

Dear ____:

NAME is excited to be joining NAME OF SCHOOL this year.

But I want to share my thoughts on a topic I feel strongly about: masks on kids. I do not believe little kids should be forced to wear masks, and I urge you to adopt a policy that allows parental choice on this matter for the upcoming school year.

I know you have to make a lot of tough decisions and you can't please everyone. I have a world of respect for you and I am aware that some in the community may not agree with my perspective. It's my view that emotion and politics (from both sides!) have driven a lot of policy choices during the pandemic at nearly every level of government... that's too bad.

I'll try to be brief but here are a few points that summarize my reasons for not supporting mandatory masks for young children:

- **It's a great blessing that COVID doesn't pose as serious a health risk to children as it does to adults. *Critically, young kids do not significantly spread COVID either.*** Furthermore, now that the adults in our community (teachers, school staff, parents and family members) have had a chance to get vaccinated, the risk to adults of serious illness from COVID infection is *even smaller*.
 - From [this article](#): A study out of the UK released last week proved—once again—what we've known for more than a year: [Kids transmit the coronavirus](#) at a much lower rate than do adults. Epidemiologist Shamez Ladhani, who led the study, found that children “aren't taking [the virus] home and then transferring it to the community. These kids have very little capacity to infect household members.”
- **We do not yet know enough about the potential downside of mask-wearing for young children.** I think you could make a case for or against masking kids (which is why I support parents making the choice either way), but if masking is to be mandated, the onus is on those putting a mandate in place to show that masking passes a risk-benefit analysis. This area merits more study, but common sense tells us that covering the face can come with problems.
 - From [this article](#): Masking kids is associated with: [increases](#) in anxiety and depression; [decreases](#) in communication and socialization skill development; [increases](#) in headaches, face rashes and redness, and impaired facial recognition; and [increases](#) in tooth decay.

- **The rest of the world (outside of the U.S.) seems to understand that masks on kids are not a good idea.** The [World Health Organization](#) has held since August 2020 that no one under the age of 5 should be required to wear a mask. European countries, like the U.K. and France, [do not require masks on young children](#) even in school settings.
 - From [this article](#): “It’s important that primary schoolchildren don’t wear face coverings,” says [Public Health England’s medical adviser Dr. Susan Hopkins](#). She explains that this is because COVID infection rates are low among their age group and wearing face coverings “could affect their development.”

Below are some links to more articles that expand on some of these points and more.

[Let my children take off their masks, the science says it is safe](#)

[Mandatory Masking of School Children is a Bad Idea](#)

[Young kids are at low COVID risk in schools, but masking them could do long-term damage](#)

[Masking children: What does the science say?](#)

[It’s 98 Degrees Out. Why Is My Child Wearing a Mask?](#)

Thanks for reading this email and considering these facts. Of course, we are all sad that the pandemic has required so many changes in our lives. But masks on young children are, in my view, more harmful than beneficial. As a parent, I can’t ignore this and—I hope you understand—I have to speak up for what is best for my kids. Thanks for considering my perspective!

Best,