

Jomsky, Mark

From: Danny Adrien
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:00 PM
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must start following the latest scientific data that shows current requirements for masks, quarantines and testing are outdated and overcautious.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,
Danny Adrien

Pasadena, CA 91105 Constituent

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Flores, Valerie

From: Nicole Adrien <
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Nicole Adrien
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Dr. Goh,

I am writing to advocate for the end of masking and asymptomatic Covid testing of our children. The survival rate of American children with confirmed Covid is 99.99%, and the argument to mask them to instead protect adults (which has been a good argument up to this point) no longer holds, since vaccines are widely available to all adults -- indeed, at this point I believe it is highly unethical to burden our children for the benefit of adults who have the free will and choice to vaccinate. In addition, at this point I believe masks are doing much more harm than good as masks (a) stifle our kids' ability to learn to read the expression of others and for their teachers and peers to read their expressions, stunting their ability to communicate fully and properly; (b) cause breathing problems (I know this from personal experience as my 8-year old daughter has developed breathing ticks from masking all day, and many of her friends have developed headaches and nausea from masking); and (c) over-insulate our kids from exposure to microbes that are essential to building immunity to common viruses and illnesses, particularly at this acute time in their lives (see the 1-page article attached on this matter).

Our kids have been through enough, and they are less at risk of severe illness from Covid than they are, at this point, to the negative effects of masking.

Thank you for your service to our great City of Pasadena, which I greatly appreciate, and thank you for considering this request. I believe we are at the right point to make this change in policy now, and our kids are relying on us -- and us on you -- to return them to normalcy.

Sincerely yours,
Nicole Adrien

Parent of two Pasadena children ages 13 and 8

Jomsky, Mark

From: Katie Bengford
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 11:16 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,
Katie Bengford

Pasadena, CA 91107 Constituent

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Flores, Valerie

From: Hayley Boaz
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:29 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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Hello,

I am writing to you in regards to the current mask mandates. It is time to take off masks in schools. These children do not deserve this anymore. I have 3 children and my husband I are so concerned about our children's mental and emotional health we have applied our children to schools in other counties that give us the choice to mask or unmask. I am deeply worried that my 4 year will never see a teacher without a mask on in Pasadena. I am very worried for her speech and nonverbals. How is she expected to learn how someone is feeling just by looking at their eyes? It has been 2 years!! More than half of her life! This is unacceptable. I have completely lost trust in our Pasadena Public Health system. You are completely disregarding the science for children. It is time to restore trust. Take away mask mandates in schools.

Respectfully,
Hayley Boaz

Sent from my iPhone

Jomsky, Mark

From: Michelle Chaldou
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:43 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

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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,
Michelle Chaldou

Pasadena, CA 91104 Constituent

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Flores, Valerie

From: kirsten clougherty
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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Hello,

I am a Pasadena resident and mother of 3 teenage boys. We have come to a point in this pandemic where variants are spreading equally among the vaccinated and unvaccinated. There simply is no longer a scientific justification to continue these arbitrary mandates, especially the ones that solely target the unvaccinated community. It is also time to "Unmask" our children. If our Hollywood elites and politicians can enjoy mega events without wearing masks, then I'd say its time to remove the masks from our children. These unnecessary mandates are taking a toll on ours students academic, social and mental development. Please do the right thing and Unmask our children!

Thank you,

Kirsten Clougherty

Flores, Valerie

From: anna eisenberg
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:20 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 10

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Dear Pasadena City Council Members:

I am a resident of Pasadena and a PUSD high school parent. I am writing to ask that you continue the mask mandate in Pasadena and at our schools, including high school, until we have been in low transmission for a significant period of time. Ending mask mandates while we are still in high or moderate transmission will only result in prolonging the pandemic. I understand that we are all tired of the pandemic, but wishing that it was over, does not make it so. Masking is an important layer (along with vaccines, testing and contact tracing) that reduces spread in our community.

Currently, we do not have vaccine or testing mandates to protect our children, staff and community in our k-12 schools. PUSD is not accurately representing the level of virus at the schools, as they do not indicate how many students they test each week and students don't have to test anyway. During the PHS testing event prior to the start of school after winter break, they tested ~2,300 out of ~14,000 students, and found that ~16% of those tested were positive. During the first week of school, students who had tested at this event, were not notified until several days to a week after school started. Contact tracing at the schools has not been implemented well, with some students not being notified at all of close contact exposures, and some being notified even when they were not in attendance. PUSD continues to pat themselves on the back for everything they are doing to keep our kids safe, yet they won't tell us how many students are tested each week at each location. The PUSD board of education voted to allow themselves to meet remotely for their safety during this time. However, the district feels that the kids must be in person, even when they don't have enough custodial staff to clean the rooms, teachers to actually teach, staff to update the covid dashboard in a timely manner, and they can't add a column to the dashboard to let us know how many students at each school they have actually tested each week. From my own personal experience, my daughter sat next to a covid positive person at lunch (outside) and was not notified by the school at all, but she was notified of an exposure on a day she wasn't even there. My son, who attends high school in Duarte, has also received many close contact notifications. Between my two children, we received close contact notifications on 1/10, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/25, 1/26 and 2/3. I decided to keep them out of school for a week due to the constant exposures. I am incredibly thankful that both my children, and the covid positive children, were wearing masks (except for a lunch, or in the hallways) during those exposures. PUSD talks a lot of their success, but there are MANY holes in their mitigation efforts. Masks are another layer that can help to protect and fill those gaping holes.

Again, I ask that you please maintain the mask mandate until we have been in low transmission for a significant period of time. The mask mandate has been the one thing that has been consistent and somewhat enforceable. It helps protect our community, when vaccines and testing are optional. If you

take it away in public spaces in Pasadena, the schools will soon follow. Please don't do so prematurely. Protect our students, teachers and the more vulnerable people in our community. We can not simply decide that the pandemic is over because we are tired of it. Los Angeles county is still in high transmission, we are not ready to remove the mask mandate.

Thanks,
Anna Eisenberg

Flores, Valerie

From: Cindy San Gin
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena City Council meeting public comment

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Hi Pasadena City Council Members,

I am writing to you about an issue close to my heart. Clovid continues to be a pandemic, and we have many people who don't believe in science. I have two kids and a huge extended family with high risk conditions. My five year old son is vaccinated, but unfortunately Clovid vaccine isn't FDA approved for my two year old daughter. I can survive Clovid, but can my parents and children survive it? Many Clovid patients have long Clovid which will effect their life forever with a lifetime of symptoms. I think it's necessary for mask mandate in the city especially when we don't know who has Clovid and can pass Clovid to innocent people. I know people who are Clovid positive that keep going out to restaurants, parks, supermarkets, etc and don't stay home to quarantine. The Clovid vaccine can only offer so much protection and with mask mandate, we can save more lives. I support mask mandate. Without a mask mandate, the people who chose to continue to wear a face mask with encounter harassment. A little inconvenience can help save lives. TEAM together everyone achieves more. Everybody must do their part and help save lives.

Cindy Gin
Pasadena, CA 91106
Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Valerie

From: Jane Lawton Moore
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:33 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public comment Agenda item 10

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Dear City Councilmembers,

According to the covidactnow.org site, as of today 2/14 the daily case rate for Los Angeles County is 49.4 per 100k. Although this is a significant drop from January's case rates, according to the Harvard Global Health Institute our transmission rate still meets their criteria for very high risk.

Transmission only continues to drop if the population continues prevention protocols. It's been well documented health officials recognize masking prevents significant spread of Covid-19. Masks worn by both the potentially infected and others provide greater protection for all members of the community.

I ask that you do not waiver from the City's mask mandate at this time. As much as the populace may tire of the Covid safety requirements, the community relies on the City to provide direction during this unprecedented time. If our transmission rate remains at high risk, it is in the community's best interest to wait to remove this mandate until after transmission has slowed enough that we achieve a low or moderate risk level.

Thank you for your consideration. I trust you'll make an educated and well researched decision based on science rather than social pressure.

Sincerely,

Jane Potelle

Iraheta, Alba

From: Alexandra Papademetropoulos
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:03 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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Hello,

I am writing to you as an extremely concerned mother and parent. My son is eight years old, and is having an extremely hard time with wearing a mask now at school for 2 years and counting. In fact he wakes up some days crying hysterically, telling me I have no idea what it feels like to wear a mask all day, and I can't even take my mask outside to breathe when I'm playing. This is child abuse, not only for my child but for every single child who has to wear a mask daily at school. We parents are so tired of seeing our children suffer. When people say that the children are fine, no they are certainly not fine. It is now known that masks are having a detrimental effect on children emotionally, mentally, and physically. Most countries in Europe haven't had young children wearing masks this entire time, because the science is there. Children have an extraordinarily low risk of severe covid outcomes, and a 99.98 chance of survival. My son has a higher chance of dying in a car crash on the way to school than of dying of Covid.

I think it is time our elected leaders start to think about the well being of the future of our world, the children. 80 thousand people filled the Sofi stadium here in Los Angeles yesterday boo. Most were unmasked, living life completely normally, yet my 8 year old child had to wake up, put a mask on, and go to school all day long. It's time we start using science, logic, and reason, over fear or political views. This is about our children, and they deserve to be free. They deserve to be able to see each other's smiles and clearly hear each other laugh. They deserve the freedom that everyone else gets. Please I am asking you to consider lifting the mask mandate for our children's schools here in Pasadena. I was born and raised in Pasadena, and proud to be from here. I know we can come together and do the best thing for our children.

Thank you.

Alexandra Papademetropoulos

Flores, Valerie

From: Tracy Reilly
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:00 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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Dear Mayor Gordo, Councilmembers, and Dr. Goh,

As a Pasadena resident and concerned PUSD parent, I strongly encourage Pasadena leadership to adopt policies that are in line with the most current science and data as the Omicron surge winds down. As many other states and countries have done, I hope that Pasadena will end mask mandates, not just for businesses in Pasadena but especially in our schools. Any family, teacher, or professional who wishes to continue to wear masks for their own security or comfort may continue to. And end to a mandate is not a ban, it simply allows for choice. As the UK declared, they would not mask students "one day longer than necessary." We are at that point now. After two years of these measures, please let the kids see each other's faces and breathe.

We must remember that kids are not running into a grocery store for 15 minutes then removing their masks--they are subjected to SIX HOURS of masks with little breaks. Contrary to what has been so touted in the media, the effectiveness of masks in schools is not completely clear, including a massive study of 90,000 kids by the CDC itself in May of 2020, which found student use of masks to be inconclusive. Please see the following articles from reputable, not fringe, sources.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59895934>

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/08/the-science-of-masking-kids-at-school-remains-uncertain.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/27/us/students-masks-classrooms-britain.html>

If you think a child's mental state is not affected by being forced to wear a device that makes BREATHING more difficult, just look to psychology and physiology--the first step to calming the body and mind is to TAKE A DEEP BREATH. Even Navy SEALS use these techniques to calm in stressful or dangerous situations. Breath is vital and not to be taken lightly. We all know that our kids' mental health is of paramount importance, especially given the toll the pandemic has already taken on these vulnerable kids. Please follow the wisdom of so many countries and states that understand the risk vs benefit and make masks optional for students.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reilly

02/14/2022
Item 10

Flores, Valerie

From: Elizabeth Shula
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:42 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Counsel Meeting 2/14/22 Public Comment

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Dear Councilmembers,

As a mother of 3, I am exhausted and "tired of" this pandemic. However, I firmly believe that masking is an important part of the layered approach we have taken to limiting transmission and protecting vulnerable members of our society, including my 2 year old son who is not yet eligible for vaccine. A lot has been asked of our children, but we also have the opportunity to show them that we can all do our part as citizens living in community and as members of society. Please consider maintaining the mask mandate and continuing to promote the ways that we can show our care for one another's health and safety.

Thank you for considering my opinion,
Elizabeth Shula

Flores, Valerie

From: Toi Treister
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:10 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Masking -Item 10 Pasadena City Council

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February 14, 2022

Honorable Mayor Victor Gordo
Members of the City Council
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Unmasking Our Kids

Mayor Gordo, Dr. Goh and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

On the heels of Governor Newsom's recent announcement to end indoor mask mandates, I'm writing to encourage Pasadena and LA County to lift the mask mandate and allow our city's school children to have the choice of whether to wear a mask at school or not. If Pasadena has its own health department, why do we have to align with LA County as Dr. Goh has said Pasadena will do?

Since the NFC Championship game and yesterday's Super Bowl, where many of California's most prominent and visible proponents of masking kids were photographed often without their masks, the debate has been thrown into overdrive. There are MANY more examples of leaders across the country not masking in various "high risk" settings, while the children get no break and face consequences even when their masks fall below their noses for a second. Athletes are forced to wear masks while playing their school sports, including while running track outside. There is no science to prove this is necessary and in fact, the data shows no measurable difference between schools that mask and schools that don't.

The Director of the CDC said she is leaving these decisions to the localities, which means Pasadena can decide what is best for Pasadena. We don't need the CDC or LA County to decide for us. In fact, why can other cities and states end masking in schools and Pasadena cannot? Where is the science that is leading this decision?

Pasadena has one of the highest vaccination rates in the state and one of the best hospitals in the state. We can't allow pandemic caution to be the primary lens from which we view how we go forward. There will always be another Super Bowl, holiday, school break, etc. Our community has the tools to live with the virus and any new variant that comes along and I am no longer willing to accept the restrictions that were put in place almost two years ago to protect us. The psychological trauma on our school children has been far too severe. It is time to end the mask mandate for all school children.

Respectfully,
Toi Treister

Flores, Valerie

From: Marisa Zakaria
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:00 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Stop the Masks

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Our kids should no longer be muzzled. The mental health toll has been more significant than the threat of covid.

Stop abusing our children. Unmask now.