
Masks in MCPS for Fall 2021?

Elizabeth Wilder <eamorey@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 5:03 PM

To: Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Public Comment
<publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us>, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Hello!

I'm writing to inquire if masks will be required of students, staff, and teachers for Fall 2021 until all students have been given ample and easy access to be vaccinated? We are now approximately one month out from when teachers and staff will return to school to prep for the new year, and approximately 6 weeks from the start of the new school year.

As you know, a new, more highly contagious COVID variant is now the dominant strain in the United States, and our state vaccination rate for eligible individuals is not leading to optimistic expectations for how this variant will hit our population.

"The country, which just celebrated the Fourth of July with some of its first large gatherings in more than a year, is headed toward a "dangerous" fall season when delta is expected to cause another surge in new [coronavirus](#) cases, health experts say. [Already the dominant variant in the U.S.](#), delta will hit the states with the lowest vaccination rates the hardest — unless those states and businesses reintroduce mask rules, capacity limits and other public health measures that they've largely rolled back in recent months, experts say."

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/08/us-heading-for-dangerous-fall-with-surge-in-delta-covid-cases-and-return-of-indoor-mask-mandates.html>

I encourage you to offer one of the following for Fall 2021 for MCPS:

- masks required for all students, teachers, and staff until all students have been given easy access to vaccination
- allow families to enroll students for MOA until all students have been given easy access to vaccination, and then allow MOA students to choose to return to in-person schooling

I look forward to hearing your plans to keep our school community safe this fall during these unprecedented times. Thank you so much.

Elizabeth Morey
Franklin/MOA parent

Please unmask children for 2021/2022

Lara Hammond <laramurat@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 3:38 AM

I would like to express my strong support for unmasking our children for the school year 2021/2022.

My children have worn masks for more than 1000 hours this year. Studies have shown wearing masks increasing the inhalation of carbon dioxide in children to an unhealthy amount in just 3 minutes.

I am more concerned about the negative effects of long-term mask wearing than I am about Covid for my three young children. The virus does not appear to be targeting those younger than 12 years old. Influenza kills more young children than Covid does, and we have never required mask-wearing or flu shots to attend school.

Please change mask wearing in schools to be optional and a decision made at the family level.

Thank you for your time.

Lara Hammond



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Please keep masks in school

Jaclyn Foster <jaclynfoster93@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:58 PM

Hello,

My daughter is starting kindergarten this year and as far as I have been able to tell, last spring Missoula School District said whether to continue the school masking policies would be evaluated in time for fall semester. I'm not sure where you're at in the decision-making process, but I wanted to draw your attention to the American Academy of Pediatrics' recent statement that all children should be masked in school during the upcoming year:

<https://t.co/fJaPmB9og1>

My daughter is good at wearing a mask but I'm also realistic about whether a 5-year-old will keep one on all day if her friends aren't also wearing one and if her teacher isn't reminding her.

Thank you,
Jaclyn Foster

MCPS mask policy

Madeline Parker <madeline.05@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 3:52 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

Please change mask wearing to be an option for fall 2021. Children 12 and under are at very low risk to get seriously ill, and the CDC has stated the flu hits children harder than covid-19.

Masks have shown to increase the inhalation of carbon dioxide. My kids would complain about headaches after coming home from school, and have been begging me to not have to wear them anymore. I recently asked 10 parents from my school about their stance on masks, and only one parent was having their children wear masks in public places still. That's 90% who are not masking their children.

I was completely supportive of my kids wearing masks while the vaccine was not readily available, but now that it is, it is time to take care of our children's mental, emotional and physical health and help them get back to normal. They have sacrificed so much this past year and a half.

I am just wondering if the parents who are still nervous about covid-19 know how much more mild covid is on children than the flu.

Please make masks optional for fall 2021!

Thank you,
Madeline Parker
