given the choice to be responsible for assessing our own children's risks. We want masking and vaccine choice for our kids. Thank you.

From:

Marion

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 11:49 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my concerns about Pasadena continuing mask requirements. Please consider "following the science" and dropping this as so many other cities, counties, and states have done months ago with no adverse impacts. Constant mask wearing actually creates numerous health issues and is extremely detrimental to children and their social and verbal development. So please drop this requirement.

Thank you, Marion White District 7 resident and property owner

From:

Mark T Maechling

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 11:53 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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Dear Council, please remove mandates for our kids. They have suffered enough, and masks and mandates are proving to be unsuccessful and detrimental. Please make a smart decision that puts our kids first, not special interests. Thank you, Mark

Mark T. Maechling President Cal-Lift, Inc.

City of Industry, CA 91746-3406

From:

Sonja Berndt

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 1:46 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Cc:

Jomsky, Mark; Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.; Madison, Steve;

Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Williams, Felicia; Wilson, Andy

Subject:

City Council Mtg. 2/14/22: Agenda Item #11 -- Informational Report re: Masking due to

COVID-19

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers:

I am a longtime resident of Pasadena but, admittedly, I have no children enrolled in Pasadena schools. I did not see a report on this agenda item, but from the title of the agenda item, I assume there will be a staff presentation and I look forward to that.

The frustration of parents, as evidenced by the many form letters submitted asking the City Council to end mask requirements in our schools, is palpable. But what is missing from the correspondence is any evidence, any published data, showing that the masking requirement should be ended. Alleging that there is "significant evidence" that children do not need masks, and that there is "no public health justification for mandatory masking in school" does not make it so. Further, the assertion that there is "physical, mental and academic harm" to schoolchildren that outweighs the benefits of masking is unsupported.

Please "follow the science" on the issue of mandatory masking of schoolchildren. Listen to the experts in the fields of public health and epidemiology. And then make a reasoned, evidence-based decision about how to proceed on the issue of mandatory masking of children in Pasadena schools. It is vitally important to get this right for all of our residents.

Thank you.

Sonja K. Berndt

Pasadena

From:

Vivian Rescalvo

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 2:11 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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My name is Vivian Rescalvo and I reside on Las Lunas street in Gene Matsuda's district. I have been a resident of Pasadena for over 34 years.

It is time to lift the mask mandate on children and students in Pasadena - especially while playing outside.

My grandson attends school here in Pasadena and his mother had to pick him up from school due to heat exhaustion from playing outside with a mask on. It is cruel, it is government overreach and unnecessary at this time.

Moreover, states across the nation are lifting the mandates on children K-12 - New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut. The list goes on.

As a voting citizen, a resident and I concerned grandmother, I implore you to lift the mask mandate on K-12.

Enough is enough.

Vivian Rescalvo

From:

Angela Buchanan

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 2:33 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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more...https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263.

Dear City Council of Pasadena,

What concerns me most is that what I will say today in my letter will fall on deaf ears. It has been two years our country has endured Covid. Science has made incredible steps, yet our city of Pasadena remains one of the most repressed cities in the world when it comes to moving on.

I sit at the Super Bowl Game amongst 100,000 unmasked spectators. No one asked us for our vaccine cards, for a negative Covid test and as I look around, seeing smiles, cheering, facial expressions, I am grateful and feel joy from the normally. However, tomorrow morning, reality will come rushing back as my 3 children leave for school all scrambling to find a mask. My 15 year old daughter will be required to wear a mask while at "outdoor" track practice for Mayfield Senior School and this is all somehow supposed to be ok!

I am literally begging the council to ask Dr. Goh to justify her mask orders in Pasadena.

Dr. Goh, this may seem personal and I can assure you, it is! When it comes to the well being of my children, I most definitely take it personal.

Mayor Gordo, I voted for you because I believed, as I still do, that you would not be the "politician" who was not afraid to fight for the future of our wonderful city: the future of our future is dependent on our Childrens mental well being and that is being destroyed.

I have never taught my children to be reckless but nor will I teach them to do things or follow out of fear. I will teach them to ask questions, to stand up for the rights and foundations this country was founded upon. I will not teach them to FOLLOW out of fear.

Our boys attend St. Francis High School. When I sent the photo of Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti to the school and questioned the mask mandates, the response was "we are only following LA county mandates." I had to respond with "such a shame to only teach our boys to be scared 'followers', instead of informed leaders: I'm glad not everyone "followed" as Jesus was nailed to the cross!

Doing the right thing takes courage and I beg you all to finally be courageous. Don't be afraid to fight for the future of this country and city, which begins with our children.

Unmask them! Stop being told what our city needs and follow the science! Stop with the unnecessary testing of our children, start holding yourselves accountable for the mental health crisis of our youth because in the end, you are responsible.

You sit there selfishly being controlled by Dr. Goh and her unnecessary emergency powers. Yet all of you attended school dances, homecomings, school sporting events, all without masks, social distancing, constant testing... stop the hypocrisy and do the right thing!

Most concerned,

Angela Buchanan (body of email and concern here)

Sent from my iPhone

From:

ellen finkelpearl

Sent:

Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:10 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Item 10: Keep Mask mandates!

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Dear Councilmembers,

As the grandmother of an unvaccinated 2-year-old, I urge you to keep mask mandates in place until all our children can be vaccinated and safe from this deadly virus. It has been a great comfort to live in Pasadena where I am able to go out in public and be assured that citizens will be masked, unlike the situation in Orange and San Diego counties where it is dangerous to go into a supermarket and encounter so many unmasked and unvaccinated people. I note that you have received numerous (identical) letters apparently from the parents of schoolchildren opposing the mask mandate, but what about the children who are still too young to be vaccinated? It is too soon to lift these requirements and put these young children at risk from exposure. Why can't we wait a few more months until vaccines are available to all who want (wisely) to be vaccinated? We have seen repeatedly that lifting mandates too soon has set us back months. While we may, fingers crossed, have passed the peak, new variants are always emerging. Let's wait a little longer.

Ellen Finkelpearl

Pasadena

From:

Harper Burge

m>

Sent: To: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:33 AM PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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more...https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263>.

Remove the mask mandate for children in schools. There is no longer any sound reasoning for children to be in masks. 75,000 people went massless in Los Angeles yesterday for the super bowl, but children who have a 0.0007% mortality rate - which is less than the mortality rate for vaccinated adults - STILL are in masks?? Why? That is not a rhetorical 'why?' I want you to answer WHY? Where is the data? The actually hard evidence you have for forcing children in masks? The science does NOT support it, logic does NOT support it, and WE THE POEPLE do NOT support it. Your job is to represent the people and you are FAILING. Get these disgusting bacteria ridden cloths off our children faces. It is child abuse and you are the ones that will go down in history a child abusers and tyrants if this continues.

Harper, Pasadena 91105

From:

Tricia Butler

Sent:

Monday, February 14, 2022 8:44 AM

To: Subject: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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more...https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263.

Please... I'm begging you to end the mask mandate at schools.

- 1. My 3 year old has gotten every single normal first year of preschool sickness WITH her N95 mask on as have her classmates. Hand foot and mouth, fever viruses, a cough lasting two weeks. We have had Covid... it was easier than any of those other sicknesses.
- 2. My 6 year old has also had every normal cold a kindergartener would get!!! As has her class. She ALREADY had speech issues and it's next to impossible for her to improve when she spends the majority of her time in a mask!!! Do you have any idea how detrimental this is to our children?!?
- 3. My 9 year old is wearing a N95 while playing tennis and all sports out there that are designed to keep him active and healthy... except he can't work as hard be he cannot breathe as well! How does this make sense?! Don't we have an obesity issue in America?! Shouldn't we worry more about that? His best friend, who is also 9, has developed severe depression, claustrophobia and OCD, he's working with a psychiatrist and is miserable. My son can barely connect with him anymore because he's been so ruined by all the unproven to actually work, mandates!!!
- 4. My 11 year old has developed acne around her face where the mask goes. It's causing her to be overly self-conscious, it hurts, it's scaring (inside and out).

Those adults who want to get the vaccine (which does not prevent the spread so don't even get me started on mandating that unstudied shot for an entire generation of children) - have had ample time to get it. And "protect" themselves. Those adults/children who feel safer wearing a mask can do so. But please END THIS NOW for those that want to go about life in the bizarre new normal it will inevitably be!!!!!!

If Covid is not enough of an emergency to host a maskless super bowl (test or no test)... then our BABIES SHOULD NOT BE SUFFOCATED AT SCHOOL FOR 8 HOURS A DAY!!!!!

We already have to teach them what to do when there's an active shooter on campus. Super F'd up. Now we have to cover their faces and tell them they as people are unsafe to others. Can you imagine if this was YOU as a child... I bet all you learned as a child was what to do during a fire/earthquake drill.

END IT NOW!!!!!!!! WE ARE BEGGING YOU!!!!!!!!!!!! WE ARE RUINING AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF CHILDREN THAT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING OUR COUNTRY ONE DAY. SAVING US FROM THE NEXT PANDEMIC, SAVING US FROM CLIMATE CHANGE. HOW WILL THEY EVER BE ABLE TO DO THIS IF THEY ARE TOO MENTALLY DAMAGED TO EVEN LEAVE THE HOUSE!!!!!

PLEASE!!!!!

From:

Lauren Savarese

Sent:

Monday, February 14, 2022 9:35 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse

Subject:

Pasadena City Council- Mask Mandates

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I'm born and raised in Pasadena. And so are my school aged children.

They attend school for 7-8 hours a day masked. They were happy children. They are now depressed, sad, angry, can't read. and both see local therapists weekly. They don't want to go to school anymore. They are in 1st and 3rd grade!!

Pasadena hosted the rose parade and the rose bowl game. If this was such an emergency then why can those things happen and our kids who are not a threat still be in masks.

It's no longer 2020!

End the mandate NOW for all.

Regardless of vaccination status.

We are developing bigger mental health issues that you are all ignoring.

One way masking and no mandates!

The vaccine doesn't prevent spread any longer!

Time to move on!

Ragards,

Lauren Savarese

Sent from my iPhone