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## Thin Blue Line

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Sun, Sep 19, 2021 at 2:26 PM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org" <dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>

Board -

We were at a volleyball game at one of the MCPS high schools in Missoula.

Some people had masks on. Some didn't. Your mandate clearly doesn't have any teeth, it's rather humorous.

As I walked out of the gym to the concessions I noticed a big sign reminding people about the mask mandate.

Standing right by that sign was a very strapping law enforcement officer. Not wearing a mask, in open defiance of your pet mask mandate.

Even my boys in blue know the sky isn't falling. Lift your pet mask mandate. That's an order.

Gabriel Earle

LONG LIVE AMERICA!

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**Re: Franklin Weekly Covid Case Count -9/17/21**

2 messages

Zach B &lt;zbrackett0@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 11:02 AM

To: Lynsi Morris &lt;noreply@mcps.k12.mt.us&gt;

Bcc: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Lynsi,

Emailing weekly case counts is dangerous because one of the predominant reasons people are choosing not to get vaccinated is, *"well if people are just using this as an excuse to be jerks, then why would I do what they're telling me to do?"* Case counts foster psychological unrest for the families and employees of your school, but worse they are on-brand with what makes Covid politically derisive. If aggressive and unyielding contentions around Covid are ultimately what drives people to choose not to vaccinate, then by implying fault of these recipients you are fostering unproductive hostility. If our response to Covid didn't devolve into a political blame-fest, perhaps people would be more focused on effective means of mitigation based on scientific evidence, instead of honing in on highly-visible statistically unsubstantiated policy, largely used as a conduit of intolerance for those viewed as outsiders to either political dipole. Historically fear has never been the persuasive argument of reason. If you truly care about mitigating the spread of Covid perhaps consider espousing the efficacy of how vaccinated adult populations insulate high risk populations like the elderly, which allows our children to safely return to school. Yes there are risks, but the risks are worth it if we all do what we can to mitigate them. *This* is a persuasive argument for vaccination, while the weekly case counts at Franklin Elementary in themselves *are not*. People will follow a path to a brighter horizon but they will not follow a path leading into darkness or hostility. Our biggest barrier to returning to normality is psychological and as leaders within the school I think it's important to make sure you're part of the solution.

I would encourage you to read the politically non-partisan and scientifically substantiated journalism published in The Atlantic.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/08/how-we-live-coronavirus-forever/619783/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/08/children-delta-covid-19-risk-adults-overreact/619728/>

Thanks,  
Zach

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:08 PM Lynsi Morris <noreply@mcps.k12.mt.us> wrote:

Dear Franklin families:

In order to keep you informed, I'd like to share the COVID cases associated with our school over the past week. This data reflects cases reported to our school this past week. If you would like to see the case counts since the start of the school year, please click here.

Franklin  
Summary Cases  
9/11/2021-9/17/2021  
3

Now more than ever, our entire community relies on each of us to do our part by complying with COVID-19 public health orders and district requests to stay home. For the health and safety of your children and our entire community, please:

- Be proactive about reducing the number of interactions your family members have with others
- Distance to the extent possible
- Wear face coverings
- As always, wash your hands frequently, stay home if sick, and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces,

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, call the health department at 258-INFO (4636) to schedule a test. Students can now access rapid testing through MCPS. Call 406-240-4721 to see if a MCPS nurse is available to arrange a test.

Sincerely,  
Lynsi Morris  
Principal  
Franklin Elementary

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You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Franklin School. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please unsubscribe.  
Franklin School | 1910 S 11th St W, Missoula, MT 59801 | 406-542-4020

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

**RUN! HERE COMES A COVID!!**

2 messages

**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:15 PM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dlorenzo@mcpsmt.org" <dlorenzo@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandaters -

One of the goals of your little pet mask mandate was to stop covid case numbers from rising.

How is that working?

Answer the question.

Gabriel Earle

**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 5:09 PM

To: Diane Lorenzo <dlorenzo@mcpsmt.org>, "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandater Diane -

Your response is either a joke or an intentional lie. Right now on the Missoula County Health Department website you'll find the information that all records for cases and incidence rates have been 'SHATTERED'. That information is as of TODAY. I've posted the link, the image and the text below to ensure you read it.

You can't have it both ways. It can't be slowing and shattering records at the same time. Lift your pet mask mandate and leave my kid alone.

Again, answer the question: How's the mask mandate working to stop covid numbers from rising?

Daddy is disappointed in your flawed logic.

Gabriel Earle

Here's the link:

Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health Department | United States

**Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health  
Department | United States**

Missoula City-County Health Department Coronavirus (COVID19)  
Information

Here's the image:

On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County's COVID-19 hospitalization record, active case record and incidence rate record were shattered for the second week in a row as the latest wave of COVID-19 continued to batter local hospital systems. In Missoula County, 50 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 1,386 residents currently have the virus and the average daily new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days reached a new height of 89.

Here's the text:

On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County's COVID-19 hospitalization record, active case record and incidence rate record were shattered for the second week in a row as the latest wave of COVID-19 continued to batter local hospital systems. In Missoula County, 50 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 1,386 residents currently have the virus and the average daily new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days reached a new height of 89.

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## Masks in schools

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**Jill MH Taber** <jill.michal@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 9:43 AM

To: gdecker@mcpsmt.org

Cc: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

Grace,

Do you anticipate that MCPS will require kids to wear masks indefinitely?

I think this is a question that deserves an answer and here's why:

- 1) vaccines are available, however;
- 2) cases continue to pop up, despite high vaccination rates in our county.

So, if the efficacy of the vaccine is questionable and community spread continues to occur (as it will, because that's what viruses do), at what point will MCPS be honest with the community and parents regarding the long-term use of masks?

I've yet to receive an answer to my request for CONCRETE SCIENTIFIC evidence that proves masks prevent spread among kids 0-19. School administrators do not provide it; trustees and the task force don't want to answer the question.

At this point, you can't blame parents like me for wondering what the motives are behind these mask mandates and the refusal of trustees to listen to parents' concerns.

I don't feel heard. Online academy is not an equitable option.

You once said that it would "break your heart" if people felt like the process of making these decisions didn't include them (I'm referencing your comments from the August 10 board meeting). I'm sure it's easy to read the emails and hear the comments from your cheering section of parents who support mask mandates; everyone loves someone who's on their side.

But when will you, or anyone else, challenge the line of thinking on this? When will you look at what's best for Missoula kids? When will you really listen to parents who are simply asking for their rights to be honored and respected?

Thank you,  
Jill Taber

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**Jill MH Taber**

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**Re: RUN! HERE COMES A  
COVID!!**

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 7:23 AM

To: Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, Jill MH Taber <jill.michal@gmail.com>, Darby Earle <darbyearle@gmail.com>, Jersey Earle <earlejersey@gmail.com>, Kendall Earle <kendallearle@gmail.com>

**Mask Mandaters -**

The masks have been mandated.

At the exact same time covid case records are being SHATTERED.

The question was: What are masks doing to stop the spread?

Nobody answered. Nobody answered because nobody wants to admit the mask mandate failed.

Because you won't answer, I will: THE MASKS CLEARLY DON'T DO A DAMN THING TO STOP COVID.

Lift your pet mask mandate, NOW.

Gabriel Earle

On Monday, September 20, 2021, 05:09:21 PM MDT, Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com> wrote:

**Mask Mandater Diane -**

Your response is either a joke or an intentional lie. Right now on the Missoula County Health Department website you'll find the information that all records for cases and incidence rates have been 'SHATTERED'. That information is as of TODAY. I've posted the link, the image and the text below to ensure you read it.

You can't have it both ways. It can't be slowing and shattering records at the same time. Lift your pet mask mandate and leave my kid alone.

Again, answer the question: How's the mask mandate working to stop covid numbers from rising?

Daddy is disappointed in your flawed logic.

Gabriel Earle

Here's the link:

**Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health Department | United States****Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health  
Department | United States**

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Here's the text:

On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County's COVID-19 hospitalization record, active case record and incidence rate record were shattered for the second week in a row as the latest wave of COVID-19 continued to batter local hospital systems. In Missoula County, 50 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 1,386 residents currently have the virus and the average daily new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days reached a new height of 89.

On Monday, September 20, 2021, 04:38:34 PM MDT, Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

Masks are slowing the spread of COVID in places where they are being used. Our schools are still open, we haven't had to close like Great Falls High, Eureka, Plains and Noxon Schools. MCPS is doing the best we can, and masks are part of that. Diane Lorenzen

On Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:15 PM Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com> wrote:

**Mask Mandaters -**

One of the goals of your little pet mask mandate was to stop covid case numbers from rising.

How is that working?



Answer the question.

Gabriel Earle



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**(no subject)**

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**Amanda Attard** <amandamae.attard@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 2:57 PM

Hello,

October 4 marks the start of the sixth week of school, the timeline promised by Mr. Watson for reviewing the district's mask mandate. October 12 is when the board meeting is scheduled.

Will you be reviewing the mask mandate as promised?

What information will you be reviewing in reference to whether to keep or amend the mask mandate?

What is the criteria for lifting or amending the mask mandate?

Will you commit to providing MCPS parents with a definitive answer regarding the criteria for lifting or amending the mask mandate?

Please remember, your responsibility is to our children and their education. Anything that impedes on their quality of education, their health (mental, emotional, physical), or their safety, is not acceptable.

Any answers to these questions that include any variation of the phrase "I wish I knew" is not acceptable, because YOU are in the decision-making seat for our kids. It is your job to know and to give answers.

Thank you,

Amanda

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masked Mandate

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**Donald Rreset** <resetda@hotmail.com>

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 3:34 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

The six week deadline for the masked mandate is rapidly approaching. Will you tell us when this mandate will be considered for review?

Don Rreset

1910 Wyoming St. E

Legal taxpayer in Missoula County

Sent from Mail for Windows

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**Volleyball**1 message

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 8:50 AM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org" <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, "awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org" <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>

**Mask Mandaters -**

When students are on the bench they are required to wear masks.

When students are at the net with their faces inches away from unfiltered, unmasked, recycled covid exhaust from faces of opposing players from hundreds of miles away, they aren't wearing masks.

HOW ARE MASKS ON THE BENCH BUT NOT ON THE COURT STOPPING COVID?

Your inability to provide an answer to an elementary-level question warrants your resignation.

Lift your dumbass pet mask mandate and leave my kid alone.

Gabriel Earle

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## Questions regarding policy

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**Zach B** <zbrackett0@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

To: Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, mgehl@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org, awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

Has the board investigated the impacts of imposing a universal mask mandate on protected classes, particularly those individuals with hearing impairment and autism spectrum disorder?

Do the learning and psychological impacts of imposing a universal mask mandate differ between protected classes and the wider population? Can the board cite evidence the policy does not disproportionately affect protected classes?

Has the board investigated the impact on learning for various age groups from imposing a universal mask mandate? What are those impacts? Are some cohorts impacted more than others?

Has the board investigated the psychological impacts of imposing a universal mask mandate in public schools? What are the psychological impacts of imposing mask mandates on children? Can the board cite evidence supporting the policy?

Has the board conducted statistical investigation into the efficacy of a mask mandate? What is the statistical efficacy of imposing a universal mask mandate in schools? Can the board cite statistical evidence supporting the policy?

If the board cannot cite evidence supporting these claims, has the board considered an investigation into answering these questions? When will the board conduct an investigation? When will the board consider the evidence of this investigation?

When will the board reevaluate the policy?

Thanks,  
Zach

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## You Answer to the Public, So, Answer a Question From the Public

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 11:14 AM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org" <dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, "awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org" <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>

### Mask Mandaters –

If your mandate works, why do the school and general community have the same infection rate?

Answer. The. Question.

Billings schools are requiring masks. Billings schools are also encountering mass amounts of cases.

The masks aren't preventing the spread of anything. Lift your ego-driven pet mask mandate and get over yourselves.

Gabriel Earle

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**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 11:15 AM

To: gabrielearle@yahoo.com

Thank you for submitting your public comment. Just like comments made in person at a public board meeting, the comments you submit through email are public record and are available for any member of the Board and public to read. Please refrain from referring to confidential student or staff information, or making derogatory comments about students or staff members. If you do provide private confidential information, we will redact that information before placing it in any public document. Please refer to Board Policy 1441 for more information about public comments in general. Thank you!

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**Re: Volleyball****Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 7:16 AM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dlorzen@mcpsmt.org" <dlorzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, "awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org" <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandaters -

Your stunned silence is very reassuring.

Lift your dumbass pet mask mandate.

Gabriel Earle

On Thursday, September 23, 2021, 08:50:34 AM MDT, Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mask Mandaters -

When students are on the bench they are required to wear masks.

When students are at the net with their faces inches away from unfiltered, unmasked, recycled covid exhaust from faces of opposing players from hundreds of miles away, they aren't wearing masks.

HOW ARE MASKS ON THE BENCH BUT NOT ON THE COURT STOPPING COVID?

Your inability to provide an answer to an elementary-level question warrants your resignation.

Lift your dumbass pet mask mandate and leave my kid alone.

Gabriel Earle

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking in schools

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**Reggie Spaulding** <rsspaulding@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:11 AM

To: "Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

PLEASE KEEP THE MASK MANDATE! So far I feel okay with my kids going to school, but remove the mask mandate at this point with skyrocketing cases, and I will be forced to withdraw my 3 children, including our foreign exchange student. That would really ruin his experience, and probably cause my teenage daughter to go back into a deep depression. Really, staying home from school is much more difficult on a child's mental health than a little piece of cloth over their face.

Thank you,

Reggie Spaulding  
she/her  
406-241-2293

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Mask mandate in schools

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**Kasey Wright** <kasey.boeve.wright@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:13 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

To whom it may concern,

Please continue the mask mandate for elementary and middle schools, where children are unable to be vaccinated. As the variant persists and numbers continue to spiral out of control, it is not safe for our children and staff to lift the mask mandate at this time. If an outbreak happens, it will force our schools to temporarily shut down not unlike many unmasked schools in surrounding communities. And, it will further exasperate the healthcare system at a time when they need our support.

I appreciate the effort and thought you have put into our community health and trust you will continue responsibly.

Thanks,

Kasey Wright

Parent, Lewis & Clark Elementary

Kasey B. Wright

kasey.boeve.wright@gmail.com



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Re: Mask Mandates for Missoula's Schools

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**Janet Seidel** <janetklynch@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:15 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To the Missoula County Public School Board,

I understand that there is a board meeting tomorrow to discuss masks, in-person instruction, etc. As the mother of three young children who attend the public schools but are not yet able to be vaccinated against COVID-19, I strongly feel that masks are needed for all students, staff and faculty at Missoula's Public Schools if we want to remain in person.

I feel that Missoula has benefitted from the current mask mandate in the schools. We have not seen the COVID outbreaks experienced in other non-masking Montana communities. Many schools without mask mandates have been forced to move to virtual learning or have large numbers of students and staff out for long periods of time due to sickness and/or quarantine.

Thank you,

Janet Seidel

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**cindee yates** <cindeeyates2@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:38 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Please continue for our children's and the community's safety to continue a mask mandate at schools. Our children are underage for the vaccine and we ask that the mandate continues at least until schools reach the herd requirement.

Best,

Cindee

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep the mask mandate firmly in place.

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**Agatha Light Podrasky** <aslight42@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:47 AM

To the Board of Trustees:

I support and urge you to please keep the mask mandate for MCPS schools in place. It is the least you can do to decrease transmission of covid-19 in schools.

There still is not a vaccine for children under 12. Local transmission and case numbers are higher than ever. Members of our community are still dying of covid-19. Our local health care system is in crisis. Where masks are not required, case numbers are higher and the toll on the school and wider community are also much higher. Masks work to reduce transmission. It is a simple thing we all can do to decrease transmission, illness, disruption, and death.

Regards,  
Agatha Podrasky

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please Continue Masks in Schools until case rates are significantly lower

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**Noah Becher** <noah.becher@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:48 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

I am writing to strongly urge MCPS to continue the policy of students and staff to continue to wear masks. We are still in the midst of the worst surge of the pandemic, not just the worst since this summer. There is hope for the future but now is not yet the time to let our guard down.

My kids are not yet in MCPS schools but our daycare follows MCPS recommendations. Additionally, other children at their daycares are school age so they are still affected.

Thank you for all you do,

Noah Becher

noah.becher@gmail.com

859-468-7107

1125 Milton St, Missoula, MT 59802

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Stephen Wing** <wingsthree@me.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:53 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Masks remain to be critical for schools. An example: last week NPR reported that a teacher removed their mask in class of maskless kids. Over half the kids got covid.

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking in school

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mnunesrn@gmail.com <mnunesrn@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:57 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am an ICU nurse in Missoula. It is frustrating and disturbing to me that a small group of uninformed people without any scientific background have the potential to change a safety practice in the public schools. I have a child at Lewis and Clark and at Washington. Masking in schools has been a huge factor in reducing staff member's contact with sick kids and kids not exposing each other. Distance, hand washing and masking all help prevent the spread of disease. If a parent wants their kid to not wear a mask then they can enroll in online school and keep their kid home. It doesn't just affect their kid. It affects all of the kids at school, the staff etc. I urge you to continue masking in schools. The hospitals are bursting at the seams and the COVID numbers are the highest they have ever been. THAT is a fact. Help our kids to stay safe in schools by continuing to endorse masks. In the least, show support and respect to your local health care professionals that are working extremely hard to just survive every shift.

Maile Macaluso RN

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

---

## **Fwd: Masks**

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**Janna Cunningham** <jannacunningham07@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Janna Cunningham** <jannacunningham07@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Sep 27, 2021, 10:57 AM  
Subject: Masks  
To: <publiccomment@mcps.org>

Hi. I am writing in regards to the mask mandate issue at the up coming board meeting. I really hope the mandate remains in effect. I have a young child in school and I believe a mask protects him as well as others. I would be more nervous sending him to class if there were no mask mandate. Please, please keep it in effect. Thank you.

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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**(no subject)**

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**Wesley Molloy** <wesley.molloy@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:59 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

I am writing in support of continued masking. The Delta variant is proving to be much more contagious and we are seeing more pediatric cases, so I feel it is a necessary measure to help protect the students of MCPS.

I know teachers are doing their best with the space they're given and it is nearly impossible to distance 20+ children in a small classroom, so I feel that the only real safety measure we can rely on at this point is masking.

Please continue requiring masks as school. Please help us protect our unvaccinated children.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Wesley Molloy

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Comment in Support of Masks

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**Kathryn Grady** <kaymgrady@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:14 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello!

I'm the parent of a student at Sentinel and a student at Lewis and Clark. I understand you're re-evaluating the mask mandate.

I want to beg you to leave it in place. My kids need to be in school but we cannot risk my younger child getting sick until he can get vaccinated.

Also, the teachers and older students deserve to have their risks of getting a breakthrough infection minimized.

MCPS has been a leader in helping limit community spread of the virus. Studies have shown much higher rates of contagion in districts that don't have mask mandates.

Please continue to support our children and our community's health by continuing to require masks, at least until you get kids can get vaccinated and community infection rates are lower.

Thank you!

Kathryn Grady  
Missoula

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

---

## Mask mandate

**Sara Blackwell** <seblackwell@outlook.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:20 AM

To: Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

To the school board

I am an ICU nurse at St. Patrick hospital with a child in your school system. Our schools are doing ok, we are still open, which is better than a lot of school systems around us. Now is not the time to stop the mask mandates, the national guard has just been called in to help, our hospitals are full of sick covid patients. Covid is a public health issue that could quickly cripple our school system if teachers, substitutes, and ancillary staff are sick and unable to be with our students. Yes we have a high vaccination rate but our under 18 population is only around 65%. Continuing to mask is important for the health of all us. Please give us more time to get vaccinations for younger kids available and get through this current surge. I want my child to be in school, learning and socializing!!

Thank you  
Sara Blackwell

Get Outlook for iOS



Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## COVID Task Force Question

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Jill MH Taber <jill.michal@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:23 AM

To: Me <jill.michal@gmail.com>, covidquestions@mcpsmt.org, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Cc: Jeffrey Avgeris <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, Kathryn KaCee Ballou <kcballou@mcpsmt.org>, barnes.fam@hotmail.com, dbarnett@missoulacounty.us, Jennifer Courtney <jccourtney@mcpsmt.org>, kedalenberg@mcpsmt.org, Grace Decker <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, bfrank@mcpsmt.org, Vmgiammona@mcpsmt.org, vjhaines@mcpsmt.org, Emma Merle Hunter <Emmamerle@gmail.com>, Brooke Krininger <Bkrininger@mcpsmt.org>, Kacie Laslovich <Kllaslovich@mcpsmt.org>, djrossberg@mcpsmt.org, jbserviss@mcpsmt.org, Amy Shattuck <avshattuck@mcpsmt.org>, Nicholas Shepherd <nfshepherd@mcpsmt.org>, Brucetribbensee@submittable.com, Ann Wake <awake@mcpsmt.org>, Pcwright@mcpsmt.org, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

Members of the MCPS COVID Task Force:

When will MCPS no longer mandate masks for K-12 students, staff, and visitors?

What is the PRECISE rubric for requiring masks or not requiring masks?

Missoula parents, families, and the community deserve an answer to this question. I know you meet this afternoon. Please make it your goal to give us an exact answer. The moving goalpost is unfair for ALL Missoula families -- those who support mandated masks and those who do not. Let's make it specific to Missoula County numbers and let's take into account numbers in the schools.

Thank you,  
Jill Taber  
406-490-5216

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Jill MH Taber

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Please wear masks**

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**Kate Bratches** <kate.yaya@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:40 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Katherine Bratches

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks for limiting the spread of COVID-19

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**Marina Zaleski** <marina.zaleski@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:40 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello and thank you for you for taking comments.

I'd like to voice my support of continuing to have all those who are in close proximity of others while at school or school events to wear masks. This would include, but is not limited to students, teachers, administration, support staff, volunteers, parents, and visitors.

Thank you,

Marina Zaleski  
Missoula County Resident

--

Marina Zaleski  
montanayogatherapy.com  
406.327.0775

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**public comment.**

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**mask mandates now.** <zootownparent@protonmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:43 AM

Reply-To: "mask mandates now." &lt;zootownparent@protonmail.com&gt;

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

I am writing to the public comment line to request that the mask mandate be extended. We have children enrolled in both elementary and middle school in Missoula County Public Schools. Their father is immunocompromised, and despite having the vaccine is still at risk. Our elementary child is autistic and cannot do online school, as it is not only sensory overload, but it is critical that they get the social component of school. Our middle school child requested specifically to go back to school despite being offered MOA, as they miss their friends and perform better in person. They both wish to see masks continue to keep their father as safe as possible.

I know that some find it funny to make jokes at the expense of families like ours.

**I do not find the idea of burying my husband, the father of my children, funny in the least.**

Thank you. I wish to remain anonymous at this time.

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masks in Schools

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**Ryan Swentik** <rswentik@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 12:00 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello MCPS,

Thank you for your time and consideration on the issue of masking in schools. I have two elementary aged children who are not old enough to be vaccinated yet. I urge you to please continue with the mask mandate in schools. Being at school is very important, and masking adds an extra layer of mitigation that allows students to remain in school. There is a clear connection between masking and lower numbers of positive cases. Here is information from Gallatin County: "Data compiled by the Gallatin County public health department shows schools that started the year with policies requiring mask use had fewer student COVID-19 cases."

During a weekly press call, health officer Lori Christenson presented data showing that there were an average of 5.8 cases per 1,000 students in schools that started the year with mask policies. There were 17.9 cases per 1,000 in schools with no mask policies."

I know this is unfortunately a divisive issue however please keep the mask mandate in place until COVID numbers significantly decrease and elementary aged children can get vaccinated. Otherwise I foresee school's having to close. Thank you for your time.

Ryan Swentik  
406.381.0631

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Lara Mattson** <laramichelle30@hotmail.com>  
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 12:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

I can't believe I am having to ask this, but PLEASE do not recind the mask mandate for MCPS during a pandemic. Please keep our children, teachers and all of their families safe.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lara Mattson Radle

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## Continue Masking

**Anne Swentik** <anneswentik@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 12:04 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello MCPS School Board,

Thank you for your time and consideration on the issue of masking in schools. I have two elementary aged children who are not old enough to be vaccinated yet. I urge you to please continue with the mask mandate in schools. Being at school is very important, and masking adds an extra layer of mitigation that allows students to remain in school. There is a clear connection between masking and lower numbers of positive cases. Here is information from Gallatin County: "Data compiled by the Gallatin County public health department shows schools that started the year with policies requiring mask use had fewer student COVID-19 cases.

During a weekly press call, health officer Lori Christenson presented data showing that there were an average of 5.8 cases per 1,000 students in schools that started the year with mask policies. There were 17.9 cases per 1,000 in schools with no mask policies."

I know this is unfortunately a divisive issue however please keep the mask mandate in place until COVID numbers significantly decrease and elementary aged children can be vaccinated. Thank you for your time.

-Anne Swentik

	Case Count	School Population	Cases per 1000 Students
Mask	38	6520	5.8
No Mask	98	5264	17.9*
*4 cases removed because enrollment data not available			

image.png  
413K

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Jess Coulter** <jess.c.coulter@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 12:22 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am writing to express my continued support for a mask mandate, at least for students who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. I would like to see mask mandates continued until students have had a reasonable length of time to become fully vaccinated.

Last year, for a variety of reasons, I enrolled my two MCPS students in the online academy. While there were aspects of the experience that were not ideal, I appreciated that there was an option for those of us who didn't feel like in person school was an appropriate option. The online school is a viable option for those students whose parents do not wish for them to wear masks.

Studies are beginning to be released comparing schools with mask mandates to schools without. Well these are not randomized controlled trials, they are all we have to assess the usefulness of masks at this point. They are showing that there are fewer cases in schools with mask mandates. I urge you to continue the mandate until students who wish to have the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Many argue that people are out and about in the community doing more dangerous things. That may be true of many, but it is not true of all of us. Many of us continue to practice mitigation strategies on our own, and our children have a right to access public education that is safe.

Thank you for your time and your hard work.

Jess Coulter

Sent from my iPhone

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**Re: RUN! HERE COMES A COVID!!**

1 message

**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 1:20 PM

To: Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercer@mcpsmt.org" <kmercer@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandater Diane -

Again, below you'll see the records being shattered in spite of your dumbass pet mask mandate.

Do better.

Gabriel Earle

On Monday, September 20, 2021, 05:09:21 PM MDT, Gabriel Earle &lt;gabrielearle@yahoo.com&gt; wrote:

Mask Mandater Diane -

Your response is either a joke or an intentional lie. Right now on the Missoula County Health Department website you'll find the information that all records for cases and incidence rates have been 'SHATTERED'. That information is as of TODAY. I've posted the link, the image and the text below to ensure you read it.

You can't have it both ways. It can't be slowing and shattering records at the same time. Lift your pet mask mandate and leave my kid alone.

Again, answer the question: How's the mask mandate working to stop covid numbers from rising?

Daddy is disappointed in your flawed logic.

Gabriel Earle

Here's the link:

Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health Department | United States

**Covid-19 | Missoula City-County Health  
Department | United States**

Missoula City-County Health Department Coronavirus (COVID19)  
Information

Here's the image:

On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County's COVID-19 hospitalization record, active case record and incidence rate record were shattered for the second week in a row as the latest wave of COVID-19 continued to batter local hospital systems. In Missoula County, 50 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 1,386 residents currently have the virus and the average daily new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days reached a new height of 89.

Here's the text:

On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County's COVID-19 hospitalization record, active case record and incidence rate record were shattered for the second week in a row as the latest wave of COVID-19 continued to batter local hospital systems. In Missoula County, 50 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 1,386 residents currently have the virus and the average daily new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days reached a new height of 89.

On Monday, September 20, 2021, 04:38:34 PM MDT, Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

Masks are slowing the spread of COVID in places where they are being used. Our schools are still open, we haven't had to close like Great Falls High, Eureka, Plains and Noxon Schools. MCPS is doing the best we can, and masks are part of that. Diane Lorenzen

On Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:15 PM Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com> wrote:

**Mask Mandaters -**

One of the goals of your little pet mask mandate was to stop covid case numbers from rising.

How is that working?

Answer the question.

Gabriel Earle

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking

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**Patty** <patty\_hixson@msn.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 1:33 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I am a retired teacher who goes into the schools to sub. I will NOT sub in a school that doesn't have a mask mandate.

Masks work.

Patty Hixson

Sent from my iPhone

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Schools with mask mandates have >3x fewer Covid cases - let's mask up!**

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**Catherine Lea** <catherine.m.lea@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 1:36 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good afternoon,

My name is Catherine Lea. I am writing as a Missoula resident to share my strong support of mask mandates in schools. They are proven to be safe, harmless, and protective against contracting and spreading viruses.\* (See references below.) They're also a great way for kids to develop social and learning skills and show care for their communities.\*\*

Moreover, data shows that Montana schools without mask mandates have many more active cases of Covid\*\*\* -- that means more quarantining, more juggling family and work schedules, more logistical headaches, more damage to the economy, and more risk to everyone of illness, hospitalization, and death.

Until our children can be safely vaccinated and our hospitals aren't overwhelmed with severe Covid cases, mask mandates in school are a simple and effective way to keep us ALL safe.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and for all you do to keep our kids, teachers, and parents safe and healthy.

Best,  
Catherine Lea

\* <https://kansasreflector.com/2021/09/25/evidence-shows-that-yes-masks-prevent-covid-19-and-surgical-masks-are-the-way-to-go/>

\*\* <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/18/opinion/masks-schools-covid.html>

\*\*\* [https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article\\_30db68bd-7e32-59e0-8f72-82a867a0e465.html](https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article_30db68bd-7e32-59e0-8f72-82a867a0e465.html)

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Please keep our schools masked

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chay p <chayinmissoula@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 1:49 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello. Thank you for taking the time to read comments from the public on the matter.

While COVID 19 continues to rampage through our community, as nearly half of our residents remain unvaccinated, and the vaccine is not yet available to most school-age children - the suggestion to try pretend that we are not still in the midst of the worst pandemic of our age is appalling.

Those who would turn their nose up at life saving medicine, or simple public health protocol ought to be ashamed of themselves. Even moreso to force the direct consequences of their flawed logic onto the community at large via our children.

I cordially invite anyone who believes their childrens rights are being threatened by mandatory masking to review school dress code policies.

I applaud the MCPS for their efforts in combating the unique challenges presented by COVID 19, and furthermore encourage those who do not wish to adhere to covid protocol to enroll their children in the mask-free MOA.

We must not let those who would deny science endanger our community further with their prideful ignorance. Please do the right thing. Academia may have failed those people already. We must not also fail their children.

Rachel Philips

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please support the mask mandate

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**Cassie Cranston** <cassie@thecranstons.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:17 PM

Hello,

I am a parent of a child at Lewis and Clark. I am writing to urge you to continue the mask mandate in our schools. We now have access to data comparing schools who and are not enforcing masks and the correlation to COVID numbers in schools. It is clear that masks work. Please protect our children especially until they can be vaccinated.

Thank you, Cassie Cranston

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Public comment on mask decision

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**Hayley Devlin** <hayleydevlin1@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 3:49 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Please keep masks in schools. The science is clear-- masks work. Keep kids safe from COVID-19 and misinformation.

--Hayley Devlin & Taylor Woods, Missoula Residents

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## Request to maintain mask mandates in schools

**Alison Dimond** <alison.dimondkardos@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 3:53 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, mgehl@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, Wilena Old Person <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org, rwatson@mcpsmt.org

Hello Board Trustees and Superintendent Watson,

Thank you for the excellent job you are doing to keep our kids, staff, and community safe as the COVID pandemic rages on. I'm sure you get a lot of negative comments about the mask mandate. But, I'd like you to know there are many (I think the vast majority) of us out here in the school community who greatly appreciate your work and careful decisions.

I urge you to maintain the mask mandate in schools. COVID cases have never been higher in our county, or in our schools (though thanks to the mask mandate I don't think many of those are coming from in school transmission). The Missoula City County Health Department is urging everyone to wear masks indoors in public to help reduce the spread of COVID and the unprecedented strain on our hospitals. Maintaining the mask mandate in schools would be in line with their recommendations to the community. It is also strongly supported by peer studies of mask wearing and COVID transmission (see below). You have science, the facts, and the vast majority of the community on your side on this topic.

Credible studies illustrating the effectiveness of wearing masks in reducing spread and infections of COVID-19

- Effectiveness of Mask Wearing to Control Community Spread of SARS-CoV-2, February 2021 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>
- An evidence review of face masks against COVID-19, PNAS January 26, 2021, <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>
- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 schools  
Updated July 9, 2021, [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission\\_k\\_12\\_schools.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html)
- COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools, American Academy of Pediatrics, <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

I'm a parent of two elementary school kiddos in MCPS. Thanks for considering my comments.

Best, Ali

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Alison Dimond Kardos  
Sustainability Consultant  
alison.dimondkardos@gmail.com  
Missoula, Montana  
406-241-3398

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**Parent Comment**

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**Annie Davis** <davisannie1209@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 4:25 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Greetings MCPS Board of Trustees,

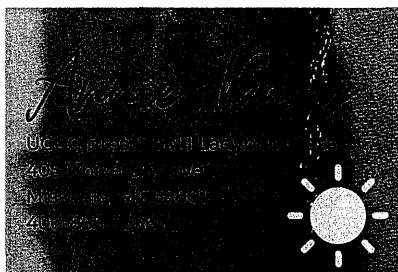
My name is Annie Davis and my son attends Chief Charlo Elementary School as a 1st grader. I am feeling so grateful for all the care, concern, planning, and action taken so far this year to implement the covid safety protocols that seem to be working well at keeping staff and students as safe as possible. A most sincere thanks to all involved.

I urge you and the Covid Task Force to maintain these plans past the six week mark of our 2021-2022 school year. In particular, I am especially hopeful that the decision to continue with a mask mandate will be embraced for the foreseeable future as recommended by CDC and countless pediatric providers for our vulnerable and unvaccinated children. Cases are on the uptick in our schools, but masks can help with limiting spread, as reliable data suggests.

Thank you for allowing families the opportunity to contact you with our thoughts on this matter. I will hope that your upcoming meeting will be productive and based in science and data.

Sincerely,

Annie Davis  
104 Grandview Way  
Missoula, MT 59803  
406-855-7636





Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Mask mandate renewal

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Jaclyn Foster <jaclynfoster93@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 4:29 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Hello,

I am writing to thank you for how the mask mandate has gone so far and ask you to renew it at the upcoming six week deadline. I have been very impressed with my elementary school's low numbers despite skyrocketing case rates locally, and my understanding is that Montana schools with mask mandates have seen over 3x fewer cases than schools without mandates. I have been so glad to not deal with the disruption of having school go temporarily online like so many other western Montana schools without mandates over this past month. This is my daughter's first year in public school and she has been able to make friends, begin learning a new language, and progress notably in her phonics understanding, all while masked.

If I could make a suggestion as far as public health — it may be useful to set a defined target for when mask mandates can be lifted. This could be in terms of community cases, or tied to vaccination rates among certain age groups, or both. Having a defined end date for masks may help lessen the concerns of people who seem convinced this is a slippery slope. I would encourage you to keep mask mandates in place at minimum until 5-11 year olds have had vaccine access for at least 8 weeks — which would give parents time to schedule the first appointment plus the 6 weeks required to reach full immunity. However, as we've seen with delta, younger siblings and immunocompromised family members won't be safe until a certain threshold of high vax rates and low transmission rates is reached, and having family members severely ill is an adverse childhood experience even for those children and teens who do not personally get sick themselves.

Thanks,  
Jaclyn Foster  
--  
Jaclyn Foster

she/her  
No response necessary during evenings or weekends

---



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep masks!

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**Helen Rolston Clemmer** <hrclemmer@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 4:41 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

It was such a relief when MCPS said they would be requiring masks this fall. We are hosting a foreign exchange student who is attending Sentinel and it is also a relief to his family. We know this current surge will eventually end but today we are in the middle of it and health care providers are BEGGING people to vaccinate and wear masks. They are overwhelmed, working overtime and take time out of their day to speak with the media to try and get the word out. There will be a time for masks to come off (higher vaccination rates!) but we aren't there yet.

Thanks for prioritizing safety!

Helen Rolston-Clemmer

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Please continue to keep the mask mandate in place.**

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**DeRae Matuszek** <deraematuszek@hotmail.com>  
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 4:48 PM

Cases in our county are continuing to rise, and I'm hopeful that you will continue to keep our children as safe as possible by requiring masks in schools. I feel the numbers at our school, especially considering the large number of students, has been relatively low. I believe this very well is due to masks and the staff's diligence and prioritizing keeping our children as safe as possible. Seeing schools in other areas throughout the state struggling to get their transmission under control has made me feel very grateful for the choices MCPS has made. I'm disgusted with the lawsuit against MCPS, and this loud minority doesn't speak for our community.

DeRae Matuszek

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## MCPS Mask Mandate

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Eric Franzon <eric.franzon@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 4:57 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hi,

I am an MCPS parent and am concerned about the loud voices I have heard arguing against mask mandates. I have children in both elementary and High School.

At a time:

- \* when COVID rates have been increasing;
- \* when our hospitals are at risk of turning away patients because of overcrowding;
- \* when new variants of the virus are being discovered;
- \* when we are just entering peak cold and flu season;
- \* when large numbers of our population are rejecting calls to be vaccinated;
- \* and when children under the age of 12 cannot yet be vaccinated...

We must not let down our collective guard. We must get viral spread under control.

If parents do not want their children to wear masks, that is their right and their choice, but they must accept the accompanying consequence that their children will not be allowed to participate in activities, or go to places, where masks are required. That includes school buildings.

Public schools have a long history of requiring vaccination records. Public schools have a long history of enforcing dress codes. Requiring masks is no different and public schools have a responsibility to students, staff, and the community at large.

Please help keep our children safe.

Thank you,

--Eric

**Eric Axel Franzon**

*Sent from my iPhone. All typos have been carefully hand-crafted for your enjoyment.*

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Mask mandate**

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**Kathryn Duncan** <kjduncan41@icloud.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:10 PM

MCPS:

Please keep the mask mandate in the schools. The CDC guidelines and the research are clear. Even Gallatin County is finding research supports this:

## **Gallatin County data shows fewer COVID-19 cases in schools requiring masks**

(Missoulain headline—September 24 & 25 with story by Holly Michels.

Think about the teachers and support personnel you are expecting to work INSIDE every day in a closed environment. If this had happened when I was teaching and a single parent I. Honest to God, would have felt between the devil and the deep blue sea. Risk being fired or getting Covid?

Throw your weight behind the students and teachers who really have no recourse but to count on you to keep them safe.

Keep the mandate!! Science and experience justify it.

Sincerely,  
K. Jane Duncan

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking in school

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Jeff Rolston-Clemmer <jeff@habitaredesign.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:15 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To whom it may concern,

I understand that MCPS is reviewing its masking mandate and I have an exchange student attending Sentinel High School. I would advocate strongly that you continue to require masking while Missoula is still within a surge of COVID due to the Delta variant. Thus far the masking policy has worked well to mitigate the variant's higher degree of transmission. There are no scientific downsides to masking and anti masking complaints are simply a distraction to factual evidence that masking works to stop the spread.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rolston-Clemmer

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## keep masks

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**Polly Becker** <pollyrbecker@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:19 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello, my name is Henry. I'm a student at WMS and I think that we should keep masks on for our own safety, and for the safety of others. I have had heart surgery 3 times and I don't want to spread covid 19 to any of my family members, and I don't want to go to the hospital again.

plus when you get it you have to quarantine for a week, therefore falling behind on a lot of school work. My household family all got covid except for me, and it wasn't very fun to live in a RV for a week alone, and with my grandmother for two weeks, only being able to see my parents and siblings on video. Please keep the mask mandate, it really does help.

- Henry Becker.

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate revisited

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**Kitten Beck** <kittenfern@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:19 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I don't understand what is in doubt. Running out of oxygen in our local hospitals, parking refrigerated trucks behind hospital morgues to hold the overflow bodies and requiring physicians to choose to pull ventilators from patients who will probably die and give them to someone with a higher chance of surviving should be enough to demonstrate that wearing masks is a very small price to pay. Have we learned nothing?

PLEASE keep the mask mandate in place.

Thank you,  
Katherine

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**continue masking**

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**Polly Becker** <pollyrbecker@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:39 PM

Please continue to mandate masking for our MCPS district. Until you have clear, unbiased, accurate and well researched data that masks are unnecessary we would be wise to follow guidelines and do everything we can to keep our students in the classroom. Schools should teach and demonstrate accurate science which in today's case includes mandatory masks. Our children are not so emotionally fragile that wearing masks will damage their lives, whereas COVID has been quite deadly. Let's all work together to do what we can to keep our kids safe and in school!

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Polly Becker



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Covid precautions/mask mandate

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**Molly Beth Grutsch** <mollybee2@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 5:46 PM

To: "Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

With the health department announcing the death of 11 people in our county just this week, it would be unbelievably careless to end the school mask mandate right now. Please stay strong and follow the recommendations of experts!! Our kids are thrilled to be in school and happy to wear masks to keep it that way. The Grutsch Family

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**srhoderick@gmail.com** <srhoderick@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 6:01 PM

I think that Missoula Public Schools would be absolutely insane to revoke the mask mandate. You would be putting kids lives at risk, as well as anyone else that could be infected in the process. I am 100% against kids and adults not wearing masks. Don't be stupid.

S.Rhoderick

Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask usage

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**Elaine Shea** <chickadeepc@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 6:27 PM

I feel strongly masks should be worn by enrolled school children. My granddaughter is a first grader at Rattlesnake and feels very proud she is responsible for wearing her mask everywhere indoors and improving health outcomes in our community. As a former kindergarten teacher in the district wearing a mask is the only healthful choice. Thank you.

Elaine Shea  
1025 Briar St  
Missoula 59802

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**robertahomemissoula@gmail.com** <robertahomemissoula@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 6:40 PM

Please, please keep your mask policy. Follow the science. Don't cave to a vocal minority. Thanks. Roberta Burnett

Sent from my iPhone

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**Mask comment**

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**Madison Iler** <m\_iler@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 6:51 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Hello MCPS, As a parent of a Lewis & Clark child with asthma who is too young for the vaccine, I am writing to weigh in on the mask rules.

Covid cases are at a peak in our community and our public health and community leaders are pleading with the public to take precautions. I certainly hope we will see the end of it soon, but now is NOT the time to loosen mask requirements in our schools. My son loves going to school and grows so much through in-person learning. Masks are one of the ways we can keep him and all of the students safe.

Please don't give in to the anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers. These common-sense public health precautions are our best options to keep all of our kids safe.

Madison Iler  
(303) 253-1712

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**Lisa Davey** <ladavey25@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 6:57 PM

Dear Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your continued dedication to our student's and community's safety. Since vaccines are still not available for children under 12 and many children have siblings at home or interact with students who have siblings I request that you keep the mask mandate in effect.

Because masking has been shown in recent data to reduce the transmission of COVID 19 in a school environment (based on schools who are not masking versus those who have been since the start of school) I request that you keep the mask mandate in effect.

Because I have a child who is vaccinated but still vulnerable to the disease which is spreading like wildfire in our community currently, I request that you continue to make school accessible to him and many other children in our community who could not safely attend school without precautions like masking in place.

With much respect and hope for continued safety,

Lisa Davey

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks in schools. Please

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**Ragna Thorne-Thomsen** <mnflt@yahoo.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 7:01 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

I am retuning in support of maintaining masks in the Missoula schools.

I was just listening to the evening addition of Montana public radio (9-27-21). Research out of gallatin county reveals that schools that started unmasked have 3 to 3.5 times more covid infections than schools with masks. There is no harm in wearing masks. Our children are resilient and better adapted than adults. Please be strong and help keep our children and staff and teachers safe.

I am sorry that you are all being placed in positions that pit opinions against science.

Even if covid did not exist we have fewer colds, almost no flu.

Thank you for all the work you do.

Be safe

Ragna Thorne-Thomsen  
Mnflt@yahoo.com  
406-396-7874

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## in favor of masks

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**Michelle Thornblade** <smwpac@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 7:36 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

My boys (9th and 11th grade, Hellgate HS) are both fully vaccinated, but many are not. Breakthrough infections are happening. The case rates in Missoula are very high. Our students are enclosed in classrooms near each other. Masks prevent infections, masks save lives.

Thank you for requiring masks in school. Please continue to do so until our community is safe.

Thank you.

Michelle Thornblade

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## School Masking

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**Catie Kohler** <catie.kohler@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:14 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To the Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my support for continued use of masking in schools. It has allowed our schools to stay open, which has not been the case with MANY school that have chosen not to utilize masking. Please vote to continue masking until the vaccine is available for children at a minimum.

Thank you for your hard work and your consideration!

Catie Kohler

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Support

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**Heather Murphree** <hmurphree@bonner.k12.mt.us>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:39 PM

To Whom It May Concern;

Please continue to keep our students and staff safe. I so appreciate your efforts thus far. I want my child to be able to stay face to face. I support masks being worn.

Regards,  
Heather Murphree

Get Outlook for iOS

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep masking

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**Dean McGovern** <dpmcgovern@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:45 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Cc: Amy McGovern <bluebirdltd@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

We are in the deep throes of a public health crisis. Now is not the time to lighten up the safety rules. Let's stay vigilant. Let's keep masking in schools and indoors around other people. Let's be smart educators.

Thanks for all you do for our kids.

Warm Regards,  
Dean and Amy McGovern

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please continue mask policy

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**Pamela Gherlein** <pkgherlein@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:47 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

As a grandparent of a Paxon kindergarten student, I am so grateful for the work you are doing to help our children stay safe this school year. Please keep the mask policy in place!  
Pam Gherlein

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please continue mask mandate

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**John Kemmis Shea** <john.kemmis.shea@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:49 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hi, my daughter is a 1st grader at Rattlesnake this year and we are SO appreciative of the current mask mandate in place, at least until children 5-12 are able to be vaccinated.

All our thanks,

John (and Jasmine) Shea

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Marilyn Ryan** <gz9404@charter.net>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:57 PM

Please continue the required use of masks for all students and staff in MCSP.

Don't let a minority of vocal community members risk the health and safety of students and staff.  
Thank you for your work and dedication.

We are retired MCPS teachers and our children graduated from MCPS. Currently we have one grandchild attending MCPS.

Marilyn and Pat Ryan  
2407 56th St  
Missoula, MT 59803  
406 546 3642

Sent from my iPhone Marilyn

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask comment

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**Rachel Kantor** <patteecanyonoutdoorschool@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:59 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I ask that masks continue to be required for students, staff and visitors in all MCPS buildings. Masks have been shown to be an effective strategy in reducing transmission, allowing all children and adults access to a safer learning and working environment.

Thank you,  
Rachel Kantor

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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**(no subject)**

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**carla mettling** <carlamettling@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:00 PM

Masks should continue to be mandated until the CDC and other medical authorities say otherwise.  
Carla Mettling

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking in schools

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Isaac Kantor <isaac@kantorlawmt.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:04 PM

To: "Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Dear MCPS board,

I have a son at Washington Middle School and a daughter at Sentinel High. I understand that a recent study from Gallatin County indicated masks in schools reduce the number of Covid cases. My children and their friends all feel safer because MCPS is requiring masking in schools. Given the extremely high rates of Delta variant infections in the county and state, I urge you to keep the masking requirement in place.

Thank you,

Isaac Kantor

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Please Continue Mask Mandate

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Porter@missoulaoutdoors.com <Porter@missoulaoutdoors.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:23 PM

Hello,

It is my understanding that MCPS is taking comment on whether to continue the mask mandate.

I have two children attending MCPS schools - Washington MS & Hellgate High. My wife is a 7th-grade teacher at CS Porter. I also run a summer camp for kids age 6-14.

I strongly encourage you to continue the mask mandate. The evidence is clear that it's an easy and effective way to greatly reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory disease, in particular COVID. Kids have easily adapted to wearing masks, and it's just the new normal for them. I have witnessed this first hand in our own programs, and I know teachers also see this in the classroom. My wife says it is really no bother to her to wear one for most the day while teaching.

And really, why are we even having this discussion? Again, the evidence supporting the use of masks is clear. If parents don't like it, they can simply join MOA and have their kids attend online. The shrill claims of infringing on rights or freedom rings hollow, and it comes predominantly from those who have turned this into a political issue.

Many vaccinations are required for kids to attend school, so that we keep horrible diseases from our past under control. Since younger children cannot yet be vaccinated, and since it cannot be mandated for older children, and since many children come from families who choose not to get vaccinated, then at least mandate masks in the schools. Lives are at risk from COVID, with 11 RESIDENTS OF MISSOULA COUNTY DEAD just this past week.

You know it's the right thing to do. Please - stand firm, ignore the histrionics, do what's best for kids and teachers, keep the mask mandate.

Porter

--

J. Porter Hammitt, MS  
Director & Lead Instructor  
Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures (MOLA) LLC  
1304 Jackson St, Missoula, MT 59802  
www.MissoulaOutdoors.com  
406-240-2458

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Student Letter in Support of Masks

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**Kathryn Grady** <kaymgrady@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:39 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear Missoula County Public Schools,

I wanted to write about the mask requirement that you are considering. I am Michael Franzon. I go to Lewis & Clark Elementary, and I am 10 years old. I don't think that you should relieve the mask requirement, because it could make a lot more people sick, and the virus could get larger, making the pandemic last longer.

I'd be incredibly nervous around everybody with their masks off. I think that the only time you should be allowed to take your mask off is when you're eating, and when you're spaced out outside.

Thank you for reading this. I hope you have a good day!

Sincerely,

Michael Franzon

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Lewis & Clark Elementary





Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Mask mandate

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**Dayl Fredrickson** <michaeldaylfredrickson@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:38 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am totally in favor of continuing the mask mandate for MCPS students. I have 2 grandchildren in elementary school and I help provide after school care for them. Having them wear masks helps protect them and consequently me from COVID. Neither of my grandchildren have minded wearing masks and take it in stride as something they need to do to help stay healthy. Studies comparing schools with mandates to those who don't show a clear benefit for mask wearers: Covid cases are much lower in schools with the mandate. Let's be smart about this! We need to protect our kids and our community!

Dayl Fredrickson  
1320 Harrison  
Missoula

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**Dayl Fredrickson** <michaeldaylfredrickson@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:41 PM

To: Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Thank you for the clarification.

[Quoted text hidden]

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask requirements

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spring mills <springinmt@hotmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:01 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Dear Missoula County Schools -

Please, please, please keep our kids safe. Masks are the way to go! It's the only way to keep our kids in school and be safe. I really hope that you keep masks as a safety precaution.

Thank you -

Spring Mills

Parent of a Washington Middle Schooler

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Gregory Fritz** <jgfritz6@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:01 PM

I strongly support the mask mandate. Protect the students who need to be in school. Studies show that masks are very effective in protecting against the virus, especially when everyone wears them. CDC has concluded that masks, are effective at preventing the spread of the coronavirus in schools and should be worn by everyone over the age of two indoors. Listen to the experts. Protect the students. Mandate masks.

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Noel Mills** <leonslim1@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:02 PM

Reply-To: Noel Mills <leonslim1@yahoo.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a child in MCPS I believe that continued mask wearing is the smart, safe and responsible thing to do.

Thank you.

Noel Mills

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please continue wearing masks

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**Karen Oberg** <otherapyservices@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:04 PM

I am writing to express our support in having kids continue to wear masks for public health and safety.

Sincerely,  
Karen Oberg

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep masks please

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Elke <elke@mamalode.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:11 PM

Please keep the masks. It's working. Our numbers in the schools feel safe and smart.

Kids need to be in school. For so many reasons: academic social emotional. The best way to keep them in school is to not have them maintaining and/or sick.

Please keep masks.

Sent from my iPhone

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate 📧

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**Jodi Kulina** <jodikulina@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:16 PM

Please , please, please continue to require masks until our numbers go down to 25 out of 100,000 or lower!

Jodi and Brett Kulina

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Jodi Kulina  
Middle School Language Arts Teacher  
1800 S. 2nd W  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406)549-8327  
www.sussexschool.org





Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Re: COVID Task Force Meeting Public Comment**

2 messages

**Moriah Mitsuda** <moriah.mitsuda@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:23 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

As the end of the initial six week mask mandate approaches, I would like to reaffirm my support for a mask mandate for Missoula schools. Please extend the mandate for the rest of the fall semester. Masks should be mandated in schools until Missoula county has fewer than 10 active COVID cases or 90% of students and staff are fully vaccinated.

On Mon, Aug 2, 2021, 7:36 PM Moriah Mitsuda <moriah.mitsuda@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am a Missoula resident and mother of two young children. I wish I could attend this afternoon's meeting and deliver my comments about the Missoula schools COVID plan, but I feel it would be unsafe for my children to risk COVID exposure at the meeting. I hope you'll accept this email in lieu of my commentary in person at the meeting.

I strongly support any plans MCPS has to require masks for the coming school year. The high contagiousness of the delta variant of COVID, combined with a school population made mostly of children who cannot be vaccinated yet makes for a dangerous combination. I am extremely concerned that our schools will be a vector for COVID to run rampant. A COVID outbreak at school puts students, teachers, staff, and all their families at risk of both death and permanent disability. I am worried that my vaccinated husband, who is a teacher, will catch a breakthrough case at school. I am worried that my too-young-to-be-vaccinated daughter will catch COVID from one of her too-young-to-be-vaccinated classmates, and expose my newborn son to COVID.

Requiring masks does not infringe on students' (or teachers' or staff's) personal liberties. Failing to enact basic safety measures at public schools, however, does put their lives at risk. Mandating masks at school is the duty of the MCPS system.

Thank you very much for considering my thoughts. Please feel free to contact me at moriah.mitsuda@gmail.com if you have any questions for me.

Best wishes,  
Moriah Mitsuda

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate for MCPS

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**Leanna Ross** <leanna\_rn@yahoo.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:23 PM

To whom this may concern,

As a parent and registered nurse, I wish to advocate for the health and safety of all MCPS students, staff, and family members. As the COVID-19 virus continues to surge in our county, causing our highest rates of illness/hospitalization thus far and overwhelming our healthcare system, please continue to require masks indoors at school. The effectiveness of masks in reducing the spread is well-supported by scientific evidence.

At this time, masking in schools is strongly recommended by the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, Montana Nurses Association, and Missoula City-County Health Department. It is critical that we continue to follow the guidance of these experts.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment,  
Leanna Ross, RN

Sent from my iPhone

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## Stop community spread

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**julieannburkhart** <julieannburkhart@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:35 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, davidjburkhart@gmail.com, vmgiammona@mcpsmt.org

Wearing masks indoors is essential to efforts to stop community spread, keep our hospitals functioning for all uses and ultimately to save lives. 127 people have died of Covid in Missoula (12 died just in the past week). Masks are proven to reduce exhaled and inhaled droplets. It is now known that vaccinated people can also spread the virus.

Also, viruses are seasonal. We are not at the end of the increase of our PNW seasonal uptick. In addition, the dominant variant is more contagious and virulent.

We have to keep masking, socially-distancing, and vaccinating, until our community spread is reduced.

Public health authorities all do recommend these measures be adhered to for the health of our children and for public health in general.

Children are very influenced by peers and look to adults to protect them. Without a mandate, they are more likely fall into unhealthy practices. They need adults to set the boundaries and set the requirement that they mask to protect themselves and others.

For the health of our community and health of our children, we must keep the mask mandate in tact.

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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jennifer@21march.com <jennifer@21march.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:48 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear Board of Trustees,

As a parent of two MCPS students, I strongly support keeping the mask mandates in place for all MCPS schools. Masks reduce the risk of getting covid-19 and our kids need this extra protection while covid is surging in our community.

Thank you.

jcp

Sent from Smallbiz Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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**masks in school**

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**Lori Cornish** <anamom17@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 1:21 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I have been an RN for 20 yrs. I have to say I have been impressed with the low covid numbers in the Missoula District 1 schools. I believe this has much to do with the mask mandate. My kids (7 and 10) have also not been sick as they usually are with the colds that run rampant through schools. My children have never had an issue with masks because I have never made masks an issue. They wear them whenever we are in big groups voluntarily. I have seen other schools without masks have higher numbers. We cannot afford to keep having kids and families quarantined for days, missing school and work. The only other option is to test every child daily and pull out positive cases. This is not feasible.

The easiest thing we can do is continue to be diligent in the schools with masking. Please keep the mandate in place. Protect our children, the school staff, and the families. Perhaps one day, we can get rid of them, but now is NOT the time when our Missoula numbers are higher than ever.

Thank you.

Lori Cornish

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## Please continue masking in our schools

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**Shirley Atkins** <zoolmntree@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 7:00 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

We are on the cusp of having vaccines accessible to the 6 - 11 year olds. How sad would it be if we remove what protections we can offer just before the better alternative is available? How badly would our community mourn if kids start filling our hospitals because we didn't have the patience to wait? I am a grandmother who provides child care for my grandsons. I am sure there are many others in my position since childcare options have become limited due to Covid. How bad would it be for our community if elderly family members start having break-through infections because the young children they care for become infected at school? Think about it.

Thank you for considering maintaining the mask mandates until vaccines for the youngsters become available.

Shirley N. Atkins (former teacher, and former substitute teacher)

--

"Education is, quite simply, peace-building by another name. It is the most effective form of defense spending there is." ~ Kofi Annan

"The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder.

-- Ralph M. Sockman

"If you are planning for a year, plant rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." ~Chinese Proverb

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## Simple Question

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 7:38 AM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org" <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, "awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org" <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>, Darby Earle <darbyearle@gmail.com>, Kendall Earle <kendallearle@gmail.com>, Jersey Earle <earlejersey@gmail.com>

Mask Mandaters -

When students are on the bench they are required to wear masks.

When students are at the net with their faces inches away from unfiltered, unmasked, recycled covid exhaust from faces of opposing players from hundreds of miles away, they aren't wearing masks.

HOW ARE MASKS ON THE BENCH BUT NOT ON THE COURT STOPPING COVID?

Lift your pet mask mandate.

Gabriel Earle



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**RON RHONDA HUGUET** <rrhuguet@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 8:07 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I understand you are getting flooded with emails to remove the mask mandate. The anti-maskers are organizing and encouraging adding this type of pressure. Meanwhile the majority, those of us who hope to keep our kids and staff safe, have been relatively quiet.

PLEASE continue the masks. It's proven safe, effective and keeps everyone healthier from all illness.

Thank you,  
Rhonda Huguet

Get Outlook for Android

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask for protection of my kid and TEACHERS/STAFF

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**Shawn Decareaux** <sdecareaux14@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 8:22 AM

Please Please Please continue to wear masks in our school system. My son has Asthma really badly and needs the peace of mind that is provided when masks are required. Staff is too valuable to risk their health as well. Please please, please.

Pedal On!

In Friendship,  
Shawn Decareaux  
860.428.9301

Biketernity.....  
"Live your Dream.....Inspired by Us!"



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## Community Member Supports Masking in Public Schools

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**Jamie Ryan Lockman** <jamieryanlockman@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 8:23 AM

As a community member with neighborhood kids and a niece in high school, I support faculty, staff, administrators, students, and anyone visiting schools or attending school events wearing masks. The data is clear that masks diminish the risk of contracting COVID and reduce community spread.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jamie

--

Ms. Jamie Ryan Lockman, MA  
Executive Director  
Montana Organic Association/Organic Montana  
3312 Hollis Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 546-6572 - c  
*She/Her/Hers*

Organic Matters Summer 2021 Newsletter

MOA EVENTS IN 2021

October 26, 2021 - Organic U, Northern Ag Research Center, Havre - Free Registration is OPEN! Details will be updated as the schedule develops.

December 2 -4, 2021 - Montana Organic Conference, The Commons, Bozeman Registration is open!

MOA Member Discount Registration is here!

**JOIN MOA!!!**



*"The earth is what we all have in common." Wendell Berry*

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## MCPS masking comment

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**Hannah Specht** <hannah.m.specht@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 8:26 AM

Hi MCPS Board Members,

Missoula county and Montana are dealing with an all-time high of covid cases, stressing our medical systems to the point of rationing care, restricting visitors, and cancelling non-emergency procedures. In this moment, we are all at great risk, not just from covid, but because any of us (or someone we care deeply about) may unexpectedly need emergency health care at any point- and emergency health care resources are stretched thin.

At this same time, the "natural experiment" of districts across the country opting for different masking policies has produced evidence that masking is effective in mitigating spread of covid (see <https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/mask-requirements-in-school-work> for a summary of recent work).

In this moment, we ought to be doing all that we can to reduce strain on our health care systems-one of those things is wearing masks indoors in shared spaces. I trust that we'll again reach a time where covid rates are low enough that not-masking indoors will again be a viable and healthy option, but we're not there right now.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Hannah Specht (concerned Missoulain, soon-to-be-parent, friend to many MCPS families)



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Julie Larkin** <julieglarkin@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 8:41 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am fully in favor of masking of all staff and students until numbers in Missoula county drop or my child and the majority of her classmates have had a full vaccination course.

My daughter is in Kindergarten this year and though this isn't what I hoped for for her first year of school, the only reason I am willing to send her are the safety measures in place, including masks.

I am a nurse practitioner in Missoula and believe in the evidence that masks, hand washing, and distancing reduce the likelihood of transmission. I also believe the evidence that these kids are better off in classroom with their peers, teachers, and all the support the school environment can offer.

Thank you,  
Julie Larkin

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking in MCPS

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**DANIEL JO BECK** <beckmsla@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:15 AM

To: "Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

I am writing in STRONG support of masking in MCPS. The science supports masking in preventing this awful disease.

That is really all we need to know. My grandchild is a 5 yo kindergarten student this year. She wears a mask easily - there is no complaining - she understands it is to slow the spread of a disease (that has killed over 690,000 US citizens).

She is so happy to go to school everyday - she doesn't think twice about masking up. Did we not learn from last year the detriments to our students by closing schools? Let's keep them open by masking—we owe it to our children and their families. Do not listen to the very vocal minority- LISTEN TO SCIENCE and the majority of parents supporting masking!

We had 161 new Covid cases in Missoula yesterday with 1527 active cases. We are a hot spot in Montana and the USA! This shouldn't be a political issue, but sadly it has turned into that. This is about life and death or serious illness and our children, grandchildren, friends and families depend upon good reasoning from the medical community and from MCPS to help prevent the spread of this disease. The role of the administration and school board is to keep our students safe in a secure learning environment. Please keep our children SAFE and in school.

Thank you,

Jo Beck

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7039e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm?s_cid=mm7039e1_w)

Sent by Jo from her I-phone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep kids safe with masks

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**Jeremy Keller** <jtk318@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:22 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

I cannot believe this is even being considered again. Study after study shows that kids are less likely to transmit this virus indoors while wearing a masks. We all want this to end and to get back to normalcy but if we rush it we will only be stuck here, or worse, longer.

Please don't let these few vocal anti-mask groups dictate and control the safety of all of us and our kids.

Thank you,  
Jeremy Keller  
Lewis and Clark district

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep the masks on

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**Matthew Churchman** <matthew.churchman@gmail.com>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:27 AM

Hello there. We have a student at Washington. Please keep the masks on the students and staff in accordance with the best available science. I know the dissenting voices are loud and crude, but we are counting on you to protect our children. Thank you.

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masks in schools

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Joan Mattelin Garrett <joanmattelin@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:38 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

To Whom It May Concern -

I support wearing masks in schools until, at the very least, all school age children have the opportunity to be vaccinated. Masks work to contain the spread of Covid 19 and an overwhelming majority of children that I have seen as a substitute teacher are not having a problem wearing masks in the classroom.

We would all like to be done with masks at school and when the time is right and children have had the opportunity to be vaccinated we should revisit the mask policy. Right now we need to continue on as is.

Please put our kids safety and the health of our community when you make this decision. Hospitals are overwhelmed. We need to continue to follow the CDC guidelines.

Sincerely -

Joan Garrett

Lewis and Clark Parent

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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## **In support of universal masking in our schools!**

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**Laura Churchman** <laurachurchman@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:43 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good morning!

I want to publicly register my support for the universal masking policy at Missoula County Public Schools. As a parent of a child that is not yet eligible to be vaccinated, I know that masking has protected my daughter and the many other students, teachers and staff in our schools. I also serve on the Board of Trustees at Community Medical Center and support the health and safety of our health care workforce and the strength of our health care system that is being strained currently by the resurgence of COVID-19 in our community. Health. Safety. Education. Community. These are all reasons I support your efforts and the continued universal masking policy in our schools. Thank you for all you do!

Laura

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Laura Churchman  
406-529-7756  
laurachurchman@gmail.com

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Requirement

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**Suzanne Elfstrom** <suzy\_suz@ymail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:50 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Good Morning,

I understand that the Missoula County Public school board will be meeting again soon as the six week mask requirement expires shortly. I encourage the board to continue to require masks in schools to protect not only the students but the staff and teachers. Please continue to create a safe work environment for these individuals despite their individual vaccine status, frivolous lawsuits and poor state government leadership.

Thank you for your continued support of leading by example and using science to inform your decisions.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Elfstrom

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## Masks

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**Christopher Butz** <tacosano@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:53 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello, I have been made aware that you are considering the removal of the mask mandate.

First, let me say thank you for your service to the community. I am aware of how much time and dedication it takes to be on a board. Whether or not I agree with all your decisions, I respect the fact that you are giving your time to study and make them.

Please keep the mask mandate in place. The spread in our community is so great right now and our family is very concerned on many levels. I won't bother making statements about the science and numbers as I'm sure you are hearing that from professionals in those areas.

Our first and main concern is the health and safety of our family and our employees.

Our 12 year old son attends Washington Middle School. He is diabetic and we are extremely concerned about what his level of immunity would be to this virus, even though he is vaccinated. He hates the masks but is understanding of their importance. He has reported to me that the staff at school is very nice about making sure all are constantly reminded to keep the mask on properly throughout the day.

We are trying to balance his safety with his social/emotional/educational growth. We can send our son to school because of this mandate.

We own a small restaurant in town. Our business has been greatly affected by the precautions/restrictions that the health department and other government entities have had to put in place. We can rebuild our business but we can't get the lost lives and health of our employees, family, and friends back. We have gone back to mandating masks for our employees now that the numbers of infections have risen so dramatically. Not one has given us pushback and all have said "thank you" when I discussed it with them. Most are in their late teens and early 20's and their care for each other and the community is heartwarming.

We usually have a good amount of high schoolers come in at lunch time and they have their masks and are very respectful. They don't seem to be as upset about wearing them as some reports suggest.

The spread of the virus is what is affecting our economy and freedom - not mask mandates.

Please, please, please, keep MCPS doing it's part to stop the spread and keep our kids, the community and our economy safe!

Thank you for your consideration of my plea,

Nancy Butz

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**Beth Gherlein** <bgherlein@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:25 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

MCPS Board of Trustees,

Thank you again for all the work you have done to keep our children and community safe during this pandemic. I am the parent of an MCPS student and I am so grateful that masks are required in all MCPS buildings. Please keep this mandate in place going forward.

Thank you,  
Beth

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## Mask requirements

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**Tessa A. Keller** <takeller@garlington.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:31 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hi there,

My name is Tessa Keller, and our 5 year old is a kindergartner at Lewis and Clark. I am writing to request that the masking rules continue until kids are able to get vaccinated or infection rates go down significantly. My daughter has never had to wear a mask before this year, and it hasn't phased her one bit. Our wonderful teachers have once again adapted as well and are acting as great examples as to how we are to treat one another. The scientific community has conclusively determined that masks significantly decrease the rates of COVID transmission. But even if masks were only minimally effective, I believe we should take any little precaution that could help protect more vulnerable students and teachers who may be more susceptible to serious COVID-related illness, and also out of respect for the overburdened and overstressed health care workers in our community. Sure—masks are annoying. But they are not inhibiting their ability to learn and develop appropriate social skills at school. Whatever minor annoyance there may be in wearing a mask, that is far outweighed by the public health benefits. For these reasons and more, I would urge the Board to make the right choice, and extend the mask mandate.

Best,



TESSA KELLER, ATTORNEY

Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP

P: 406-523-2500

F: 406-523-2595

E: takeller@garlington.com

A: P.O. Box 7909 Missoula, MT 59807

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image001.png  
5K



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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Thomas Lee <trbklee@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:31 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I am writing in favor of keeping mask requirements in schools!!!!

PLEASE help end the Covid pandemic by promoting this simple/non-invasive action.

We have grandchildren in middle school (11 and not vaccinated) and high school (17 and vaccinated). Please help keep them, the teachers, the administrators and all school students and employees safe.

Thank you!  
Bonnie Lee

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking in public school

2 Messages

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**Judith Guthrie** <judith.guthrie@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:07 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Forty years ago, an RN friend said, if the teachers could take time to line the kids up and have them wash hands thoughtfully thoroughly before lunch and after bathroom, we'd have 1/2 the influenza. (We both have twins, so lots of viruses during grade school years).

The numbers are indisputable that children are getting sick from the COVID-19 virus and it's variants.

If we all do our part in supporting public health recommendations, the safety for kids, teachers, staff will be accomplished. This isn't a time to debate the science, it's a fact that it spreads in crowds, in aerosol from mouth and nose. Masks and distancing will keep the children healthy especially indoors. Frequent hand washing is a good lifelong practice for any of the flu seasons or virus outbreaks. These are all sensible recommendations. Kids are flexible, they can understand and follow directions from adults. They need to be together to play and learn and socialize. Please don't confuse them and divide them.

Sent from my iPhone

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**Judith Guthrie** <judith.guthrie@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:39 AM

To: Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

I forgot to say that I'm a grandmother of three little ones in Missoula, one in public K, two in preschool.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2021, at 10:07 AM, Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Coreen Faulkner** <coreen.faulkner@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 11:08 AM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To Whom it May Concern:

Please, please do not even consider dropping the mask mandate. The good of the many should always outweigh the will of the few. My grandchildren in Rhodesia Island were able to attend school in person all last year due to mandatory mask wearing, social distancing as much as possible, and testing of any person in the school with symptoms or exposure to COVID. It may not have been perfect but it worked because everyone cooperated.

Whenever I talk to children they have told me they don't mind wearing a mask. They will do what has to be done to stay in school and spend time with friends. The problem seems to be more with parents and other adults who insist on being negative. Let us stand aside and let the children guide us on this. It is their health and future learning that is at stake.

Thank you for taking care of our children.

Coreen Faulkner

Former MCPS teacher

Sent from my iPad



**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandates

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**Quinn Wyland** <qwyland@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 11:21 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello MCPS Board,

Hearing about the recent debate of mask mandates at schools is very scary for many of us. The immunocompromised and those with elderly members at home have voiced concern about mask mandates at school ending. We are still in the middle of a pandemic, and until vaccination rates increase and COVID-19 numbers decrease, masks need to be required.

Thank you,

Quinn Wyland



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## mask mandate

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**Christy McCann** <surrnccann@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 11:25 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To whom it may concern,

Please, please, please continue with the mask mandate. The CDC has recommended it, and recent data show mask mandates in schools are effective in slowing the spread of COVID. Please continue to follow the science and keep our kids safe.

-Christy McCann  
Parent of 9th Grader at Hellgate HS

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**Jonathan Chajet** <jchajet@me.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 12:06 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am begging you to please keep the mask mandate in place, to keep our kids safe. It is a small inconvenience for the good of all of us.

---

Jonathan Chajet  
jchajet@me.com  
+1 510 506 1230



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**HEATHER DESCHAMPS** <moemimi26@aol.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 12:21 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Please please for the sake of lives please require/mandate masks in the school system  
Thank you

Heather DeMarois

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## MCPS mask mandate - YES!

**Katy Meinbresse** <katynaf@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 12:26 PM

Hello,

I am a parent of a first grader at Paxson Elementary and work in our community as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I STRONGLY support a continued mask mandate in our schools, for students, teachers, staff, and guests (including all parents).

Recommendations from the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics and other expert groups all support masking in schools as one of the best mitigation measures to help keep our kids IN SCHOOL and well. There are many examples of schools and communities who have refused school masking having to shut down whole classrooms and entire schools due to extensive covid cases.

My 3 and 6 yr old children wear their masks with ease and without a fight. They are happy to help prevent the spread of covid in their schools and would prefer continued masking if it would allow them to participate in face to face schooling.

Thank you,

Katy Meinbresse, FNP

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Sent from my favorite library PC with love

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Steve White** <white4952@bresnan.net>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 12:35 PM

Please, please keep the mask mandate. The COVID numbers are horrendous in Missoula County. WE must keep our unvaccinated children safe as well as our wonderful teachers and other school staff.

Thankyou,

Jeanne White

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## Masks in School

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**J Croft** <jcroft423@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 12:42 PM

I would like to thank you for continuing the use of masks in schools. I ask my kids repeatedly about wearing a mask. They don't mind, "it's not a big deal" they say. The thought of going back to online school is something they don't favor. If they can be at school with their core group of friends, and the "best 4th grade teacher ever!" they have no problem wearing a mask. They know the importance of vaccinations, even if they hurt for a minute- a Krispy Kreme doughnut fixes that right up! They realize most importantly that just by wearing a mask, it is worth it to be involved, and the smart thing to do.

Our family is one of many families who includes a member who is immune compromised, and one who is too young to get a vaccine. We are "maskers", when crowded groups and in buildings. To have the freedoms my kids wants to have, they wear a mask. It isn't much, a simple act, kind of like saying "thank you," but it can make a difference. It can protect your family member, and it can protect you.

Having to shutdown and isolate is the last thing they want to do, and if the numbers of COVID at our schools is accurate then, I believe masks help keep kids healthy and at school. So far, the covid numbers have been low at our neighborhood schools. Schools across the nation who refused mask requirements had to shutdown with in weeks of school starting. Staff shortages at schools are already a problem, if the mask requirement is lifted the system will suffer even more. Keeping masks at schools have kept our schools open. Our kids are interacting, socializing at schools, and the covid numbers are low. It would be amazing, if we as a society could confidently say covid is under control, and we can remove masking requirements. But unfortunately, we are no where close....

In our community and at our hospitals it has been tragic... the number of people dying of covid is mind boggling. The toll on our medical community is frightening. If schools remove the mask requirement, a small measure that helps, even if it is just a little bit, it will add more stresses to a overwhelmed hospital community. Communities that use masks show a decrease in COVID cases, and year and a half of evidence has shown masks help.

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>

I encourage you to keep the mask requirement. It is a compromise to the problem- if there isn't a covid vaccine requirement like mmr, tdap and the rest of the required vaccines for school, then a mask policy is reasonable. It is just like a reasonable requirement like wearing shirts, shoes and pants. There is an option for those who refuse masks- Missoula Online Academy or homeschool. Accommodations have been made for those who support masks and those who refuse. I thank you for taking the steps this far, and encourage you to keep masks in schools.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## masking

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**Brandon Reintjes** <reintjesbrandon@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 1:07 PM

I strongly support masking. Please continue through the end of the year. If the decision is made to not require masks, I will need to withdraw my children from school. I would also like to see teachers required to keep masks on even while teaching. thanks, Brandon Reintjes

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Public comment re masking for public schools

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**gahtrek@bresnan.net** <gahtrek@bresnan.net>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>  
Cc: "jeannetwohig@gmail.com" <jeannetwohig@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 1:16 PM

First, thank you superintendent and school board for all you do to make Missoula schools safe, inviting, and a stimulating environment for our children/grandchildren to learn and flourish!

My wife and I are supporters of medicine, education, and science. With COVID levels as high as they are in Missoula, Missoula County, and the state of Montana, we very much support mandating vaccines to those who are eligible, use of masks, and social distancing for staff, teachers, and students.

Thank you for your efforts and we are sorry for the rancor and angry discourse that you must face to assure the safety of our students and the schools.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Twohig  
Glenn Hladek

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**Malinda Lueck** <malindallueck@yahoo.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 1:36 PM

Dear Board of Trustees,

Please keep the indoor mask mandate for all MCPS students, teachers & staff. Masks are scientifically proven to reduce Covid transmission. Masks keep all MCPS affiliates safe. Masks provide mitigation for those students who are not yet age eligible for the vaccine. Masks keep kids in school learning from professional teachers. Masks lessen the educational disruption so parents can efficiently work & contribute to the economy. Masks keep our greater Missoula community safe. Masks lessen the strain on our local hospitals that are currently overwhelmed. Please keep the universal mask mandate.

Sincerely,  
Malinda Gaudry

Sent from my iPad

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking in schools

2 messages

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**Suzanne Peterson** <smpeterson517@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 1:38 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To whom it may concern:

I am in support of masking in Missoula County Public Schools. As we are experiencing the surge in COVID cases in Missoula County that is affecting all age groups, it is important to take the necessary steps to safeguard our teachers, staff and children. The Delta variant of the COVID virus is impacting younger people and causing serious health problems. Those under 12 aren't eligible for the vaccination program yet. The only means we have to control the spread is through masking and continued emphasis on hand-washing/hygiene.

I strongly encourage the MCPS board of trustees to continue with the mandatory masking policy, while offering alternatives for those who can't mask.

Suzanne Peterson

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Best,  
Suzanne

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**JEANNE** <jeannebc@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 2:19 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

As an MCPS parent, volunteer, and substitute teacher, I strongly request that you continue the mask mandate at MCPS. We are grandparents raising a 10 year old. Although we are fully vaccinated, our grandson can't be vaccinated yet. I think it is very unfair to families discontinue the mask mandate when children under 12 are unable to be vaccinated. Clearly COVID-19 is still with us and we need to do our part as a community to protect the children. Thanks!  
Jeanne Cox

Get Outlook for iOS

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**supporting the mask mandate**

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**jwoessner@bigsky.net** <jwoessner@bigsky.net>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 2:29 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Cc: rwatson@mcpsmt.org

Dear MCPS Board Members and Superintendent Watson,

As a Missoula resident, retired early childhood educator and former (hoping to return) MCPS ELL tutor, I want to thank you for your diligence in protecting the most vulnerable in our community by requiring masks in all indoor settings in Missoula County Public Schools.

I carefully watch the numbers of cases in Missoula County and in Montana, and am glad to see so few positive cases appearing in Missoula schools and other school districts that require masking. ( see [https://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article\\_f9b71872-0fd1-5b70-b680-5cda2771e017.html?](https://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article_f9b71872-0fd1-5b70-b680-5cda2771e017.html?))

The surge of Covid-19 cases overwhelming our hospitals is alarming. The fact that we are getting breakthrough cases among those vaccinated is alarming as well and a sign that this Delta variant is strong and exploitive. Masks work, despite what the very vocal minority might say. Masks, along with distancing and hand-washing, are our youngest children's only defense against this virus. We surely do not wish that schools be closed again, which is the logical outcome should viral spread be enabled by unmasking.

For the sake of ALL the children, and for the adults in school with them or in their households, please continue the mask mandate at MCPS until a vaccine for all children served by MCPS is both available and seen to be working.

Sincerely,

Jean Wilkerson Woessner, M.Ed.

Missoula, MT.

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Mask Mandate Review Date♥**

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**Fenesa Dilworth** <fenesadilworth@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 2:36 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Hello MCPS!

First I wanted to tell you how proud We are of all you, handing all the mask mandate & crazy covid roller coaster in our community. So grateful for our teachers & staff♥.

My daughters go to Chief Charlo & Jefferson schools. My senior citizen mother, who lives with us is also an employee at Chief Charlo, as well. Our younger daughter is in class with precious children with disabilities & I understand there are some cases of kiddos like them who are unable to wear masks. My heart goes out to them too & feel it's up to the rest of us to protect these most vulnerable, in our community.. My husband also manages a local small business downtown, covid affects our kids & small business in our economy & community.

It is very important to us that we vote to PLEASE KEEP the mask mandate. At least until vaccinations for our younger citizens& boosters for our seniors and vulnerable populations, would be able to take place.

Thank you for being so conscientious & fair. Thank you all for being so brave! We are grateful for all our schools, education & the enormity of all you are holding! This family votes YES to KEEP the mask mandate.

Fenesa Dilworth  
406-529-8726

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**COVID procedures**

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**Emily Hightower** <theovg82@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 2:52 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

I just wanted to say that if the district's policy for suspected COVID is needing either no symptoms or a negative test they should be willing to accept the at home rapid test results. Common colds or just allergies can have people sniffing for days to weeks at a time and I do not want my kids being sent home every time a staff member hears them cough or sniff, and not allowed to return for a minimum of 3 days to get test results back. That's so disruptive and frustrating, I cannot imagine going through this year in this way. I also have to think that at this time with the massive surge of cases the health department doesn't need kids being sent there for testing for every sniffle so they can go back to school. Workplaces doing weekly tests are accepting rapid tests. They may not be quite as accurate but it is far more realistic long-term and gets kids back to class.

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate - Please keep in place to keep our kids safe.

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**Jessica Allred** <jdallred@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 3:20 PM

Dear Trustees,

First, I want to thank you all so much. I know that right now is a hard time to be in decision-making roles, and that the pressure and criticism of making prudent decisions is immense. Your decision to require masks at all MCPS schools is helping to keep kids in school - and I am so grateful.

I know that the six-week timeline that this body placed on that mandate is expiring soon, and I am reaching out asking you to extend that. I know how important it is that kids be able to be in-person this year. It's critical for families who do not have the option to stay home in endless quarantines - which will be the reality if we are not able to keep this safety measure in place.

I trust that you are all aware of what science has proven - masks help to slow the spread of this virus. Keeping our kids safe - and maintaining a fair and equitable learning environment - depend on masks being mandated in schools.

Thank you for making hard, and sometimes unpopular, choices. Please extend this mask mandate for the rest of the school year.

Kindly,

Jessica Allred  
Parent - Washington Middle School

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking

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**Sue Polich** <sampolich@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 3:46 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us" &lt;publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us&gt;

Please keep our MCPS students masked, in an effort to keep them as safe as possible, in an environment filled with possible contagion. It's ridiculous to keep rehashing the wearing of a simple mask to help prevent a vicious virus from spreading, when SCIENCE has proven that a good fitting mask does help and a tight fitting one is even better. Less particles floating in the air—less spread and viral load. Let's keep the masks on and schools open for kids' sakes. Again, the medical minds say it is important for kids to be in school and to wear masks. Just take one for the team and do it.

Get Outlook for iOS



Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Revised-Mask comment

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**Kate Devino** <kathryn617@yahoo.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 4:15 PM

Please continue to require masks within all MCPS schools. My children are so happy to be back onsite and not learning through MOA again (although MOA was wonderful). While community transmission is soaring with highly contagious delta variant and vaccine breakthrough cases are ever climbing, virus transmission remains low in schools because masks are required. I'd actually like to see more adherence to the mask requirement in classrooms. And better adherence to illness protocols. Children who are sick should not be sitting in class right now. If the mask requirement is removed, inevitability more children will get sick and more families and teachers will be out of school and work for isolation and quarantine periods. MCPS transmission data shows that masks do work to prevent Covid transmission. Please renew the mask mandate to protect our children until a vaccine is available and community transmission rates decline.

Thank you,  
Kate Devino

Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**Maria Ferrini** <mtmaria@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 4:34 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

MCPS Board of Trustees,

I am a mother of two children at Paxson elementary school, and am in support of continuing the mask mandate within the schools.

Thank You,

Maria Ferrini

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**thank you for requiring masks. thank you for keeping our kids safe**

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**David Tyson** <david.r.tyson@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 4:54 PM

MCPS Board of Trustees,

Thank you for requiring the use of masks in MCPS facilities. As COVID case numbers climb, I feel safer knowing that you, and we as a community, are following the science and doing everything within our power to mitigate the spread of COVID. As the parent of an MCPS student, I am grateful that this board is making decisions with the safety of my child, her classmates, and teachers in mind. I urge you to continue the use of masks in schools while Missoula case numbers are still rising and, at the very least, until there is a vaccine available for children under 12.

Thank you,  
David Tyson

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## MCPS Mask Mandate

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**Elizabeth Mills-Low** <24mileli@student.mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 5:08 PM

Hello MCPS Board,

I am writing to you as a highschool student attending Sentinel High School. I have heard about the huge discourse going on about whether or not to keep the mask mandate, and this idea of lifting the mandate is something very scary. We need to keep in mind that we are still in the midst of a pandemic and cases here in Missoula are extremely high currently. There are also many students who are immunocompromised or have immunocompromised family and friends, and not wearing masks would be very dangerous for them. Safety should be a number one priority and I hope you take these dangers into account when you decide on this important issue.

Thank you for your time.

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Hilde Hamilton** <25hamhil@student.mcpsmt.org>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 5:13 PM

Hello, I am emailing in support of the current mask mandate in MCPS schools. I believe repealing the mandate would be detrimental to the health of the student body, and would increase anxiety within the school system, which would also damage the productivity of individual students.

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**Trustee Board Meeting 9/28/2021**

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**Erick Prather** <erickprather@gmail.com>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 6:14 PM

There is one trustee whom I'm told has extensive experience in indoor air quality, and industrial hygiene. This trustee should provide some insight into PPE (medical device as defined by the FDA) recommended by the school district. The SARS-Covd-2, Covid-19 requires PPE capable of filtering down to .03 microns to be effective, as does Influenza and asbestos. You certainly wouldn't enter one of my projects that contained asbestos airborne particulate with a surgical mask or cloth face covering. If I allowed such an incident, I would be grossly negligent in allowing such an event. Requiring students to wear a cloth face covering or surgical mask offers ZERO protection. In fact, the CDC acknowledged such in a May 2020 report.

One thing the mandatory masking has created is bacterial infections among students, including staph infections, boils, cold sores, extreme acne, respiratory distress and more. My son spends more time at the dermatologists than I care to see.

Recently, staff has harassed my son during school, seeking him out and following him between classes. This is unwarranted and unnecessary. Mr. Watson advised earlier the teachers have discretion to provide mask breaks. Do you know how many mask breaks my son has been provided, ZERO. The kids don't wear masks while playing sports.

The masking mandate is a false sense of security and provides ZERO efficacy according to the CDC. We don't wear them going into a doctor's office for an appointment. Ironically, the doctors my family visits concur, masking doesn't work against covid. A non-sterile mask in a non-sterile environment provides ZERO protection against covid.

Should we put all the kids in a PAPR, SCBA, Chemical and Biological warfare field mask?

Lastly,

There are roughly 120,000 residents in Missoula County. 75,000 have been fully vaccinated, 10,000+ are partially vaccinated, 13,000 have tested positive and recovered from covid, and are afforded some level of natural immunity, there are approximately 10,000 children that are ineligible for a vaccine, which leaves us with 12,000 residents +/- whom we don't know what their status is. Were they positive for covid at one time and never tested or misdiagnosed? asymptomatic? We'll never know. Statistically, the numbers don't jive and the point of testing may be our first clue. If MCPS is offering PCR tests in school, you should consult your legal counsel and disclose to the parents/guardians the content of the PCR test along with the accuracy of the test. The PCR tests

are not only approximately 50% accurate, but the swabs contain a known carcinogen. The PCR test that is used to test children are toxic. The swabs are sterilized with a solution that is called E.O. **Ethylene oxide**. **Ethylene oxide** is a colorless and flammable gas with a faintly sweet odor. Because it is a strained ring, **ethylene oxide** easily participates in a number of addition reactions that result in ring-opening. **Ethylene oxide** is isomeric with acetaldehyde and with vinyl alcohol. **Ethylene oxide** has been linked to cancer and DNA damage. It is used primarily to produce other chemicals, including antifreeze and pesticides. Lymphoma and leukemia are the **cancers** most frequently reported to be associated with occupational exposure to **ethylene oxide**. Stomach and breast **cancers** may also be associated with **ethylene oxide** exposure. You can click on the link below which you can read all of this information directly from the National Cancer Institutes.

Ethylene Oxide – Cancer-Causing Substances – National Cancer Institute

nclosing,

I look forward to the board rescinding the mask mandate.

Erick Prather

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keeps masks in schools

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**MICHAEL MORELLI** <annan1@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 6:25 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To Whom It May Concern,

Our state's continued elevated case counts, more than a 1,000 a day, are on average comprised of 96% of unvaccinated persons. As a parent and concerned community member, I'm asking you to continue the masking policy in our school district. Nationwide, use of masks has been shown to decrease the spread of this highly contagious disease. This policy helps protect both vaccinated students, and importantly those students who are not vaccinated due to age, extenuating circumstances or personal-family choice.

The Missoula County Health Department posted their public condolences for the 11 Missoulians that died last week from Covid. I'm asking that you do everything in your power to keep our children off this list by continuing the mask mandate.

Thank you for your dedication to our community - Mike Morelli

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Support Masking

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**Ashley Ostheimer Hilliard** <ashley.nicholemt@gmail.com>  
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support continued universal masking in all MCPS buildings and schools. I am confident this decision supports long-term health and wellness, and return to normal as quickly as possible.

Thank you,  
Ashley Hilliard

Get Outlook for iOS

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masks

**Erika Beck Martin** <erikabeckmt@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 9:13 PM

Dear Board Members,

First of all, I want to express my appreciation for the work you've done for MCPS in the last year. It's been tough on everyone, and I appreciate the care you've taken to make well-informed decisions as we waded through this pandemic.

I am writing about the mask mandate as both a high school teacher and the parent of a kindergartener. I am in strong favor of continuing the mask mandate.

It hasn't been fun policing masks for the last thirteen months. I can't tell you how many times a day I motion for a student to pull their mask above their nose. It makes me crazy. However, I know it's for the best; especially as I read the latest CDC study that shows just how effective masking is at stopping transmission of covid.

My daughter wears a mask without complaint. She can take it off for her recesses, at lunch, and at other points in the day. I truly don't feel as though her education has been affected by the mandate. I am just grateful that she is able to be in school full time this year.

As you likely know, we are dealing with a sub shortage in the district. My family has been dealing with covid (despite the fact that my husband and I are vaccinated) and quarantine for the last two weeks. This week, my sub wasn't secured until 30 minutes before school began on Monday morning. If we were to take away the most effective mitigation strategy we have, we could easily face shutdowns due to our lack of substitutes. Kids need to be in school, and masks keep that option viable.

Unfortunately, this pandemic is far from over. I'm hopeful that we will be able to take our masks off sometime this school year, but with case numbers and hospitalizations climbing every day, now is not that time.

Thank you,  
Erika Martin

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Lorie Blades** <lblades\_27@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 10:15 PM

Reply-To: Lorie Blades <lblades\_27@yahoo.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello, I am writing to request that masks continue to be required in MCPS buildings and at all indoors events. My entire family spends their days in an MCPS building. As a matter of safety for all, masks should be required until every child has the opportunity to be vaccinated. Any other decision is not putting our students safety at the forefront of our decision making. Thank you, Lorie

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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