
Fw: Missoula County School masking policy

2 messages

Aaron Rhodes <aaron.rhodes406@hotmail.com>

Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 12:22 PM

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

Dear MCPS Board of Trustees,

Please see the email below which I sent to Robert Watson.

Thank you,
Aaron Rhodes

From: Aaron Rhodes**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:03 AM**To:** rwatson@mcpsmt.org <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>**Subject:** Missoula County School masking policy

Dear Mr. Watson,

I am writing to post an objection to your recent decision to require masks in Missoula County public schools. Whether or not a child wears a mask should be the decision of the child's parents.

I am not going to attempt an argument or pointing to any facts, research, etc. in what is a mainly politically driven issue. You may simply note that these decisions for mask mandates are very closely linked to the political bent of an area, as well as the level of influence of the public school teacher's union - which is also closely linked to the political bent of an area. The areas that choose to respect people's choices and ability to make decisions for themselves have no higher incidence of Covid hospitalization or death than more restrictive areas like Missoula. Citing CDC and "professional association advice" as a rationale for your decision is a tired excuse to repress a community. We need local autonomy, local decisions that reflect the will of the parents and community such as the one you serve.

Note also that the purview of the public school is academics. You cannot, nor can any public school administrator, make decisions based on the vague ideas of "safety" you as have been doing - these again are decisions that belong to parents, not you.

It is my hope, and something I and many others are working toward, that the people in our communities will become more educated and active and that one of the results will be the trimming of public officials' presumptive and illegitimate authority.

Sincerely,
Aaron Rhodes



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

The rise in Delta Variant

aracinemalatare@gmail.com <aracinemalatare@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 7:10 AM

To whom it may concern,

With the recent surge of the delta variant in recent weeks, what is the plan for school as most children are not eligible to receive the vaccine, I know you guys have had multiple school board meetings regarding school this year. However those were before this increase in cases. Will there be an option for students to be home for learning or throw them all in a class room and hope they don't get sick? I am really concerned for the health and safety of my children with this upcoming school year literally around the corner. I feel I'm having to decide if I should even send them which will effect them education wise but at this point I don't care I feel their life is being threatened with the decision to send them back. Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns I hope I can get answers.

Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Lunch in cafeteria policy

judsoncorn@gmail.com <judsoncorn@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 8:22 PM

Hello,

As an ER doctor, I am very pleased to see the mask mandate continued, especially as delta increases so much in our community. However I wanted to bring up my concerns about students eating lunch together in the cafeterias as opposed to in classrooms as it was last year (at least at Rattlesnake where my kids are). Given how much we know about the infectiousness of delta and the fact that none of the children in the elementary schools can yet be vaccinated, it seems like an extremely bad idea to put them all in one area without masks for any period of time. This makes contact tracing impossible and means larger groups of children may have to go on quarantine. This is basically a setup for super spreader events. Please reconsider having lunch in the cafeterias but rather in their classrooms, especially at the elementary schools.

Thanks for your time,

Judson Corn, MD



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Undo Masks

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 11:33 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>,

Mask Mandaters -

My student has a health bill that needs to be paid.

Do I send it to you, or does your concern for her well being and health not apply overall?

You either care or you don't. Involvement is all or nothing. You can't half ass it.

Your mandate is a half measure to a whole problem.

Gabriel Earle
406-240-7950

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

You Cannot Stop a Spread

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 6:52 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>,

Mask Mandaters -

A sold out crowd at ZZ Top is congregating tonight. Maskless. Shoulder to shoulder, and irreverent about your six person mandate. Holy crap, it's a super spreader event. All of these people are then going to go home and spread the virus to their children. Regardless of your mandate. Your mandate is a half measure to a whole problem. Kudos to Jeffery, Michael and Jennifer for having the balls to stand up to the bullshit mandate.

Your Daddy,

Gabriel Earle

We. Will. Win.
MERICA!

Please require vaccines

Alex Metcalf <alm450@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:26 AM

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

Dear MCPS Trustees and Superintendent Watson:

Your last meeting with public comment was dominated by discussion about masks and I'm sincerely thankful for you making the right decision to require them, but vaccines were largely absent the dialogue. In my comment submitted before that meeting I urged you to require vaccines for all staff and students who are eligible. At that time, it seemed you all had reluctance to do that since the FDA had not fully approved any COVID-19 vaccines. Today that changed. Now, I'm writing to renew my call for you to require vaccines, if not for everyone older than 11, at least among all staff eligible for the fully approved vaccine. It is clear that the best way to protect our kids who cannot be vaccinated yet is to ensure that all adults around them are vaccinated. I can't imagine the repercussions for families and the school system if a student is infected in the classroom where vaccines could have been required but were not. Please protect our kids and our school system by taking this very reasonable step to prevent COVID infections in classrooms.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Metcalf

Alexander L. Metcalf, Ph.D.

COVID Changes for Missoula Schools

Christian Beech <christian.beech@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 4:34 PM

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

Good afternoon, I hope this email finds you well. I have been keeping my eye out for any news regarding changes in the plans for the upcoming school year, especially for our younger students, and haven't seen anything. I have a son going into second grade this year, and while I can't say either of us loved how the year went last year, I can take comfort in knowing we stayed safe and got no one else sick. I am deeply concerned that we are allowing students too young to be vaccinated to return to school all 5 days. I do not feel that, with the current mask policy you're recommending, we can guarantee this as a safe environment for our children that are too young to be protected by a vaccine. The Delta variant has been detected in Montana, and we know that it has a higher infection rate in children than ever before. Please consider polling Missoula parents and asking for our opinion on whether students under 12 should be returning all 5 days at this point, as cases continue to rise and our hospitals are beginning to crowd again. You have a responsibility to do what is best for every family, for every child.

Thank you.

Support for masks at schools

1 message

Carol <Gajdosik@q.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 9:31 AM

Thank you for requiring students to wear masks for the upcoming school year. It's important to not only protect the children but their families and our community as well. Given the current surge in cases and deaths, I hope the mask wearing requirement will be extended beyond 6 weeks. Covid is not done with us.

By the way, I searched your website about mask wearing requirements and could not find any up to date information. The COVID page of information was last updated on August 3rd. The info on face coverings said "TBD". I know the staff are very busy, but this one piece of information is very important. I think it should be on your home page. My source of info is from the Missoulian which I know most citizens do not read.

The vocal anti-maskers may be loud, but they are not the majority. That is why I am writing. To speak out and give support to your decision.

Thank you.

Carrie Gajdosik
3112 Evans Ridge Road
Missoula, MT 59803



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fwd: School masks

2 messages

Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 9:23 AM

Rob Watson, EdD
Superintendent
Missoula County Public Schools
Phone: 406-728-2400 ext. 1023

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

From: **Paul Bohan** <olsonpb@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 8:35 AM
Subject: School masks
To: <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

Mr Watson,
I'm just curious as to rational, given the actual data, and the actual student practices, why anyone believes masks are appropriate for children in schools. Could you please forward this to the Board.

Dear Missoula School Administrators.

Please go to observe Students and Teachers, throughout the day, in Missoula Grade Schools Middle Schools, and High Schools, both inside and out, and particularly observe and note mask use and abuse, throughout the First day, and the week.

How will you not be held liable, or be forgiven for issues resulting from any mandated mask use and abuse, given that there is little evidence of greater good by mask use in schools?

How many masks hit the floor or ground. How many are dropped, stepped on, or contaminated with liquids or food. How much instructional time and berating regarding masks goes on.

How much mask litter will pile up around the schools. I could go on and on. How many very young students will put on other people's masks by mistake. How many contracted germs, bacteria, viruses, bodily fluids and more will be on one mask by the end of the day?

You seem to live, for whatever reasons, in your own self serving ivory towers, while forgetting that Ivory tower harvesting, and the controlling Ivory towers themselves, are prohibited in the United States.
Science can't be declared real, by people who don't even understand what Science is, or even by those who just happen to have Science degrees, for that matter.

Paul Bohan

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

PLEASE KEEP MASKS!

Amy RattoParks <amyratto@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 3:22 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Just a note to say that we are very supportive of the mask mandate and are appalled by the actions being taken against the MCPS.

Amy Ratto Parks



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Football Tonight

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 10:21 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>,

Mask Mandaters -

My family and I just got back from watching Sentinel beat Billings West at the Grizzly Stadium.

Thousands of men, women and children were shoulder to shoulder, and, you guessed it, unmasked.

The linemen were all face to face, breathing the same recycled, unfiltered air before the ball was snapped, spreading the virus. During a school event.

Why does the mask protocol stop when students are in the closest proximity to each other, like during face to face, contact sports? How does it make sense to have the mask mandate during some school events but not others?

Your mandate is a half measure to a whole problem. Lift the mandate.

Daddy loves you.

Gabriel Earle



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Volleyball Today

1 message

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Sat, Aug 28, 2021 at 8:12 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>,>

Mask Mandaters -

My family and I just got back from watching the round robin vball tourney today at Sentinel.

Some people were wearing masks, some weren't.

Why does the mask protocol stop when students are in the closest proximity to each other, like during face to face playing at the net? How does it make sense to have the mask mandate during some school events but not others?

Your mandate is a half measure to a whole problem. Lift the mandate

Daddy is disappointed in your flawed logic.

Gabriel Earle



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Masks should be required

Meaghan Frisbee <meaghan.frisbee@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 7:17 AM

Hi,

I am the mother of two young children and I strongly believe masks should be required at all Missoula public schools until all children are eligible to be vaccinated. If there is no mask mandate, we would pull our children out of school.

Thank You,

Meaghan

Thank you for requiring masks

Saldin, Erin <Erin.Saldin@mso.umt.edu>
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 9:23 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I want to thank you for your vote the other day to require masks in the schools, and to express my support of MCPS and the Board's vote in light of the lawsuit that other parents are bringing in opposition to that requirement.

Thank you for keeping our children's safety at the front of your minds during this surge in the pandemic. Thank you for not falling prey to the notion that the loudest voices speak for the most people. Thank you for knowing that public health is not political, that our children and teachers deserve the highest measure of safety that we can provide, and that public health plays an important role in fostering equity in the schools.

If masks were not required in the schools, my partner and I would pull our children from the public school system. We are not willing to let our children's health become the sacrificial lamb of this political nightmare. Please remember that far more parents support mask-wearing in schools than oppose it. The data bears this out: When students are masked during the pandemic, they can stay in school safely. *All* students can learn. Thank you for keeping this in mind as the fall progresses.

With good wishes for the beginning of the school year,

Erin Saldin

Erin Saldin (she/her/hers)
Assistant Professor of English and Honors
The University of Montana
Liberal Arts Building 225
Missoula, MT 59812
erin.saldin@mso.umt.edu

The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. We honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

On Governor Gianforte's Temporary Emergency Rule I

1 message

Logan Jones <LKJones83@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 1:10 PM

To: 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, Wilena Old Person <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

I humbly request that the MCPS thoroughly and unequivocally reject Governor Gianforte's August 31st Temporary Emergency Rule I that seeks to implement an opt-out option for mask wearing of persons in Missoula's schools.

The reasoning included in the emergency rule is flawed and wrong. It has no basis in reality. It relies on hearsay, assumptions, vague statements and debunked reports.

Masks are an effective preventative against the spread of viruses. We have decades of evidence proving this. Ask any educator out there, children are not the problem here. They are not bothered by wearing a mask. It is their parents who are throwing a fit.

And furthermore, as the rule declares schools "should provide students [...] with the ability to opt-out of health-related mandates...", I am not a lawyer but "should provide" is not "shall provide" and thus the rule is more a suggestion to be considered and rejected as the bit of partisan hogwash that it is.

The MCPS considered the opinions of parents. There were hours and hours of commentary and many many written comments. It was not a decision flippantly made.

The Governor is out of his element. Please disregard this rule.

Thank you,

-Logan Jones

DHHS Emergency Rule of August 31st 2021

Eli Nygth <eli.nygth@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 2:41 PM

To: RWatson@mcpsmt.org, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, mgehl@mcpsmt.org, rhobbins@mcpsmt.org, dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org

To Mr. Watson, members of the MCPS Covid Task Force, and members of the School Board,

I have one child going to middle school at CS porter and another in second grade at Franklin Elementary. Please continue to enforce the mandatory mask mandate / social distancing and ignore the emergency rule pushed by DHHS and Governor Gianforte.

The emergency rule reads as fluff to appease partisan parents, not as anything that demands action or changes be made by MCPS. 'Schools should consider'. OK, it was considered, and it was voted on to enforce mask mandates. 'Schools should provide the ability to opt out...' Should provide not shall provide. Where I work the wording matters and this type of language is a request, not a demand to action.

Quoting from an article covering the Florida case banning mask mandates:

"A judge ruled Friday that Florida school districts may impose mask mandates.

Cooper said that while the governor and others have argued that a new Florida law gives parents the ultimate authority to oversee health issues for their children, it also exempts government actions that are needed to protect public health and are reasonable and limited in scope. He said a school district's decision to require student masking to prevent the spread of the virus falls within that exemption.

... For example, he said, adults have the right to drink alcohol but not to drive drunk. There is a right to free speech, but not to harass or threaten others or yell "fire" in a crowded theater, he said.

We don't have that right because exercising the right in that way is harmful or potentially harmful to other people," Cooper said. He added that the law "is full of examples of rights that are limited (when) the good of others ... would be adversely affected by those rights"

Granted this is Florida and not Montana, but we find ourselves in a nearly identical predicament and the Judge's logic still applies here.

There are also some glaring issues with the 'factual' statements made in the rationale of ruling and the references backing up the statements. For example:

"Mask wearing has been shown to cause some children to suffer mental and emotional distress and issues" [5]

That sounds pretty bad, checking out source [5]

[5] Id. (noting a survey which showed masks can cause anxiety and stress reactions in children, an increase in psychosomatic and stress-related illnesses and depressive self-experience, reduced participation, social withdrawal, and lowered health-related selfcare); see also Carla Peeters, September 9, 2020, Rapid response: Psychological, biological, and immunological risks for children and pupils makes long-term wearing of mouth masks difficult to maintain, BMJ, <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3021/r-6>.

So a SURVEY of.. whom? And a 'see also' to a 'letter to the editor' written in september of 2020, referencing data from june of 2020 and what we knew of face masking then. Completely ignoring information from over the past year, and the delta variant and how it interacts with a younger population.

Clearly this Emergency Rule has nothing to do with science (contradicts the CDC and local health department recommendations) or children's health (as of today over one in six [16.83%] of our county's active cases are kids under 20 years of age), and has everything to do with appeasing a very vocal minority of entitled parents who follow their own self interest over the health and well being of their neighbors and countrymen.

If the school decides to lift the mask mandate (or allow parents to opt out) before my children have the opportunity to become fully vaccinated I will have no choice but to pull them out of their schools. We will attempt to enroll in MOA, and failing that we will pull them out of MCPS all together and have to homeschool. Every place that is restricting mask mandates is facing increased infection, hospitalization, and death. Our kids continue to have zero immunity to COVID19, their personal situation hasn't changed from March 2020.

Please continue to do the right thing and continue to enforce universal mask mandates. Please don't go along with the recommendation of allowing parents to opt out. Require masks to be part of the dress code for now if necessary (an option used by school boards in texas to get around their governor's mask mandate restrictions). Keep doing right by our kids and let mine have an opportunity to safely attend school. If parents insist that their children cannot wear masks, then be willing to accomodate them and give them the option to participate remotely through the online academy.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions I can help with,

Eli Nyght

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Masks- thank you

Lisa Davey <ladavey25@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 2:53 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, rwatson@mcpsmt.org

Thank you Missoula County Public Schools for standing up for the health of our children and community and continuing to enforce masking. From the bottom of this mommas heart, sending a at risk kid to school feels much safer with universal masking in place.

Lisa Davey

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

MCPS Response to DPHHS Emergency Rule

Julie Merritt <Jmerritt@wgmgroup.com>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 5:25 PM

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

Superintendent Watson and MCPS School Board

I want to share my gratitude for your decision to continue the mask mandate at our schools and your well-reasoned response to the State's emergency rule. I support the position you have taken and I firmly believe it is in the best interest of our whole community.

Thank you for your leadership.

Julie Merritt
MCPS Parent and Missoula Resident

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Julie Merritt

Water Resource Specialist 3

M: 406-207-2358 O: 406-728-4611

1111 East Broadway

Missoula, Montana 59802

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thank you

Andrew Tegeder <mt.runner@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 7:04 PM

To Whom It May Concern-

As a parent with children at Sentinel High School, I wanted to say thank you to the staff and the school board of MCPSMT. I'm nearly certain you are hearing from a loud minority of parents (or even non-parents) about the school district's covid-19 mitigation policies. Rest assured there are a vast number of us who completely support sending our kids to school with masks as well as the vaccination efforts the district has helped with. Keep fighting the good/evidence based fight!

Thanks again,
Andy Tegeder



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Gianforte's unfounded mask "rule"

Valerie <valeriekrex@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 8:52 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear MCPS school board,

We want to make our voices heard that we DO NOT support Gianforte and his medically unfounded pressure to opt out of school mask mandates. The use of universal masks helps to control the spread of the highly contagious delta variant. The idea that masks are more harmful to children than the variant is preposterous and unsound, as the delta variant has seen more childhood hospitalizations than any other time in the pandemic. The supposed evidence he gives is anathema to the latest research, as well as outdated from 2020 before the delta variant spread wildly. We want to keep our children safe and in school. Until vaccines are available for young children, school mask mandates are one of the most important mitigation strategies we have.

Thank you,
Valerie Krex and Loren Stillman
Paxson Parents

Sent from my iPhone

Mask Mandate

Jeremy Reinicke <jeremyreinicke@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 4:17 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I wanted to take a minute to voice my support of a mask mandate in Missoula County Public Schools. I understand this is in conflict with the Governor's recent emergency rule through the DPHHS. I feel this emergency rule was a bad decision for the health and safety of the Missoula public school population and for Missoula as a whole. I do not believe that the few research papers cited in support of this emergency rule are more accurate than the overwhelming research currently validating masks as an effective tool to combat this global pandemic. Furthermore, I understand that there may be some detrimental effects from students wearing masks as cited in this rule, but losing a loved one to this virus is a far more severe outcome.

I understand that there is an issue with individual rights here. But I would like to point out that this is a case where one person's individual rights affect another person's health, potentially another person's life. I certainly feel that there is good reason here to mandate masks for the overall health and safety of the public school population. Also, by controlling infections at school we can reduce infections in the community as a whole.

I fully support the board and the superintendent in their decision to impose a mask mandate and will hope that they continue to do so until reliable data indicates that this is no longer necessary.

Thank you

Jeremy Reinicke

Continued mask mandate

Jaclyn Foster <jaclynfoster93@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 6:58 PM

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

Thank you for continuing the mask mandate in light of the new rule. I agree that offering online instruction as an alternative to masking is a good option that preserves parent choice — choices do not occur in a vacuum and people who do not want to get on board with public health do not get to monopolize public schools and make it an unsafe environment for the rest of our kids. My kid recently got covid and the experience made me realize how easy it would have been to expose her entire class if circumstances had been just a little different. I have been listening with concern to doctors sounding the alarm about a lack of hospital beds in Montana, including a lack of pediatric beds. I have heard of people dying of treatable problems like gallstones because they can't get a procedure in a timely manner. As early as 1905, the Supreme Court ruled that vaccination mandates don't infringe on personal freedoms as long as there's a compelling need for them to preserve public safety. Masks are less invasive than vaccines and we are certainly in the midst of a public health crisis. Despite the poorly sourced studies in the recent rule, masks do work — we just saw a massive study of 100k people in Bangladesh that showed marked effects from masking. I know that most of Missoula continues to stand behind you despite what a very vocal minority would like to believe based on their own echo chambers. --

Jaclyn Foster

she/her

No response necessary during evenings or weekends



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

In support of Masks at MCPS

Karen Oberg <otherapyservices@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 8:21 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hi,

With more media giving attention to those who are against wearing masks for the students, I would like to write to let you know that I am all in support of the students wearing masks. If there is some specific reason that students are unable, I can understand on a very limited basis.

I work with kids every work day in outpatient therapy, specifically kids with special needs. Although there are some young clients (under 5) and a small handful who have other medical challenges, all the kids wear masks even those with Autism, Down Syndrome and CP. If they eat, it only takes a single reminder most of the time to have them put their masks back on. It is NOT child abuse, it is protecting these kids and also protecting our business so that we don't unnecessarily need to shut down which also has an economic impact on our community. Honestly, the kids are not complaining. I am for wearing masks and protecting my family (of which one has Asthma) as well as our clients and community members. I would like to see my son continue with in person school and to do that it takes a community effort!

Sincerely,

Karen Oberg



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

On the subject of masks

Susan Sullivan <sjsull55@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 10:47 PM

Dear MCPS decision makers -

Our lives are in your hands. There are some very vocal people who do not wish to follow the science of vaccines and masking. I am fed up with their loud voices, their lawsuits and their obnoxious lack of care for our students, including their own children.

I support the masking policy and I hope that you keep it in place. We are in a surge again, and tonight I discussed with my senior whether he should go back to online school - which was not his best school experience. I want him to be able to be in person - his first two days were so great. We fear covid in our home and know that masking and vaccines matter. He may have been exposed to someone with Covid on his first day of school, which we are waiting to hear. It was reassuring that they both had masks on.

Please continue all that you are doing and know that the loudest voices who are against the masking are not the only voices.

Thank you for protecting our community!

Susan Sullivan,
parent

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Masks/Gianforte ruling

1 message

Sean <seansatake@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 6:29 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Just a reminder

OFFICIALS SUBJECT TO RECALL

Officers	Subject To Recall	Grounds For Recall
1114005	Officer subject to recall	Officer subject to recall

1114005 Officer subject to recall - Officer subject to recall

1114005 Officer subject to recall - Officer subject to recall

1114005 Officer subject to recall - Officer subject to recall

Screenshot_20210902-062747_Chrome.jpg
862K

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mask mandate

1 message

Maureen Martin-Brown <maureenmartinbrown@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 9:34 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thank you for your decision to require masks for the first six weeks of the school year.

Maureen Martin-Brown

1042 Taylor St

Missoula

Sent from my iPhone

Appreciation

Tyler Bowen <tdbowen@mcpsmt.org>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 3:37 PM

I wanted to take a minute to thank you for following the science and protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and community, but enacting our current facemask mandate. It has helped students feel safe in the classroom as we move back to a regular schedule with full classrooms. My classrooms have 30 kids in a tight space, so spacing is impossible, and the simple act of masking has allowed my students to feel that they are in a safe place in school. Students are very understanding of why we need to wear masks and appreciative of a school board that follows science, guidance from public health professionals, and the will to do what's right for school safety in the face of some pretty ridiculous behavior from some who are opposed to masks.

Thank you,

--

Tyler Bowen, M.Ed.
Missoula County Public Schools
Sentinel High School
Health and Physical Education

(406) 728-2400 ext. 7083

tdbowen@mcpsmt.org
<http://www.mcpsmt.org/>



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

School threat

Darby Earle <darbyearle@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 6:20 PM

I hope you do not allow these 3 juveniles that threatened my daughters school yesterday back into School! The blood will be on your hands if you allow this!

Safe schools mean safe communities. I support masks in schools!

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

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 10:09 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good morning,

My name is Catherine Lea and I'm a Missoula resident and community member. I want to share my staunch support of mask-wearing in schools, as someone who works with children, has many school-age children in my family, and also cares deeply about the health and safety of our community (especially older, disabled, and vulnerable people).

Wearing a cloth mask during the school day has no proven drawbacks to children's health or their learning (some studies even show benefits, as children learn adaptive skills and how to better read body language and voice tone). And it can almost certainly prevent illness, further outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths. It's a simple precaution and the right thing to do.

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

Best,
Catherine Lea

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

(no subject)

SANDY ANDERSON <sando1532@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 10:22 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear School board members:

Thank you for choosing common sense and science in courageously enacting a mask mandate for students attending schools this fall. We fully support this decision and are sick of this insane conflagration some people make of mask wearing with any kind of serious infringement on personal freedoms. It is such a small sacrifice in personal comfort to make to help keep people well and to keep our kids attending in-person school!

It's a pandemic and if wearing masks clearly helps lessen transmission, that's the right thing for all who have no documented contraindicated health condition, to do.

Good luck and again, you have our support!

Sandy & Mike Anderson

Fwd: Scanned image from MX-M465N

2 messages

Sarah Lee <selee@mcpsmt.org>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 7:56 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am writing as a teacher and a parent in support of wearing masks at school.

I have a kindergartener who has had no problem adjusting to wearing a mask all day. It was a little tricky to find masks that fit correctly but now that I solved that he wears his mask without issue.

As a teacher I decided to see what my students thought. I have attached opinion writing from some of my students. Twenty one of my students are in support of wearing masks, one was undecided and two think we should not wear masks (87.5% support masking).

Last year was the most challenging of my 17 years of teaching. The unknown of how long hybrid would last, the remote learning assignments while also teaching two different groups of students, the transition back to 4 days a week and then 5 days a week was really difficult on teachers who love to plan ahead. If masking means that we can have a mostly normal school year then I am all for it!


Please continue to require masks in MCPS at least until a vaccine is available for our youngest students.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all board members to visit my class!

Thank you,

--

Sarah Lee

 **Sharp MX-M465N_20210908_084946.pdf**
212K

In my opinion masks should be required at school. One reason is that it will keep people safer and it will decrease the spread of covid 19. Another reason I think masks should be required is because even though people get vaccinated it doesn't mean they can't get covid. So until covid vaccinations come out we should still always wear masks. Those are my reasons for why we should still wear masks in school.

Should masks be required at school?

- I think that there should be a mask mandate at school. Masks don't only help with covid but they also help with a lot of other contagious diseases. That have been a bother in the past, such as the cold and flu viruses. Another reason why I think we should keep masks is because if schools could get shut down which means we would have to go back to remote learning which in my opinion is much worse than wearing a mask. I think until the covid vaccine comes out for ages 11 and under I think we should keep masks mandatory until then.

T: Opinion

Should masks be required at School?

In my opinion, masks should be required at school. One reason is because no one wants to be sick and masks are keeping us safe. (So far) Another reason is because masks protect us from other people's germs. Germs make us sick.

Obviously, they also stop other people from breathing in our germs, because our breath hits the mask, it does not go every direction. So far, we have had to wear masks and we might still have to do that for a while.

We have to go through this together, people. It's just how life is moving along. Trust me, if I could, I would ~~stop this cycle of horror~~. I think kids should have to wear masks at school.



9/1/21

I think masks should
be required at school.

The vaccine has not come
out for kids under the age
of twelve. The delta virus
is a lot more contagious and
can spread really easily. Masks
help stop the spread, and a fun
fact is that because everyone
is wearing masks there have
been a lot less people that
have gotten the flu. That is
why I think masks should
be required at school.

9/1/2021

Should masks be required at School

In my opinion I think
masks should be required.

My first reason is
that I have not been

vaccinated and I want

to stay safe by wearing

my mask. Second I have

not been sick once this year.

And third it keeps other people

safe from covid-19.

To sum up that why I think

masks should be required

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Face coverings - thank you

1 message

Roxane Weikel <roxane.weikel@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 8:46 AM

To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Thank you for voting to require masks at MCPS this fall. Until we know more about this virus, and until Missoula's case numbers drop, we have to do the prudent thing to keep our children safe.

My grandkids actually feel more comfortable wearing a mask. They want to be able to participate in extra-curricular activities. Plus they saw last year how sick a parent was with Covid and they want to minimize their risk.

Thank you again.

Roxane Weikel

Please Continue The Mask Mandate

Catherine Cohenour <ccohenour@mcpsmt.org>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 9:49 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To Superintendent Watson and MCPS School Board,

My name is Catherine Cohenour. I am a kindergarten teacher at Hawthorne Elementary. I want to thank the board for all that they do and for taking public comments into consideration. I hope that the board will continue to mandate masks for all students in MCPS Schools. The amount of scientific evidence showing the effectiveness of masks is staggering and I would like to add my personal observations to that sum. At the end of last year my team decided to take tissue boxes off of our school supply lists for this Fall. The reason for this is that we used so few boxes last year that we didn't need more this year. Not only did our students not get COVID19, they didn't get sick, period. Masks work. We were fortunate enough to see that last year when there was less risk for students. Unfortunately the risks have increased this year. We know that the Delta Variant is present in our community and that it affects younger children similarly to adults. We have systems in place and we know that they work. Educators, administration, students, and families can continue to work together to ensure that students have a positive experience while staying safe by wearing masks, and distancing. Thank you for your time and for your tireless efforts.

-Catherine Cohenour



Catherine Cohenour (she/her)
Kindergarten, Hawthorne Elementary MCPS

(406)543-4025 Ext. 4251

<https://www.mcpsmt.org/Domain/4335>

ccohenour@mcpsmt.org

550 Hiberta Street Missoula, MT 59804



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thank You

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 8:08 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Gotcha, this isn't a thank you, but you opened it, smarties.

Mask Mandaters -

Hellgate was at Helena playing volleyball yesterday. It was awesome! There were hundreds of maskless Americans enjoying life the way they should be. The players were inches away from each other, breathing exhaled, unfiltered air from different towns, just spreading the vid to one another.

To the almighty six who mandated masks: You're keeping everyone safe some of the time, but not all of the time? It's an all or nothing deal and your mandate is a half measure to a whole problem, lift it.

I routinely observe my teenage daughter demonstrating better logic, common sense and judgement than you.

Go to your room for the rest of the night. I don't want to hear or see you.

Daddy.

Gabriel Earle



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Jokes

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 7:52 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandaters -

My family and I were at Hellgate HS this Saturday for a volleyball game.

It was awesome. Hundreds and hundreds of unmasked students and parents, in your buildings, where you have 'mandated' masks.

Even the students are laughing their asses off at you in open and intentional defiance of your petty power grab.

Lift your dumb ass mandate. We don't follow it. Neither do the students.

Parents - 1

Mask Mandaters - 0

Beat that.

Gabriel Earle

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

Illegal actions

Samie Hayes <samiehayes2004@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 11:56 AM

I have personally heard from multiple people whom are members of the Sentinel Dance Team that they plan on doing basket stunts for half time performances. Not only are they not allowed to do basic preps, they plan on doing a stunt that involves throwing a person up to 10 feet in the air. The coach and the people on this dance team are not qualified to do anything this dangerous. Especially if they have no prior experience. Please keep these students safe and stop such reckless actions.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I support wearing masks in schools

Rhonda Krause <rhondaskrause@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 1:12 PM

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

Dear Missoula County Public Schools School Board Members:

My name is Rhonda Krause. I teach at Hawthorne School. I would like to start by thanking you for serving on our School Board. Your time truly makes a difference in the lives of many Missoula families. Thank you also for voting to require masks of all students, staff and community members that enter into our schools for the start of the 2021-22 school year. Please continue to require masks in public schools because they are a large part of how MCPS had been able to keep our students and staff safe and in school.

This year in MCPS is off to a great start. At Hawthorne, we have students and staff that are happy to be in school and wearing their masks every day. There have not been complaints, because we experienced, first hand, that with masks and other safety measures in place, we were able to keep students and staff safe and healthy last year. This school year is different though, as the Delta variant is impacting more children. As of Friday, September 10th, 2021, the Missoula County Health Department Covid data website is reporting that 16.69% of the active Covid-19 cases are in children under ages 0-19. Continuing to wear masks until this number starts to decrease is crucial to keep our students and staff safe.

Please continue to require mask wearing of all students and staff in Missoula County Public Schools so that we can keep students safe, healthy and in school.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Krause

Mask Mandate

Amber Whitlatch <amberger101@yahoo.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 2:53 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Amber. I'm the wife of a local State Trooper, a mother to a kindergartner and 1 year old, and I'm a master's prepared registered nurse, public health nurse, ER and Trauma certified, and I'm about to graduate from a nurse practitioner program. I'm also a combat veteran who has been literally all over the world with the US Army. I fit about every demographic here in Montana. I've seen the protests and I fully support freedom of speech, but I'm pretty upset seeing the misinformation, hearing how scared my son's faculty are that mask mandates will be lifted, and I'm terrified that my little boy will bring Covid home to his baby brother.

I can sit here and share facts that cases are rising yet again, even before school began that pediatric cases were climbing to terrifying levels. I could share how terrifying it is to see a small lifeless body with tubes and medications and how even as a nurse you never get used to it. I could share that we're seeing record numbers of Covid we didn't even see last year. But I'm sure you've heard about all of that.

I can share that as a nurse I'm alarmed that we still have so many people refusing to get vaccinated despite now being FDA approved, or that it has shown to lessen the severity of illness let alone the spread of the virus. We all have our reasons and we can't force people to comply no matter the piles of evidence and information we place before them.

What I can do is write this email as a concerned parent. One that has already seen one outbreak in my son's school here in Missoula. One who's aunt, a 37 year old woman who had her entire life to live just died from Delta only a few weeks ago, intubated after only a few days of symptoms. My little boy who diligently wears his mask over his nose and mouth because he knows his baby brother depends on him being as safe as possible. This little 5 year old who knows he can't stand too close to his friends let alone hug them despite desperately wanting to show affection to his new best friend. This tiny human who knows he wears a mask to keep others safe because this virus spreads so easily with no symptoms and could kill that best friend or give him long Covid or any one of the other many illnesses Covid creates, potentially for years if he would be lucky to survive it. What's interesting is all of the kids are like this - they wear their mask because they know it keeps their friends and teachers safe. Ask any teacher in Missoula and they will tell you the same thing - mask issues aren't a kid problem but an adult problem.

My little 5 year old would go to school wearing a mask every single day whether I asked him to or not because he understands that his mask keeps his friends and teachers safe, but I wouldn't make him do that. If the mask mandate is lifted, parents like myself and my husband, college educated parents who have high student loans and multiple degrees between us, public servants, will quit their jobs and stay home to ensure our children are safe from this deadly virus. We will quit our own college studies to ensure our children are homeschooled properly and we will wait until Missoula hits high enough numbers that the mandate is back in place, because Winter is coming and we know what happens to viruses during winter - the numbers will skyrocket.

So I urge you, make this mandate permanent through the end of the school year. Continue to keep our children, our most vulnerable and valuable people safe from this devastating virus.

Thank you for your time.

Amber Whitlatch, MSN, RN, PHN
Former US Army Sergeant
Mom

Where's the proof?

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

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 4:14 PM

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

Dr. Watson, members of the Board, and community members in favor of imposing mask mandates upon other people's children:

Who can show me a scientific study, including a CONTROL GROUP, that proves that masks prevent COVID spread in schools?

No anecdotes.

Where is the DATA (*other than email proof that teachers' unions pressured the CDC to recommend masking in schools*) that scientifically proves, and therefore justifies, mandatory masking of kids K-12?

I'll wait.

--

Jill MH Taber



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Masks in School

Joseph Haferman <joehaferman@blackfoot.net>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 5:01 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Health decisions are made by an individual or family, not school board people.

Masks reduce risk, not eliminate it, and there may be other health issues associated with wearing a mask.

Encourage masks, don't MANDate them.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mask "Mandates"

Lindsay Guttermuth <guttermuth@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 5:07 PM

To: 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

Hello:

It has come to my attention that there is no mention of masks/Covid issues on the agenda for tomorrow's board meeting. Since there is a lawsuit being brought against MCPS regarding masks, I would think it is an issue that merits attention. I want to express my anger that the MCPS board has taken on the role of making personal health decisions for my family. My child has daily issues in gym class for simply BEING ABLE TO BREATHE and yet you continue to "conduct business" as usual.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Lindsay Guttermuth

Mask mandate

Jonathan Matthew <doublejmaintenance@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 9:00 PM

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

School board members and Mister Watson.

I writing to you about the mask mandate you have imposed on our children. I wrote a letter before last meeting and still believe the same. This should be a parents decision. I listened to most of the comments at last meeting and really agreed with the comment that we left one party out of this. Our children they also have a voice in this and I still haven't seen anything from you that really makes a good argument to masks.

I believe this should be a choice. If you want to wear one wear one if you don't that's your choice if masks are so affective shouldn't matter if I wear one for you. Same with the vaccine if you want it great if you don't your choice. Doesn't matter to me. When did medical decisions become the schools choice. Believe should at least be able to opt out of masks if want and not by distant learning.

If anyone has any answers to these I'm open to hearing from you.

I have two children at Seeley Swan Highschool. Go Hawks. We have to get back to normal and we can't do this with fear and masks.

Jonathan Matthew

(no subject)

Jordan Krause <jkrause@mcpsmt.org>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 12:08 AM

Trustees of the MCPS School Board:

It would be remiss of me to begin without thanking you for the time, effort, and thought you put into your work on this board. We appreciate you.

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for setting our classrooms up for health and success this fall. As a kindergarten teacher, I am innately aware of how viruses can spread inside a classroom. I was absolutely blown away last year by how seldom students got sick, and that was in large part due to the precautions we put in place with masking, hygiene, and spacing. Kindergarteners have little concept of their bodies in space, so these adult-led precautions are integral to the safety and well-being of my classroom.

I want to especially thank you for supporting universal masking in our school buildings. In the past two years, my kindergarteners have astounded me with their flexibility, resilience, and ability to learn during this pandemic. They understand why we wear masks and rarely (if ever) complain about doing so. When friends and family ask me about how the kids are doing with masks, it's been easy for me to quickly and confidently respond "fabulously." The fact is, masks are as big a deal as we make them, but their impact is notable and undeniable. I am grateful to our district and to my school community for working to ensure that all students can safely access our curricula.

I hope that you will continue supporting universal masking inside school buildings so that they can remain safe learning spaces for our students, all of whom are unvaccinated at the K-5 level.

Kindly,
Jordan Krause
MCPS Kindergarten teacher

Masks

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 8:15 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>

Board -

Masking my child is my choice. Not yours. Period. It's my kid, not yours. Stay in your lane. Lift the mandate.

Gabriel Earle

Masks

Gabriel Earle <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 8:22 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>, "dlorenzo@mcpsmt.org" <dlorenzo@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>

Board -

You're using the guise of caring for my kid's health to mandate masks.

Your care is faux. How's her growth? How's her dental health? Hearing? Vision?

Caring and implementing a plan of health is an all or nothing deal. My wife and I are implementing that plan.

You're unequipped and disgustingly unqualified to assume the responsibility for the health of my daughter.

Get over yourself. Concerning providing a health protocol for our daughter: We are better than you. Better than you will ever be.

Lift your pet mask mandate. That's an order.

Gabriel Earle

Disappointing start for kindergarten

Zach B <zbrackett0@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 9:11 AM

To: rwatson@mcpsmt.org, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, mgehl@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, kmrcer@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org

MCPS,

I'll share some of the things my Kindergartener has said about school. My bright, cheerful, resilient girl who was once described as a dandy lion who will thrive wherever she is.

"I hate school. I don't want to go."

I've heard that one a lot. Too much for being a few weeks into the school year.

"They don't let me play and they always set a timer when we can play."

"School starts too early and it goes too long. I don't want to go. I just want to go half-day."

"I'm always tired now. I hate it. School starts too early. I hate it."

Frankly, I am shocked. Is that what a child is supposed to say about a healthy learning environment? My daughter has never said anything negative about her pre-school. She has never said she hates anything and meant what she means when she says she hates school. She might hate it when I put peas in macaroni, but it doesn't seem to cause her the deep tension she wears on her face when she says she hates school. Then when she's sent home with homework and I receive multiple aggressive and pushy letters, most of which never fail to blame parents for Covid, or fear-monger mountain lions and fentanyl, I'm left wondering, "what is happening in her school?!"

She's at school for a 40 hour a week grind and you want me to practice worksheets with her at home? Shouldn't kindergarteners be playing for most of the day? Shouldn't this be a fun and wonderful experience? Why then is everything I hear about school so negative? It seems for some reason within the confines of public schools the last year's extreme psychological toxicity is thriving, where it does the most damage to our children. Why do you suppose that is? This is very stressful. I have a choice if I feel one of my early childhood care providers is harmful to my child, but when it's the public school I don't have any other option. What is a parent supposed to do when they hear this from their child?

Thanks,
Zach



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thank you for protecting my kid

Beth Gherlein <bgherlein@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 9:41 AM

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

MCPS Board of Trustees,

Thank you for all the work you have done this year to protect my kid and my family. I am the parent of a kindergartener at Paxon and I am so grateful that the board made the decision to require masks in schools. I am also grateful that MCPS has continued to stand by that decision and enforce the mandate even in the face of vocal opposition from some politicians in our state. Thank you for not politicizing a deadly pandemic. And thank you for putting my child's well-being and the health and safety of our community first.

Sincerely,
Beth Gherlein



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mandating masks must continue

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

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 11:07 AM

To the Board of Trustees:

You must continue to mandate the wearing of face masks in all MCPS schools. It is the least you can do to try to limit the spread of covid-19 in our schools and beyond, keep our schools open, and to help prevent more people -especially our children- getting sick with this virus that can be deadly and do long-term damage.

Case numbers are high in Missoula County, hospitals are full of covid patients, and there is still not a vaccine available for kids under 12; Now is not the time to even consider lifting the mask mandate.

-Agatha Podrasky

Public comment, MCPS masks mandates

Amanda Attard <amandamae.attard@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 11:14 AM

To: rwatson@mcpsmt.org, awake@mcpsmt.org, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, dllorenzen@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, mgehl@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org

To whom it may concern,

I am writing again to express my deepest concern for the mask mandates in our schools. I strongly believe this is an dangerous overreach and it should be left up to the parents of the child to decide what is best. There are many studies that show the negative effects that wearing masks has on children, including but not limited to hindering their social and emotional development, concentration in school, mental and emotional health, and could potentially exasperate underlying or preexisting conditions. Not to mention children who are hearing impaired, on the autism spectrum, already have learning disabilities or difficulties such as ADHD, and children who are subject to abuse and neglect will suffer the greatest negative effects from the mask mandates. Some of these conditions are easier to identify than others, so how will teachers and administrators be able to accommodate for each of these children? Even on the CDC website, their own research states that there is no conclusive evidence that mask wearing prevents the spread of the Coronavirus. Why then are we subjecting our children to this social experiment? Simply based on the idea that they may be partially effective in shielding adults from COVID, but since when is it ethical to burden children for the benefit of adults? Children are not just "tiny adults", and any experiments conducted on adults do not translate to children. It should be understood that there is no way of knowing the long-term effects of our mandates on these children until it is too late.

Please understand that there is more to consider here regarding the health and safety of our children than just the Coronavirus. Youth depression and suicide being a huge one. Consider the distress of being a child who is forced to cover their face, especially if it violates their own moral leadings, and having fear shoved in their faces? This is a time to protect children's minds and development, not to scare them into submission over something the adults don't understand themselves. Please examine ALL factors affecting the health, safety, development, and quality of education for our children. Don't just blindly follow recommendations based on inconclusive science, fear and guess work. There is a reason there have been no mask mandates in previous pandemics, because it is superfluous and ineffective. The most unsettling I find, is that there is no projected "end date" to these mandates on our kids. When they are old enough to be vaccinated? The CDC is recommending that even the vaccinated should wear masks at this point. How long will we subject our kids to this when adults are free to walk around with their faces covered or not? Adults are free to crowd the streets of downtown Missoula to enjoy music festivals and crowd into the UM stadium for football games. And yet, our children are forced into a concentration-camp environment with unprecedented restrictions based on fear and the desperate grasp for control over something uncontrollable. So our leaders prey on the most vulnerable and easy to manipulate and control- our youth. 0.0-0.2% of Covid cases in children in the US have resulted in death. This means they have a greater chance of dying in a car crash, dying by homicide, a greater chance of drowning, dying in a fire, and just about anything else.

Conduct research within your own schools (which if you haven't done already, you're not doing your job) to determine how the kids performed, whether their grades and testing suffered or were unaffected, how the emotional health of the students were affected at school, and what it was that affected their sense of safety and ability to learn the most. Find out how your students are doing! I can tell you, and have already shared with the board on a few occasions, how online schooling and mask mandates and the general uncertainty regarding school has affected my three school-aged children. They are not doing well.

If you are unwilling to remove the mask mandates, then I implore you to create more options for those unable to or who wish not to wear masks. Online learning is NOT a viable option. There should be more exemptions available, such as exemptions based on strong moral objections. Children and parents shouldn't have to prove they pray to a God that forbids masks to have the right to object to them and still obtain a quality education.

Please reconsider the mask mandates, do your research, consider ALL factors affecting the health and quality of education for our children. Here are some links to some articles and studies regarding the efficacy of masks and the effects of mask wearing:

The US Centre for Disease Control performed a study which showed that 85 percent of those who contracted Covid-19 during July 2020 were mask wearers. Just 3.9 percent of the study participants never wore a mask.

Original: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6936a5-H.pdf>

Erratum. correction: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6938a7.htm?s_cid=mm6938a7_w
<https://www.theblaze.com/op-ed/horowitz-cdc-study-covid-masks>

This study used 5462 peer-reviewed articles and 41 grey literature records.

“Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to critical shortages of medical-grade PPE. Alternative forms of facial protection offer inferior protection. More robust evidence is required on different types of medical-grade facial protection. As research on COVID-19 advances, investigators should continue to examine the impact on alternatives of medical-grade facial protection”

So how is your cloth and surgical mask working again if EVEN medical grade alternatives are failing ?

Study Article: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32371574/>

“There is moderate certainty evidence that wearing a mask probably makes little or no difference to the outcome of laboratory-confirmed influenza compared to not wearing a mask”

Study article: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33215698/>

This study used dye to show if masks were contaminated. “As a result, masks surface becomes a contamination source. In the contact experiment, ten adults were requested to put on and off a surgical mask while doing a word processing task. The extended contamination areas were recorded and identified by image analysis”

Study article: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32582579/>



AAP and CHA - Children and COVID-19 State Data Report 9.10.20 FINAL (1).pdf

1171K

Children and COVID-19 State Data Report

A joint report from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital
Summary of publicly reported data from 49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GL

Version: 9/10/20



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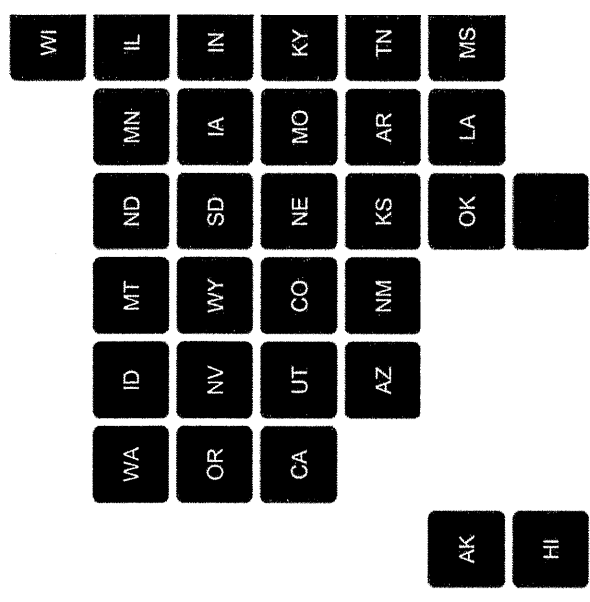
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COVID-19: Available Data for Children

- State-level reports are the best publicly available data on COVID-19 cases in children
- This report summarizes what was available on 9/10/20
- **49 states, NYC, DC, Puerto Rico and Guam** provided age distributions of reported COVID-19 cases
 - 11 states provided age distribution of testing
 - 24 states and NYC provided age distribution of hospitalizations
 - 42 states and NYC provided age distribution of deaths

Fig 1A: States Reporting of COVID-19 Cases as of



Reporting age distribution of COVID-
Yes: Reported age distribution of ca
TX: Reported age distribution for or
NY: Only NYC reported age distribu
MA: Only reported age distribution c

Children and COVID-19: 9/10/20

Summary of State-Level Data Provided in this Report

Detail and links to state/local data sources provided in Appendix

Cumulative Number of Child COVID-19 Cases*

- 549,432 total child COVID-19 cases reported, and children represented 10% (549,432/5,493,006) of all cases
- Overall rate: 729 cases per 100,000 children in the population

Change in Child COVID-19 Cases, 8/27/20 – 9/10/20

- 72,993 new child cases reported from 8/27-9/10 (476,439 to 549,432), a 15% increase in child cases over the period

Testing (11 states reported)*

- Children made up between 4%-15% of total state tests, and between 3.3%-16.6% of children tested were under 18

Hospitalizations (24 states and NYC reported)*

- Children were 0.6%-3.6% of total reported hospitalizations, and between 0.3%-8.2% of all child COVID-19 hospitalizations

Mortality (42 states and NYC reported)*

- Children were 0%-0.3% of all COVID-19 deaths, and 18 states reported zero child deaths
- In states reporting, 0%-0.2% of all child COVID-19 cases resulted in death

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting. All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change. See detail in Appendix: Data from 49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU; Analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association



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Fig 2. Cumulative Number of Child COVID-19 Cases: 9/10/20

- 549,432 total child COVID-19 cases (cumulative)
- Nine states with 15,000+ cumulative child cases
- Half of states reported 8,000+ child cases
- Six states reported fewer than 1,000 child cases

See detail in Appendix: Data from 48 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU (TX excluded from figure)
 All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change
 Analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association



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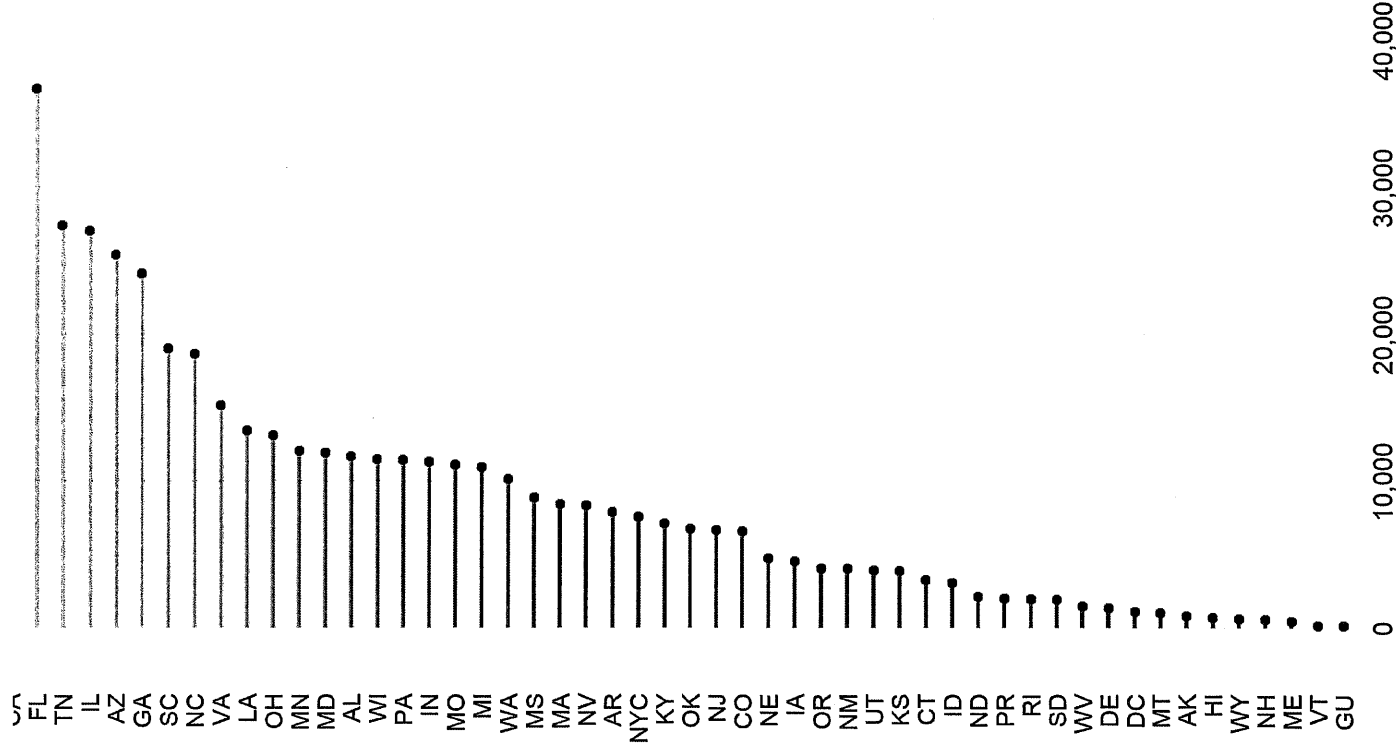
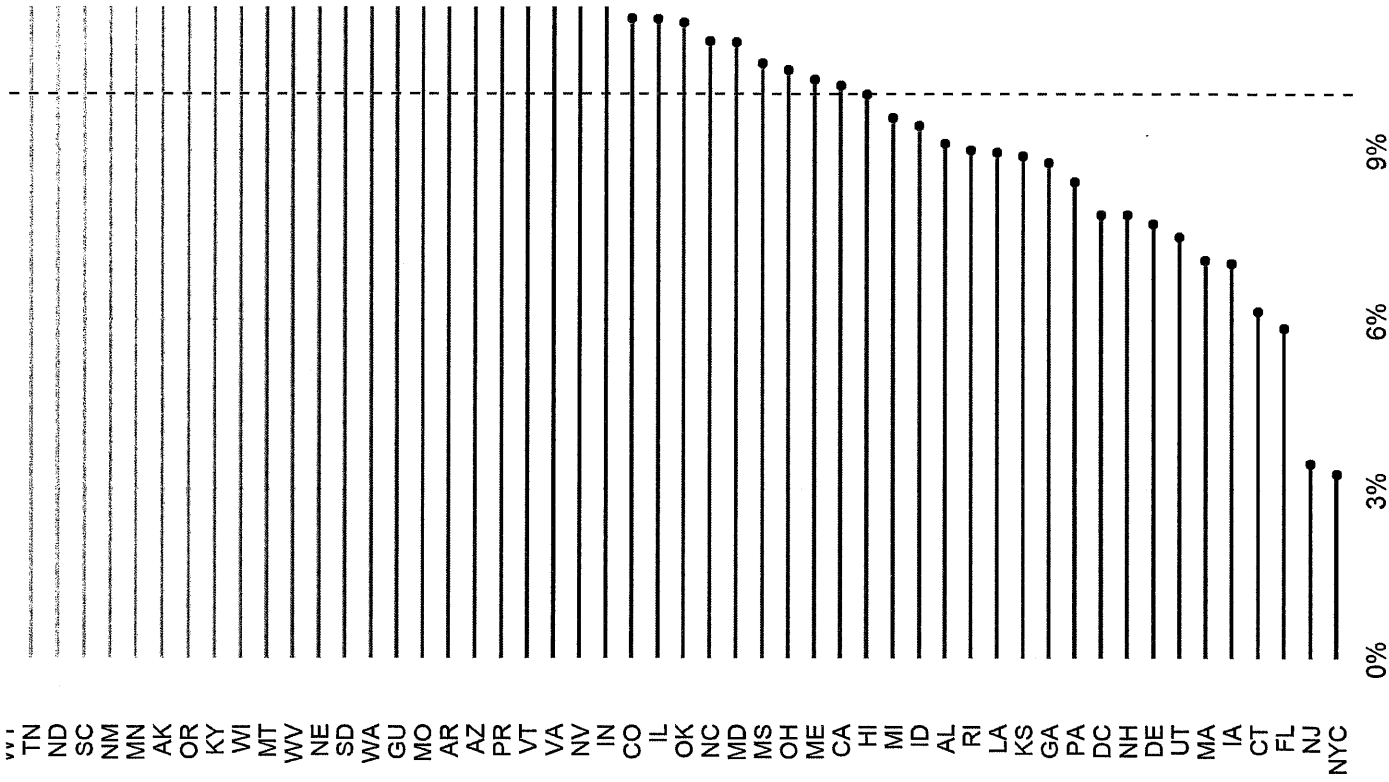


Fig 3. Percent of Cumulative COVID-19 Cases that were Children: 9/10/20

- Children represented 10% (549,432/5,493,006) of all available cases
- Thirty-three states reported 10% or more of cases were children
- NJ and NYC reported that 3.5% or less of cases were children



See detail in Appendix: Data from 48 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU (TX excluded from figure)
All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change
Analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association

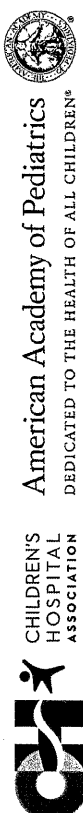


Fig 4. Cumulative COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Children: 9/10/20

- Calculated using state-level population estimates from US Census Bureau (2019)*
- Overall rate: 729 child COVID-19 cases per 100,000 children in the population
- Nineteen states reported more than 800 cases per 100,000 children

See detail in Appendix: Data from 48 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU (TX excluded from figure)
 All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change
 Analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association
 * Source: US Census Bureau, State Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019,
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>

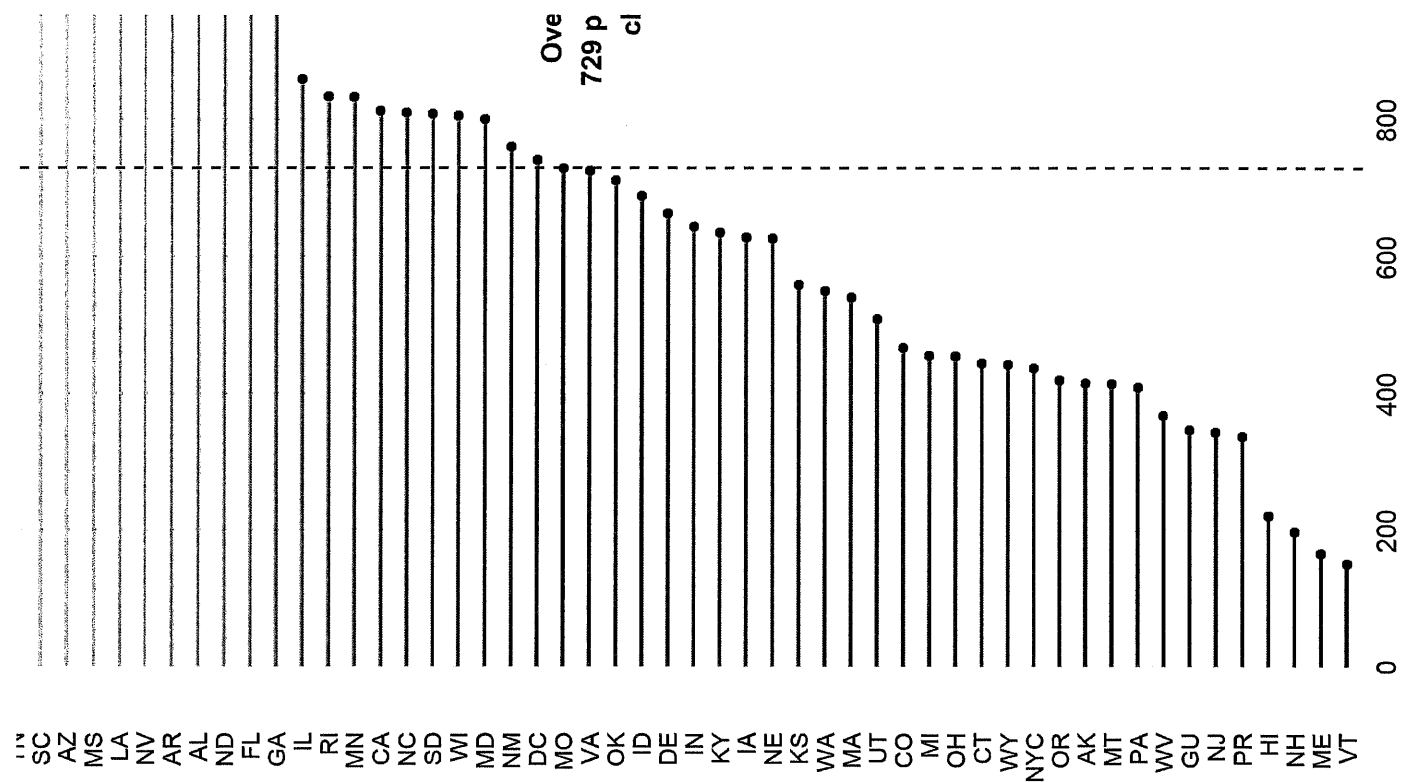
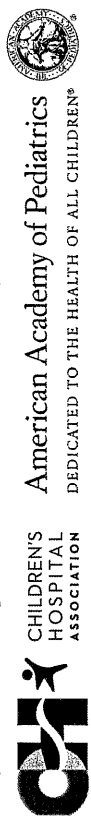
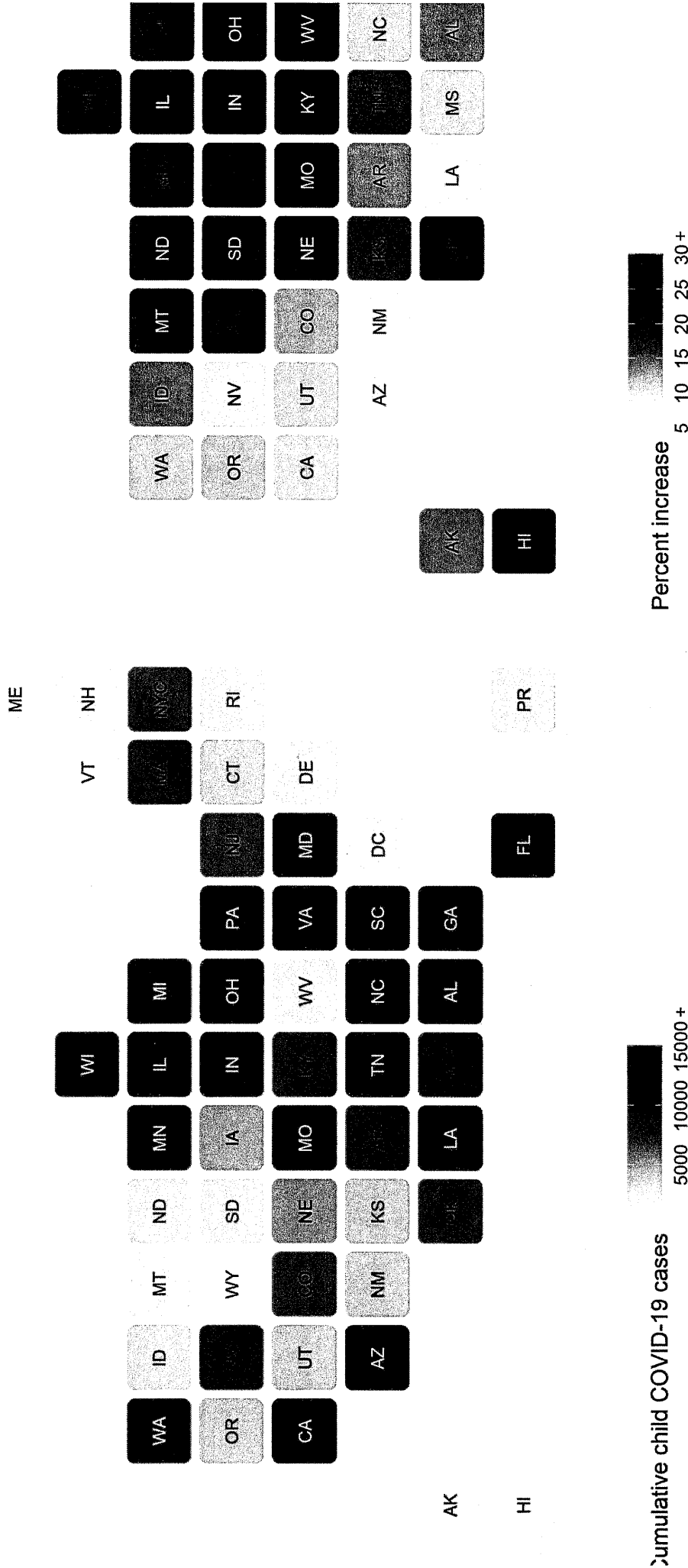


Fig 5. Cumulative Child COVID-19 Cases and Percent Increase in

A. Cumulative Child COVID-19 Cases, 9/10/20
Nine states with 15,000+ cumulative child COVID-19 cases

B. Percent Increase in Child Cases, 8/27-9/10
From 8/27-9/10, there were 72,993 new cases (476,439 to 549,432; 15% increase)



See detail in Appendix: Data from 48 states, NYC, DC, and PR (TX excluded from figures; RI excluded from definition of child case as of 9/10); All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change; Analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association



Appendix Table 1: Case Data Available on 9/10/20

Summary data across the 49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU that provided age d reported COVID-19 cases*

Child population, 2019	Cumulative total cases (all ages)	Cumulative child cases	Cumulative percent children of total cases
75,423,548	5,493,006	549,432	10.0%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health dep



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Appendix Table 2A: Summary of Child Case Data from 4/16 –

Date	Number of locations reporting age	Cumulative total cases (all ages)	Cumulative child cases [^]	Percent children of total cases
9/10/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	5,493,006	549,432	10.0%
9/3/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	5,265,157	513,415	9.8%
8/27/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	5,018,113	476,439	9.5%
8/20/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	4,766,825	442,785	9.3%
8/13/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU [#]	4,486,830	406,109	9.1%
8/6/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	4,159,947	380,174	9.1%
7/30/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	3,835,573	338,982	8.8%
7/23/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	3,416,630	288,287	8.4%
7/16/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	3,042,413	241,904	8.0%
7/9/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	2,651,066	200,184	7.6%
7/2/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	2,335,060	165,845	7.1%
6/25/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	2,073,387	138,213	6.7%
6/18/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,885,905	116,176	6.2%
6/11/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,750,240	98,246	5.6%
6/4/20	49 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,623,334	84,016	5.2%
5/28/20	47 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,425,154	66,513	4.7%
5/21/20	47 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,288,305	54,031	4.2%
5/14/20	47 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,159,407	42,370	3.7%
5/7/20	46 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	1,010,112	32,568	3.2%
4/30/20	47 states, NYC, DC, and PR	849,615	23,096	2.7%
4/23/20	48 states, NYC, DC, PR, and GU	710,953	15,911	2.2%
4/16/20	46 states, NYC, and DC	456,923	9,259	2.0%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting. All data reported by state/local health department
[^] Unknown: number of child
[#] As of 8/13, AL changed definition of child case from 0-24 to 0-17 years, resulting in a do



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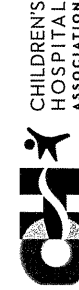
Appendix Table 2B: Summary of Child Hospitalization Data from 5

Date	Number of locations reporting age distribution of hospitalizations	Cumulative total hospitalizations (all ages)	Cumulative child hospitalizations	Percent children on hospitalization
9/10/20	24 states and NYC	270,034	4,677	1.7%
9/3/20	23 states and NYC	257,300	4,321	1.7%
8/27/20	22 states and NYC	243,056	4,163	1.7%
8/20/20	21 states and NYC	234,810	4,062	1.7%
8/13/20	21 states and NYC	225,893	3,849	1.7%
8/6/20	20 states and NYC	206,189	3,276	1.6%
7/30/20	20 states and NYC	195,106	2,669	1.4%
7/23/20	20 states and NYC	181,345	2,304	1.3%
7/16/20	20 states and NYC	172,787	2,074	1.2%
7/9/20	20 states and NYC	164,158	1,948	1.2%
7/2/20	20 states and NYC	156,640	1,780	1.1%
6/25/20	20 states and NYC	151,583	1,663	1.1%
6/18/20	19 states and NYC	140,215	1,433	1.0%
6/11/20	19 states and NYC	134,600	1,322	1.0%
6/4/20	19 states and NYC	128,779	1,231	1.0%
5/28/20	16 states and NYC	114,678	1,054	0.9%
5/21/20	17 states and NYC	105,665	891	0.8%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health department
^ Hospitalization rate = number of chi



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Appendix Table 2C: Summary of Child Mortality Data from 5/21 – 9

Date	Number of locations reporting age distribution of deaths	Cumulative total deaths (all ages)	Cumulative child deaths	Percent children of total deaths
9/10/20	42 states and NYC	160,856	105	0.07%
9/3/20	42 states and NYC	156,053	103	0.07%
8/27/20	43 states and NYC [#]	152,884	101	0.07%
8/20/20	45 states and NYC	154,279	92	0.06%
8/13/20	45 states and NYC	147,356	90	0.06%
8/6/20	44 states and NYC	139,685	90	0.06%
7/30/20	44 states and NYC	133,267	86	0.06%
7/23/20	44 states and NYC	121,539	76	0.06%
7/16/20	43 states and NYC	119,265	66	0.06%
7/9/20	42 states and NYC	112,289	62	0.06%
7/2/20	42 states and NYC	108,513	58	0.05%
6/25/20	42 states and NYC	104,683	57	0.05%
6/18/20	42 states and NYC	101,056	54	0.05%
6/11/20	40 states and NYC	89,866	48	0.05%
6/4/20	40 states and NYC	91,241	46	0.05%
5/28/20	39 states and NYC	82,298	30	0.04%
5/21/20	38 states and NYC	71,689	28	0.04%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health department
[^] Numbr
 # As of 8/27, RI, MI, and SC not reporting age distributions of COVID-19 deaths (exact numbers not provided for <5 deaths);



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Appendix Table 3A: Child COVID-19 Case Data Available on 9/10/20*



Click location name to view original data source

Location	Age range	Child population, 2019	Cumulative child cases	Percent children of total cases	Cumulative total (all ages)
Alabama[^]	0-17	1,088,668	12,420	9.2%	134,417
Alaska	0-19	196,852	889	15.1%	5,896
Arizona	0-19	1,838,598	26,228	12.7%	206,541
Arkansas	0-17	700,155	8,400	12.6%	66,406
California	0-17	8,894,641	75,382	10.2%	739,527
Colorado	0-19	1,407,971	6,987	11.7%	59,920
Connecticut	0-19	735,193	3,434	6.4%	53,871
Delaware	0-17	203,572	1,445	7.9%	18,308
District of Columbia	0-19	149,337	1,139	7.9%	14,387
Florida	0-14	3,512,139	37,935	5.9%	644,781
Georgia	0-17	2,503,881	25,306	8.8%	287,287
Guam	0-19	57,727	236	12.8%	1,846
Hawaii	0-17	330,092	961	9.5%	10,097
Idaho	0-17	448,201	3,281	9.6%	34,310
Illinois	0-19	3,145,309	30,440	12.0%	253,690
Indiana	0-19	1,755,070	12,483	12.3%	101,485
Iowa	0-17	726,841	5,032	7.0%	71,891
Kansas	0-17	700,250	4,187	8.8%	47,410
Kentucky	0-19	1,118,934	7,900	14.6%	53,977
Louisiana	0-17	1,087,630	13,976	9.0%	154,955
Maine	0-19	281,158	493	10.4%	4,734
Maryland	0-19	1,489,721	12,871	11.3%	113,575
Massachusetts[#]	0-19	1,558,231	8,762	7.3%	120,454
Michigan	0-19	2,407,690	12,229	10.2%	119,863
Minnesota	0-19	1,445,346	13,015	15.9%	81,868
Mississippi	0-17	698,583	9,332	10.6%	87,805
Missouri	0-19	1,527,291	12,913	13.4%	96,475

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change; ^ As of 8/13, AL changed data source; # As of 9/3, MA only reported age distribution of cases added in last two weeks but not for total cases to date; 9/10 totals calculated using MA Dept. of Public Health Weekly Report published 9/9 (data from 9/3); As of 9/3, MA revised definition of probable case, leading to an increase in total cases.



Click location name to view original data source

Location	Age range	Child population, 2019	Cumulative child cases	Percent children of total cases	Cumulative total (all ages)
Montana	0-19	254,416	1,172	13.8%	8,468
Nebraska	0-19	760,272	5,205	14.1%	36,917
Nevada	0-19	688,997	8,685	12.0%	72,258
New Hampshire	0-19	291,038	630	8.4%	7,517
New Jersey	0-17	1,938,578	6,859	3.5%	194,900
New Mexico	0-19	531,712	4,175	15.9%	26,268
North Carolina	0-17	2,300,715	19,524	10.9%	179,532
North Dakota	0-19	200,777	2,444	17.3%	14,110
NYC	0-17	1,726,900	7,695	3.3%	232,232
Ohio	0-19	2,886,873	14,809	11.1%	132,965
Oklahoma	0-17	952,238	7,440	11.3%	65,929
Oregon	0-19	965,480	4,268	15.0%	28,471
Pennsylvania	0-18	2,801,187	12,793	9.1%	141,290
Puerto Rico	0-19	594,011	2,148	12.5%	17,248
Rhode Island[#]	0-18	238,453	1,841	8.4%	21,802
South Carolina	0-20	1,314,988	20,825	16.5%	126,213
South Dakota	0-19	240,567	2,154	13.8%	15,571
Tennessee	0-20	1,762,659	29,442	17.7%	166,587
Texas[^]	0-19	8,210,585	2,855	5.8%	48,957
Utah	0-14	774,764	4,145	7.4%	55,673
Vermont	0-19	134,415	207	12.5%	1,661
Virginia	0-19	2,087,426	16,575	12.7%	130,525
Washington	0-19	1,840,306	10,586	13.6%	78,009
West Virginia	0-19	402,473	1,724	14.4%	12,017
Wisconsin	0-19	1,422,095	12,861	14.5%	88,590
Wyoming	0-18	140,694	693	19.7%	3,520

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health department
^ Texas reported age for only 8% of total confirmed cases; Cases per 100,000 children omitted for Texas; Data for Texas in this report is limited
As of 9/10, RI changed de

Appendix Table 4: Child Testing Data Available on 9/10/ COVID-19 Testing and Children

Location	Age range	Cumulative total tests (all ages)	Cumulative child tests	Percent children of total tests
<u>Arizona</u>	0-19	1,267,371	158,166	12.5%
<u>Illinois</u>	0-19	4,526,739	458,428	10.1%
<u>Indiana</u>	0-19	1,572,960	235,944	15.0%
<u>Iowa</u>	0-17	1,225,689	49,028	4.0%
<u>Minnesota</u>	0-19	1,634,674	191,368	11.7%
<u>Missouri</u> [#]	0-17	1,070,909	83,494	7.8%
<u>Nevada</u>	0-19	624,152	58,832	9.4%
<u>Rhode Island</u>	0-18	275,782	25,381	9.2%
<u>Tennessee</u>	0-20	2,362,943	321,545	13.6%
<u>West Virginia</u>	0-19	467,526	52,737	11.3%
<u>Wyoming</u>	0-18	124,089	13,650	11.0%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health department
[^] Positive rate = number of child cases / number of child tests; # MO reported age distribution for child cases as 0-19 but not by age



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Appendix Table 5: Child Hospitalization Data Available

COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations and Children

Location	Age range	Cumulative child hospitalizations	Cumulative total hospitalizations (all ages)	Percent children of total hospitalizations
<u>Arizona</u>	0-19	779	21,593	3.6%
<u>Colorado</u>	0-19	206	7,173	2.9%
<u>Florida</u>	0-14	484	40,517	1.2%
<u>Georgia</u>	0-17	397	25,845	1.5%
<u>Hawaii</u>	0-17	3	526	0.6%
<u>Idaho</u>	0-17	34	1,536	2.2%
<u>Kansas</u>	0-17	42	2,470	1.7%
<u>Massachusetts</u>	0-19	130	12,347	1.1%
<u>Minnesota</u>	0-19	249	6,830	3.6%
<u>Mississippi</u>	0-17	81	5,410	1.5%
<u>Nebraska</u>	0-19	52	2,108	2.5%
<u>New Hampshire</u>	0-19	9	719	1.3%
<u>New Jersey</u>	0-17	251	22,854	1.1%
<u>North Dakota</u>	0-19	7	624	1.1%
<u>NYC</u>	0-17	632	57,321	1.1%
<u>Ohio</u>	0-19	293	14,083	2.1%
<u>Oregon</u>	0-19	48	2,215	2.2%
<u>Rhode Island</u>	0-18	61	2,587	2.4%
<u>South Carolina</u>	0-20	154	8,236	1.9%
<u>South Dakota</u>	0-19	31	1,109	2.8%
<u>Tennessee</u>	0-20	208	7,444	2.8%
<u>Utah</u>	0-14	59	3,263	1.8%
<u>Virginia</u>	0-19	195	10,085	1.9%
<u>Washington</u>	0-19	109	6,966	1.6%
<u>Wisconsin</u>	0-19	163	6,173	2.6%

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health department
 ^ Hospitalization rate = number of c



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Appendix Table 6A: Child Mortality Data Available on 9/10/20*



COVID-19-Associated Deaths and Children

Location	Age range	Cumulative child deaths	Cumulative total deaths (all ages)	Percent children of total deaths	Percent
<u>Alabama</u> [#]	0-17	3	2,285	0.13%	
<u>Arizona</u>	0-19	11	5,251	0.21%	
<u>Arkansas</u>	0-17	0	928	0.00%	
<u>California</u>	0-17	3	13,727	0.02%	
<u>Colorado</u>	0-19	3	1,977	0.15%	
<u>Connecticut</u>	0-19	2	4,474	0.04%	
<u>Delaware</u>	0-17	0	609	0.00%	
<u>District of Columbia</u>	0-19	0	615	0.00%	
<u>Florida</u>	0-14	4	12,115	0.03%	
<u>Georgia</u>	0-17	5	6,128	0.08%	
<u>Hawaii</u>	0-17	0	80	0.00%	
<u>Idaho</u>	0-17	0	406	0.00%	
<u>Illinois</u>	0-19	6	8,214	0.07%	
<u>Indiana</u>	0-19	3	3,173	0.10%	
<u>Iowa</u>	0-17	1	1,204	0.08%	
<u>Kansas</u>	0-17	0	495	0.00%	
<u>Kentucky</u>	0-19	1	1,013	0.10%	
<u>Louisiana</u>	0-17	4	4,970	0.08%	
<u>Maine</u>	0-19	0	134	0.00%	
<u>Maryland</u>	0-19	2	3,816	0.05%	
<u>Massachusetts</u>	0-19	0	9,116	0.00%	
<u>Minnesota</u>	0-19	1	1,869	0.05%	

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change; ^ Number # As of 8/13, AL changed definition of child case, resulting in a dow.

Location	Age range	Cumulative child deaths	Cumulative total deaths (all ages)	Percent children of total deaths	Percent
Mississippi	0-17	1	2,623	0.04%	
Missouri	0-19	0	1,673	0.00%	
Nebraska	0-19	1	421	0.24%	
Nevada	0-19	3	1,412	0.21%	
New Hampshire	0-19	0	433	0.00%	
New Jersey	0-17	4	14,220	0.03%	
North Carolina	0-17	1	2,958	0.03%	
North Dakota	0-19	0	160	0.00%	
NYC	0-17	12	19,098	0.06%	
Ohio	0-19	2	4,324	0.05%	
Oklahoma	0-17	1	863	0.12%	
Oregon	0-19	0	494	0.00%	
Pennsylvania	0-18	0	7,805	0.00%	
South Dakota	0-19	0	173	0.00%	
Tennessee	0-20	5	1,931	0.26%	
Texas [#]	0-19	24	13,692	0.18%	
Vermont	0-19	0	58	0.00%	
Virginia	0-19	0	2,708	0.00%	
Washington	0-19	2	1,978	0.10%	
Wisconsin	0-19	0	1,191	0.00%	
Wyoming	0-18	0	42	0.00%	

* Note: Data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting; All data reported by state/local health departments are preliminary and subject to change; ^ Number # As of 7/30, Texas provided age distribution for all COVID-19-associated deaths; Texas reported age for only 8% of total confirmed cases; Percent of child cases resulting in death omitted for Texas; data for i

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Why are the AAP and CHA collecting this data?*

- A: Our goal is to provide a weekly snapshot of how COVID-19 is affecting children in the United States. CDC provides a national number of cases weekly, but there are no geographic indicators provided and the age data is not released on a regular schedule. Our data collection method allows cases weekly, as well as providing publicly reported case numbers for children at the state level.

Q: *The age ranges for children in the report are broad – why were these age ranges chosen and are data available for more specific age ranges of children?*

- A: Each state makes different decisions about how to report the age distribution of COVID-19 cases, and as a result the age range for reported purposes of this report it is not possible to standardize more detailed age ranges for children based on what is publicly available from the states specific state health department websites of interest to see if the state provides more granular detail of cases by age (see report Appendix for further information).

Q: *What is the definition of a COVID-19 case?*

- A: COVID-19 cases are defined as persons who have been identified as a confirmed (via a diagnostic molecular test) or probable (via a clinical test) case by the states, following reporting standards established by the CDC. For more information on the definitions of confirmed and probable cases, see the [CDC COVID-19 Data and Surveillance](#) page.

Q: *Why does the report not provide the percent of child cases that were symptomatic vs. asymptomatic or that had underlying conditions?*

- A: For the report, we are limited to the data that states are making publicly available. At this time, states are not providing data related to symptomatic vs. asymptomatic cases. CDC provides some information on COVID-19 hospitalizations by age on the [CDC COVID-NET dashboard](#).

Q: *For the child population for each state, does that match the listed age range for the state's child COVID-19 data?*

- A: Yes, the report uses child population numbers that match on directly with the listed age range for children provided by each state. State population data is from the [US Census Bureau](#).

Q: *The report provides “cumulative totals” for cases, tests, hospitalizations, and deaths for available states. Are those the total numbers since the states and CHA started collecting this data?*

- A: All “cumulative total” data represent cumulative counts since states began reporting COVID-19 data.

Q: *How can I learn more about COVID-19 cases in my state?*

- A: Links to all state data sources are provided in the Appendix.

Q: *Are these data final?*

- A: No. All data reported by state/local health departments included in this report are preliminary and subject to change and revision as health department data is updated.

Q: *Is this the most recent report available? When will a new report be released?*

- A: The most recent version of the report is available for [download on the AAP website](#). New reports are made available for download on a weekly basis.



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Additional Resources

- For more information about COVID-19 data in your area, we encourage you to reach out to your state and local health department officials
- Visit the **AAP Critical Updates** site for daily updates, resources, and guidance on COVID-19 and pediatrics
- For COVID-19 articles for parents in English and Spanish, visit **HealthyChildren.org**, the parenting website of the AAP



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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to this report: Alex Rothenburger, MPA (Children's Hospital Association), Vinson Do (Children's Hospital A (American Academy of Pediatrics), Bill Cull, PhD (American Academy of Pediatrics), Liz Gottschlich, MA (American Academy of Pediatrics), Kate Kornfeind, MPH (American Academy of Pediatrics), Chloe Somberg (American Academy of Pediatrics)



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**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

My Comment

Adrienne Hopkins <ahopkins@missoulaagingservices.org>
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 3:24 PM

Hello,

You are doing a fantastic job trying to keep the kids and teachers safe at a really difficult time! Foster Grandparents and RSVP Tutors appreciate the safety measures keeping them safe too while helping MCPS students!

Thank you,

Adrienne

Adrienne Hopkins

Foster Grandparent, RSVP Tutor and Senior Companion Coordinator

T 406.728.7682 F 406.728.7687

337 Stephens Ave. Missoula, MT 59801

MISSOULAAGINGSERVICES.ORG

MCPS Board of Trustees Meeting 9/14/2021 Public Comment

Erick Prather <erickprather@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 4:58 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mr. Watson and Trustees,

What have we learned over the past couple weeks since school has started?

1. Your face covering mandate has absolutely divided more than half of your students and teachers. You have created a toxic, confrontational, unwelcoming, noneducational environment.
2. You have students that aren't allowed back at school. How welcoming and educational, at the taxpayers expense.
3. You have students who wanted to exercise a constitutionally protected activity, only to be denied their 1st amendment right to peacefully protest. These students were threatened with suspension, loss of playing time, they were advised they wouldn't be allowed on the bus to travel, I'm told some administrators laughed, mocked and ridiculed these students. Is it MCPS' policy to violate students' constitutional rights? More to come on this.
4. You've managed to lose students to private school and homeschooling. Great job! You should be proud!
5. You recently lost two honor roll students at Big Sky High School to homeschooling. You have a hard enough time getting kids to graduate, can you afford to lose anymore? Can't wait to see the ANB counts.
6. You've found your way into a lawsuit parents are ready to take all the way to the supreme court. We won't back down. We have the support of the governor, attorney general, office of public instruction and a large base of community members. This next election we will make sure we elect representatives that will limit the power of the school districts.
7. If there is one thing positive that came out of this, it is you have WOKE the parents.
8. According to OPI, you can modify your ESSER required safety plan without a loss in funding. Afterall, we all know the face covering requirement has nothing to do with safety and everything to do with funding. Your finances are telling.
9. You now have students with respiratory infections and bacterial infections on their face. Who do we send the doctor's invoice to?
10. You continue to refer to science, here's some science you should look at from the NIH and CDC;

"We were unable to detect a reduction in per-population daily mortality, hospital bed, ICU bed, or ventilator occupancy attributable to the implementation of a mask order"

Analysis of the Effects of COVID-19 Mask Mandates on Hospital Resource Consumption and Mortality at the County Level (nih.gov)

SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza are both spread through aerosol particulates and both measure relatively the same, requiring PPE capable of filtering down to .03 microns. Nonetheless, this study was supported by the WHO and confirms cloth face coverings nor surgical masks are effective in reducing transmission.

Nonpharmaceutical Measures for Pandemic Influenza in Nonhealthcare Settings—Personal Protective and Environmental Measures - Volume 26, Number 5—May 2020 - Emerging Infectious Diseases journal - CDC

Inclosing, I surely hope you modify your ESSER safety plan to optional face coverings, otherwise, I see more students leaving to private and homeschooling. And if you're going to incentivize students to "get the jab" I'd rather you spend my tax dollars incentivizing students to graduate high school, learn a trade, get better grades, eat better, exercise more.

Regards,
Erick Prather
