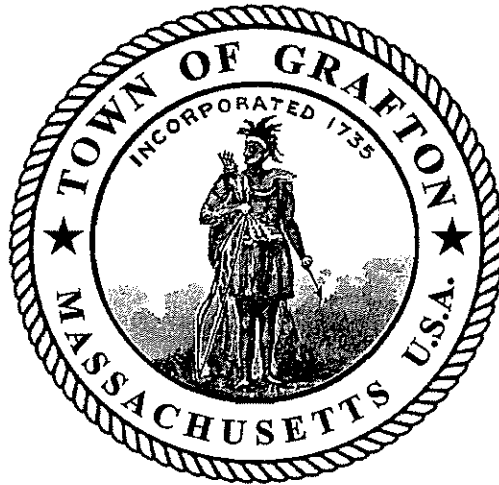


Grafton Public Schools School Committee



**Correspondence Received Between
July 3, 2021 - August 23, 2021**

By Email: marra@grafton.k12.ma.us, oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us, spinney@grafton.k12.ma.us, rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us, connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us

July 3, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Marr, and Committee Members Often, Spinney, Rathi and Connelly:

I am the parent of a Grafton elementary school student. I am writing to you in regard to a June 21, 2021 email sent out to the parents of Grafton students by Superintendent Jay Cummings.

As I'm sure you are aware, that email revolves around the topic of "inclusion, diversity, and equity", otherwise known as critical race theory. It is my understanding that several of you attended one or more recent meetings of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, where this topic was also discussed.

This email has given rise to questions and concerns regarding the intent of your Committee, and the new Grafton Public Schools IDEA website. These questions and concerns include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Who participated in the establishment and content choices for the IDEA website, including its book lists?
2. What was the factual basis and/or precipitating factors that led to the establishment and content of the IDEA website?
3. With respect to the statement "[h]ire faculty from a diverse pool of candidates committed to these goals", contained in the June 21, 2021 email from Superintendent Cummings:
 - A.) What is specifically meant by a "diverse pool of candidates"?
 - B.) Will teachers or other staff be hired or not hired based upon their beliefs surrounding critical race theory?
 - C.) Will qualified candidates be excluded from being hired because of their race and/or gender?
4. Does your Committee intend to discourage hiring and/or encourage disciplining or terminating teachers or other staff who do not agree with the notions expressed by critical race theory or its introduction in whole or in part to Grafton students?
5. With respect to the term "culturally responsive teaching" as announced at the June 22, 2021 School Committee Meeting by Superintendent Cummings (At minute 45:31 - GETV Education TV):
 - A.) What specifically does the term "culturally responsive teaching" mean or entail?

- B.) What grade level teachers will be involved with “culturally responsive teaching”?
- C.) What are the titles of the books you intend to have used by teachers and/or students in the classroom (or for homework) in support of “culturally responsive teaching”?
6. Will students be required to participate in classroom and/or homework activities which espouse notions that are divisive (ie. gender and/or race privilege claims), or tend to cancel or diminish their own culture or the accomplishments of their parents and more distant ancestors (ie. cancelling holidays recognizing historical European figures, such as Columbus Day)?
 7. Will students face discipline for expressing their own beliefs in classrooms and/or homework assignments to the extent they disagree with any social policy notions (i.e. claims of national systemic racism) your Committee or teachers attempt to impose upon them?
 8. How and when can the parents of Grafton students participate in curriculum and/or teaching theory changes?

Critical race theory is based on division, misinformation, and the blame game. It does not belong in the school system, and I request you not allow Grafton to fall victim to media driven politics. Parents and your Committee should be encouraging children to study hard and get good grades, consistently attend classes, and maintain a discipline free history, rather than trying to create division and stifle a child’s academic motivation.

There is no conceivable benefit in discouraging students from learning about the lives of Leif Erickson, Amerigo Vespucci, Christopher Columbus, Sitting Bull Lakota, General Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and many more worthy of recognition.

Finally, I am concerned that the use of critical race theory will ultimately lead students, including my own, to feel emotionally distressed, confused about their surroundings, and unable to express themselves for fear of reprisal. Wellesley and Dedham have already found themselves in the quagmire of critical race theory, and associated lawsuits. Grafton doesn’t have to go that route.

I look forward to the courtesy of your reply.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Jansen, Esq.



James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: Letter to School Committee - July 3, 2021

1 message

Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>
 To: James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 1:59 PM

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

From: Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Date: Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 7:20 PM

Subject: Re: Letter to School Committee - July 3, 2021

To: .
 Cc: oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us <oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us>, spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us <spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us>, rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us <rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us>, connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us <connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us>, cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Dear Mr. Jansen,

My apologies - my understanding was that you were scheduled to meet with Dr. Cummings.

With all due respect, you are mistaken regarding CRT in Grafton. The School Committee (which is currently in recess for the summer) has not been involved in preparations to introduce critical race theory, in whole or in part, into the schools, because no such preparations are taking place.

There is a difference between what the district is working on - educational equity - and critical race theory. If you have not already done so, and since you asked about the difference between the two, I would encourage you to read the factsheet released by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0u7ue31yr9uea0o/criticalracetheory.pdf?dl=0>

Whatever rumours you may have heard about the committee, the administration, or anyone else in the district introducing CRT into our schools is patently false. We are simply involving parents, students, teachers, and the entire community in ensuring equity for all, which comes at the expense of no one else.

Here are the answers to your questions:

1. *Who participated in the establishment and content choices for the IDEA website, including its book lists?*

It is my understanding that Dr. Cummings' senior staff worked on this - including building principals.

2. *What was the factual basis and/or precipitating factors that led to the establishment and content of the IDEA website?*

For many years, our students of color have been marginalized and bullied. In an attempt to address inequity in all demographics, the website was conceived and a position created, "Director of Students Success, Diversity and Equity" to assist the district in these efforts.

3. *With respect to the statement "[h]ire faculty from a diverse pool of candidates committed to these goals", contained in the June 21, 2021 email from Superintendent Cummings:*

A.) *What is specifically meant by a "diverse pool of candidates"?*

I believe the intent is to diversify the candidates who apply for our positions by advertising in different locations.

B.) *Will teachers or other staff be hired or not hired based upon their beliefs surrounding critical race theory?*

No. CRT has no bearing on any of this.

C.) *Will qualified candidates be excluded from being hired because of their race and/or gender?*

Again, no. This would violate our Anti-Discrimination Policy.

4. *Does your Committee intend to discourage hiring and/or encourage disciplining or terminating teachers or other staff who do not agree with the notions expressed by critical race theory or its introduction in whole or in part to Grafton students?*

No, because, again, CRT has nothing to do with this and is not being introduced.

5. *With respect to the term "culturally responsive teaching" as announced at the June 22, 2021 School Committee Meeting by Superintendent Cummings (At minute 45:31 - GETV Education TV):*

A.) *What specifically does the term "culturally responsive teaching" mean or entail?*

Culturally responsive teaching (CRT) attempts to bridge the gap between teacher and student by helping the teacher understand the cultural nuances that may cause a relationship to break down—which ultimately causes student achievement to break down as well. (Source: <https://www.edutopia.org/article/getting-started-culturally-responsive-teaching>)

B.) *What grade level teachers will be involved with "culturally responsive teaching"?*

All grade levels.

C.) *What are the titles of the books you intend to have used by teachers and/or students in the classroom (or for homework) in support of "culturally responsive teaching"?*

Culturally Responsive Teaching is not about specific books, but training teachers to be aware of cultural differences and the impact those have on student success. The article I referenced above explains this well.

6. *Will students be required to participate in classroom and/or homework activities which espouse notions that are divisive (ie. gender and/or race privilege claims), or tend to cancel or diminish their own culture or the accomplishments of their parents and more distant ancestors (ie. cancelling holidays recognizing historical European figures, such as Columbus Day)?*

No.

7. *Will students face discipline for expressing their own beliefs in classrooms and/or homework assignments to the extent they disagree with any social policy notions (i.e. claims of national systemic racism) your Committee or teachers attempt to impose upon them?*

No.

8. *How and when can the parents of Grafton students participate in curriculum and/or teaching theory changes?*

Parents, and indeed the school committee itself, are not involved in changes of this nature. If you have questions or concerns, you should always reach out to your child's teacher(s) first.

I hope that I have been able to address your concerns and debunk some of the myths around what the IDEA initiative is all about - and what it isn't. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Thanks,
Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee

On **Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 5:55 PM**
Dear Chairwoman Marr,

wrote:

I do not have any meeting scheduled with Superintendent Cummings. The letter I sent was directed to you, and the other School Committee members. Under Grafton Home Rule Charter, Section 3-4(b), your Committee is the appointing authority for the superintendent of schools and all other officers and employees connected with the

schools. The questions I posed in my letter are specific and narrowly tailored to educational concerns. I am respectfully asking that your Committee respond to those questions in the most transparent and direct manner possible.

As you will recall, your Committee voted in May of 2021 to remove a national holiday (Christopher Columbus Day) from the school calendar without any known survey of the parents of Grafton public school students. A cancel culture technique, with no known benefit to the students it impacts. Moreover, it is my understanding that your Committee has been involved in preparations to introduce aspects of critical race theory into the K-12 system, without parental input or survey.

If your Committee is refusing to answer any of the questions posed in my letter, please advise which questions you are not willing to answer and the basis therefor.

Thank you,

Brian V. Jansen, Esq.

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>

To:

Cc: oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us <oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us>; spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us <spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us>; rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us <rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us>; connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us <connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us>; cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Tue, Jul 6, 2021 9:25 pm

Subject: Re: Letter to School Committee - July 3, 2021

Dear Mr. Jansen,

Thank you for your letter. As committee chair, I understand that you are scheduled to meet with Dr. Cummings later this month. I trust he will be able to provide you with the answers that you seek. If not, please feel free to reach out again.

Have a wonderful summer,
Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee

On Sat, Jul 3, 2021 at 3:03 PM <[redacted]> wrote:
Dear School Committee Members,

Attached in PDF please find letter regarding Superintendent Cummings email to the parents of Grafton students dated June 21, 2021, and the IDEA website. If replying, please do so by email to: SYrJansen@aol.com.

Thank you in advance for your time and the courtesy of your reply.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Jansen, Esq.

--
Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee
marra@grafton.k12.ma.us

Excellence can be attained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible. — Unknown

To prepare all students to be life-long learners and responsible citizens.

From: **Danielle Decker** ◊

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:33 PM

Subject: Note in opposition to mandating masks and/or covid19 vaccines

To: cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Cc: connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us <connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us>, marra@grafton.k12.ma.us <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>, oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us <oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us>, rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us <rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us>, spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us <spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Jay & School Committee Members,

Let me preface by saying I appreciate all you've done over this past year and a half.

I understand that no final decisions have been made and that it's all still a moving target but I would like to preemptively express my concerns over mandating vaccines and/or masks for children this upcoming school year.

As of my research on July 21, 2021 there have been a total of **335** children under 18 out of **75 million** that have died of Covid19. Of course it's 335 too many however they unfortunately had underlying health issues. The current average daily rates of all deaths in the US are about the same as Alzheimer's, hospitals are not overrun and everyone over 12 has had the opportunity to get vaccinated. While narratives of fear and new variants dominate the news cycle, the data and evidence are clear - children are safe in school without masks and other restrictions.

Medical interventions, such as masking, must always be rooted in science and must always involve parental consent. There have been zero studies on the effects of long-term mask wearing on children's psychological and physical well-being. However, the data that has been collected over the past year and a half is finally telling quite the picture...there is no logical or scientific reason to continue imposing mask mandates for school-aged children.

Hopefully it doesn't come to this but I wanted to be heard. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Danielle Decker



James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: Masks

1 message

Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>
To: James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 1:52 PM

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

From: **Rebecca Ahlfors** ·
Date: Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 11:59 PM
Subject: Masks
To: <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Hi Ms.Marr,

I hope you've had a good summer so far. I'm writing to ask for your help in resuming the indoor mask mandate for students under the age of 12 until those children can be vaccinated for Covid-19. My son, who has special needs, is supposed to start Kindergarten at NGES in September. As a child under 12 years old, he cannot be vaccinated for Covid-19. I know Grafton has decided to follow DESE's recommendations which are probably tied to Governor Baker's recommendations. For some reason unknown to me, people seem to believe that it is not dangerous for a group of unvaccinated people to go around inside unmasked just because they are children. I honestly don't understand what the problem is with having students under the age of 12 wear masks when inside the school building. No one likes wearing masks. They are annoying. But I'm pretty sure catching an illness that could make it difficult to breath is also annoying. And our town does not need to lose a child to Covid-19 when there is such an easy level of protection available. Our schools do have the ability to make their own choices. I would feel so much better about sending my son to school in September if I knew he wasn't going to be put in what I consider a less safe situation. All I am asking is that they wear masks when indoors. My son has done it every day in his ESY classroom and has been fine with it.

Thank you.

Rebecca Ahlfors

Sent from my iPhone

--

Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee
marra@grafton.k12.ma.us

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James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: The Case Against Masks in Grafton Schools

1 message

Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>
To: James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 1:52 PM

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

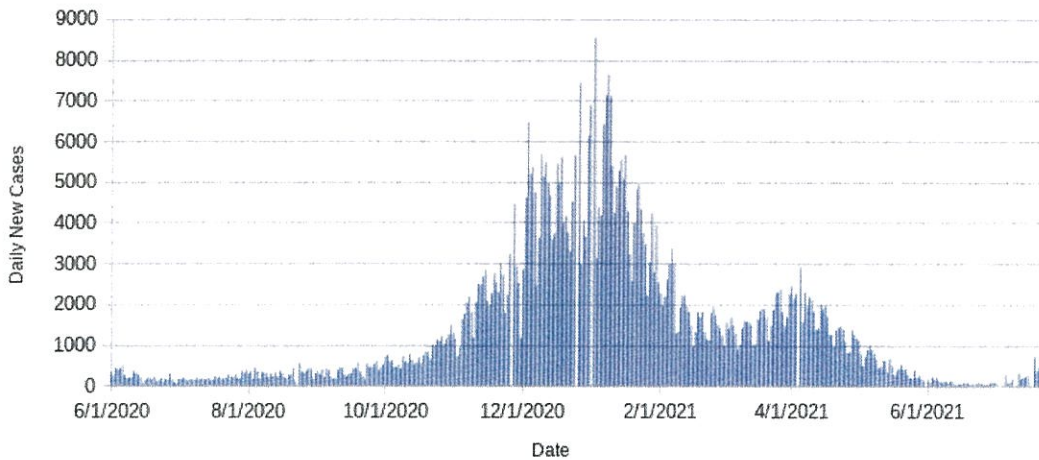
From: **Daniel Di Fiore**
Date: **Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 11:47 AM**
Subject: The Case Against Masks in Grafton Schools
To: <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>, <oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us>, <rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us>, <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Kathryn DiFiore <

Thanks for your consideration of removing the mandate that forces all kids to wear masks in the Grafton school district. As you know, Governor Baker will not be forcing the school districts to wear masks for the upcoming school year. Based on the Covid-19 data from Massachusetts I believe this is the correct decision. I urge the school board to follow suit with the state and allow the parents to decide if their child should be wearing a mask in school.

1. Cases in Massachusetts are down substantially from last year. Even with the increase caused by the delta variant, the number of cases in July is still only about 1% of the number of cases we were seeing at the peak last year.

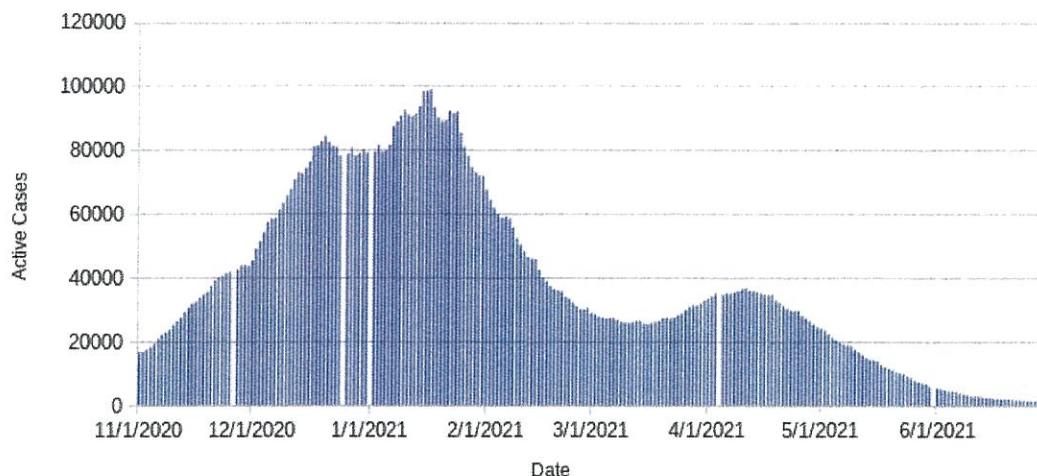
New covid cases in Mass

From: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-raw-data-july-23-2021/download>



Also, the estimated active cases in Massachusetts is roughly 1% of what it was at the peak.

Estimated Active Covid Cases



The Massachusetts covid data that I used can be found [here](#).

2. Most adults in Massachusetts have been vaccinated. As of July 22nd, 71% of adults have had at least one dose and 63% are fully vaccinated. Additionally, a substantial portion of the population has natural immunity based on the number of confirmed cases over the last year and a half.

3. Covid-19 was never a threat to children under 20. From the Massachusetts data there have been 22 deaths in kids under 20 and over 242,000 cases which gives a mortality rate of under 0.01%. To contrast this with the flu, in 2018-2019 the mortality rate was around 1% for the same age group.

4. Masks are not very effective against viruses like Covid. A nice visual demonstration of the effectiveness of different types of masks can be found [here](#).

This study found that face masks helped stop the spread if worn by the sick. The data didn't support using masks for healthy individuals.

5. Masks can impact kids ability to understand spoken language by distorting the sounds and blocking visual cues. There seem to be other developmental downsides to masks that we are just starting to understand.

Given the unknown risks and the limited benefit to wearing masks, it should be the parents' choice if they want to send their children to school with masks.

Thanks for your time,
Dan DiFiore

--
Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee
marra@grafton.k12.ma.us

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

From: **Greg Krane** < >
 Date: Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 12:14 PM
 Subject: Fwd: GPS Update 8-2-21
 To: <Marra@graffton.k12.ma.us>

Hi,

Wanted to loop you in so it can be considered as official correspondence for the board meeting.

Thank you,

- Greg

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

From: **Greg Krane** < >
 Date: Tue, Aug 3, 2021, 8:13 AM
 Subject: Re: GPS Update 8-2-21
 To: James Cummings <cummingsj@graffton.k12.ma.us>
 Cc: Doreen Parker <ParkerDJ@graffton.k12.ma.us>

Thanks for the reply.

On Tue, Aug 3, 2021, 8:05 AM James Cummings <cummingsj@graffton.k12.ma.us> wrote:
 Hi Greg,

The school committee does have that authority and they are definitely going to be considering it. We expect additional guidance from DESE and DPH over the next few weeks. The committee will definitely have decisions made regarding masking and distancing prior to the start of the school year.

Jay

On Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 9:18 AM Greg Krane < > wrote:
 Hi,

Do you have the authority to require masks? Given the recent CDC guidance for indoors, if you have the authority, I would encourage you to require it. In my experience, children, especially the younger ones, don't mind. It may save lives. Worth it even if it prevents one child from getting sick.

- Greg Krane, father of (SGES incoming kindergarten)



James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: Parent concerns on DESE guidance

1 message

Amy Marr <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>
To: James Cummings <cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 1:51 PM

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

From: **Mike & Andrea Marrone**
Date: Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Parent concerns on DESE guidance
To: <marra@grafton.k12.ma.us>

Hello Amy,

We are writing as Grafton residents and parents of two incoming 9th graders. We were very concerned to read the latest guidance from DESE in regards to not requiring universal masking in schools for the upcoming school year. This guidance is very short sighted in the face of the Delta variant and is in direct conflict with guidance provided by the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The CDC released data last week documenting the highly contagious nature of this new variant. It only requires minimal contact to spread through the air. The vaccinated can contract and transmit this strain in the same ways the unvaccinated can. People who have high risk family members or family members who are unable to be vaccinated due to age or other medical reasons will be at risk from even their vaccinated family members who are spending 6 hours a day inside a building without universal masking. As well, due to the highly contagious nature of this variant where 1 person infects upwards of 8 others, there will be an enormous amount of students and staff who will be required to quarantine to help limit spread, only further disrupting learning and the classroom and school community. It will also be virtually impossible to monitor who is and who is not vaccinated to even try to comply with the guidance provided by DESE. As well, it will be much harder to increase safety measures than to remove them (if able) as the school year gets underway.

While we know that it is impossible to please every member of a community, we hope that Grafton Schools will follow the guidance set forth by both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics and require universal masking in all schools. We are so hopeful we can return our children to school in a safe environment with minimal disruptions to learning.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns. We appreciate the school committee's role in keeping our community safe.

Best,
Andrea and Michael Marrone

--
Amy L. Marr
Chair, Grafton School Committee
marra@grafton.k12.ma.us

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From: **Sherri Suhl** <sherri.suhl@graston.k12.ma.us>
Date: **Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 11:32 AM**
Subject: Letter to the School Committee
To: James Cummings <cummingsj@graston.k12.ma.us>, <connellyj@graston.k12.ma.us>, <marra@graston.k12.ma.us>, <oftenl@graston.k12.ma.us>, <rathir@graston.k12.ma.us>, <spinneye@graston.k12.ma.us>

Good morning Dr. Cummings and the School Committee,

Our names are Joshua and Sherri Suhl and we have 2 children in the GPS district who will be entering grades 1 and 4. We appreciate the time and effort you all put into making endless decisions on behalf of our children. We are sure with the upcoming school year you have had a lot of input from parents in the community. We would like to respectfully ask that you take time to review our own attached letter and take it into consideration when making the decisions on masking when school returns.

Thank you and regards,

Dr. Joshua Suhl and Mrs. Sherri Suhl



August 17, 2021

By Electronic Mail: cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us
cc: connellyj@grafton.k12.ma.us, marra@grafton.k12.ma.us, oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us,
rathir@grafton.k12.ma.us, spinneye@grafton.k12.ma.us

James Cummings
Superintendent
Grafton School District
S30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519

Re: In-School Face Covering Requirements for Grafton Children

Dear Jay and Members of the School Committee:

We are writing to you as Grafton parents who have children enrolled in the Grafton School District. We are also members of Mass Against Mandates, a grassroots organization comprised of thousands of Massachusetts residents who advocate for medical freedom and the protection of human rights for all. We wish to express our deep concerns regarding the arbitrary mask mandates that have been forced upon our children during the 2020-2021 school year. Although there was recent progress in this area with the discontinuation of masking our children while outdoors shortly before this school year ended, as well as Commissioner Riley's statement on June 22nd, 2021 during the MABESE public hearing, "No restrictions in the fall unless something happens with the trajectory of the virus and we'll work with the Department of Health", there is still much cause for alarm. This letter is intended to share factual data regarding such policy with the forthcoming school year. We appreciate your time to read and give this position serious thought on behalf of our children.

As you are aware, on May 27, 2021 DESE released an update to its COVID-19 guidance, which specifically referenced the 2021-2022 school year. Although DESE stated in this document "*...for the fall, all districts and schools will be required to be in-person, fulltime, five days a week and all DESE health and safety requirements will be lifted. This includes all physical distancing requirements.*", DESE further stated "*We will collaborate with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue any additional health and safety recommendations (e.g. masks for*

elementary school students) over the summer, and will provide any updates to districts and schools as we receive them.”¹

Commissioner Riley’s statements on June 22nd, 2021 and the written guidance published by DESE on May 27, 2021 regarding the possibility of continued masking of our children are concerning. Any potential plans to mandate masks for our elementary aged children at any point during the 2021-2022 school year are not only arbitrary and capricious, but conflict with previous DESE guidance and scientific literature presented by top medical journals and professionals worldwide.

On June 25, 2020 DESE published guidance in its Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance document stating masks were only mandatory for children in second grade and above. *“All students in second grade and above are required to wear a mask, and school staff are required to wear masks. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 are encouraged to wear a mask/face covering.”²*

Why is DESE, one year later, considering whether to contradict its own guidance? Why would our youngest children who were not mandated to wear masks in school per the June 25, 2020 Guidance, while in the middle of a pandemic and without vaccine availability for adults, now be the ones that may be required to wear masks this fall? Why would DESE now consider requiring our youngest children to wear masks when the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths is substantially lower than this time last year, in addition to the availability of a vaccine? Why has legislation been filed to require COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing and PPE for students and staff in all public schools when we are no longer in a state of emergency?

For a full year, our children never saw one another’s faces. They did not see their teachers’ or their playmates’ faces. They were masked, placed behind plexiglass, and separated from meaningful interaction. Masks were not only mandatory in schools, but in most public and private places. We were told repeatedly by our public health authorities that masks were the key to fighting the pandemic. This notion was repeated every day, so our children complied with it. They had no choice, as very few of their parents questioned it. Some adults who refused to wear masks in public were arrested for it, and that sent the clearest possible message, “Comply or face consequences for not doing what you are told.” So, most people did. However, questions remained. Questions like: Do masks really keep us safe from COVID-19? What is the downside of wearing masks? Why make children wear masks? We have known since the beginning children are not at significant risk from COVID-19, nor are they meaningful vectors for spreading it. As *The Lancet* put it famously last fall, *“COVID-19 is a generally mild disease in children including infants.”³*

¹ <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/covid19-guide-updates.pdf>

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dese-fall-reopening-guidance/download>

³ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(20\)30177-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(20)30177-2/fulltext)

More children die in pool drownings every year than have died from COVID-19 so far. According to the latest CDC numbers, just 0.05 percent of all COVID-19 fatalities in the United States have been aged 17 and under.⁴ Two research papers published in the medical journal *Hospital Pediatrics*, found that California pediatric hospitalizations for COVID-19 were overcounted by at least 40 percent, carrying potential implications for nationwide figures.⁵ So why have masks been mandated in schools? Well, in part because the teachers unions demanded it, but beyond that, very few people asked such a question.

During the Massachusetts State Legislature Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management public hearing held on June 30, 2021, Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) President Merrie Najimy shockingly stated, “Please don’t be swayed by anecdotal stories of individual challenges that students are having with the mask. As a whole, they have handled it beautifully and what they’ve learned is that when they take an action, they are protecting their peers and their community.” Obviously, anecdotal opinion and not science is behind such mask policies. Children are easy to command, they do not know any better. Authority figures can make them do anything, and so you did - based on fear, poor science and lack of sound judgment. For over a year, we have asked children to make sacrifices to make adults **feel** safer. There was no science behind what the powers that be said.⁶ They were just guessing and acting like it was settled, but it was not. We know that now because the actual science is finally being revealed. Our juvenile mask policy, the one imposed on the entire country by the teachers unions, education departments and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. turned out to be a complete disaster. It has been a human tragedy, on a vast scale, and it is living testament to the recklessness of our leaders.

The effects of mask wearing for our children are measurable and have been for some time, but they have been ignored. One large-scale survey of more than 25,000 children conducted in Germany found the overwhelming majority of children reported adverse effects from wearing facemasks, some of them were serious.⁷ The effects included excessive CO2 in the bloodstream, profound cognitive impairment, confusion, loss of consciousness, and asphyxiation.

This should be of no surprise, as public health officials knew from the beginning that forcing children to wear masks could be counterproductive. In fact, they knew masks themselves were ineffective and can spread disease because it had been demonstrated by the largest study of the use of medical/cloth masks back in 2015, by researchers in Vietnam. This trial, comparing two-layered cotton cloth masks to medical masks, showed a 13 times higher risk of infection in the cloth masks and concluded, “*Penetration of cloth masks by particles was almost 97% and*

⁴ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1191568/reported-deaths-from-covid-by-age-us/>

⁵ https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/05/study-number-of-kids-hospitalized-for-covid-is-overcounted.html?fbclid=IwAR3LWSIjQAjoLOTdP7bd1cvsIIAQJc3pTYS_9zGikJIGxWbxCmr-Fwxw874

⁶ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/fauci-admits-post-vaccination-masking-was-about-signals-weeks-after-insisting-otherwise/ar-BB1gRQVY>

⁷ <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-124394/v1>

*medical masks 44%.*⁸ This study suggests cloth masks are not only ineffective, but they may increase the risk of infection, including viral infections such as COVID-19.

Furthermore, researchers conducted a meta-analysis regarding face masks and other nonpharmaceutical interventions and their effects on pandemic influenza in nonhealthcare settings.⁹ This study, published in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* in May 2020 and currently published on the CDC website, concluded:

1. “Although mechanistic studies support the potential effect of hand hygiene or face masks, evidence from 14 randomized controlled trials of these measures did not support a substantial effect on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza.”
2. “In pooled analysis, we found no significant reduction in influenza transmission with the use of face masks.”
3. “Disposable medical masks (also known as surgical masks) are loose-fitting devices that were designed to be worn by medical personnel to protect accidental contamination of patient wounds, and to protect the wearer against splashes or sprays of bodily fluids. There is limited evidence for their effectiveness in preventing influenza virus transmission either when worn by the infected person for source control or when worn by uninfected persons to reduce exposure. Our systematic review found no significant effect of face masks on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza.”

The size of a Covid-19 particle is between .09 to .12 micron, while the average size of an influenza particle is .12 micron. Therefore, if face masks are not providing a significant effect on transmission of influenza, they are certainly not providing a significant effect on transmission of COVID-19.

In April 2020, an article was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which concluded:

1. “We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection.”
2. “In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.”
3. “It is also clear that masks serve symbolic roles. Masks are not only tools, they are also talismans that may help increase health care workers’ perceived sense of safety, well-being, and trust in their hospitals. Although such reactions may not be strictly logical, we are all subject to fear and anxiety, especially during times of crisis. One might argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask, particularly in light of the worldwide mask shortage, but it is difficult to get clinicians to hear this message in the heat of the current crisis. Expanded masking

⁸ <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/4/e006577>

⁹ https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article

protocols' greatest contribution may be to reduce the transmission of anxiety, over and above whatever role they may play in reducing transmission of Covid-19."¹⁰

A September 2020 report by the CDC found that more than 70 percent of COVID-19 positive patients contracted the virus despite faithful mask wearing while in public. Moreover, 14 percent of the patients who said they "often" wore masks were also infected. Meanwhile, just four percent of the COVID-19 positive patients said they "never" wore masks in the 14 days before the onset of their illness.¹¹

Stephen E. Petty, P.E., CIH, recently testified as an expert in a Kentucky court case.¹² Mr. Petty has served as an expert witness in approximately 400 cases relating to toxic infectious exposure, personal protective equipment, and as a warning expert. He also served as an epidemiology expert for the plaintiffs in the Monsanto "Roundup" cases, and for those in the Dupont litigation. Mr. Petty holds nine U.S. patents, has written a book comprising nearly 1,000 pages on forensics engineering, is a certified industrial hygienist, and a recognized expert with the Occupational Safety and Health Agency. Mr. Petty helped write the rules on risk assessment for the State of Ohio and has trained Ohio's risk assessors.

The court's ruling in this case states:

1. Mr. Petty "testified that he has analyzed the use of masks and social distancing in connection with Covid-19. He testified that both the six-foot-distancing rule, and mask mandates, are wholly ineffective at reducing the spread of this virus. Masks are worthless, he explained, because they are not capable of filtering anything as small as Covid-19 aerosols. In addition, masks are not respirators and lack the limited protections that respirators can provide."
2. "According to Mr. Petty, masks have no standards, are not respirators, and do not even qualify as protective equipment. In contrast, respirators have standards, including rules that state respirators may not be worn by persons with facial hair, must be fitted to ensure a seal, and must be timely replaced or, as in higher end respirators, the cartridges must be replaced to prevent saturation. In addition, standards for respirators also require users to obtain a medical clearance because the breathing restriction can impair lung function or cause other problems for persons having such limitations. Putting those persons in a respirator can harm their well-being."
3. "Masks cannot filter the small stuff. According to Petty, because Covid-19 particles are comprised of aerosols, it is really, really, small stuff. Mr. Petty testified that masks leak, do not filter out the small stuff, cannot be sealed, are commonly worn by persons with facial hair, and may be contaminated due to repetitive use and the manner of use. He

¹⁰ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>

¹¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6936a5-H.pdf>

¹² <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/06/09/boone-county-judge-orders-permanent-injunction-against-gov-beshears-covid-19-orders/>

emphatically stated that mask wearing provides no benefit whatsoever, either to the wearer or others.”

4. "Mr. Petty acknowledged that both OSHA and CDC have recommended that people wear masks. However, he called this “at best dishonest.” As an example on this, he pointed to CDC guidance documents where, on page 1, it recommends wearing a mask; but then on page 6, admits that “masks, do not provide . . . a reliable level of protection from . . . smaller airborne particles.” Additionally, one just needs to review CAL OSHA’s October 2020 document titled *Safety and Health Guidance*, as it states, “Cloth face covers are not protective equipment and do not protect the person wearing a cloth face cover from COVID-19.”¹³
5. “According to Mr. Petty, those agencies have smart individuals who know better. Mr. Petty points out that, even before March 2020, it was known that Covid-19 particles are tiny aerosols. And on this, he states that he insisted that fact early on. He also points to a more recent letter by numerous medical researchers, physicians and experts with Ph.Ds., asking the CDC to address the implications of Covid-19 aerosols. Finally, Mr. Petty pointed to another recent study by Ben Sheldon of Stanford University out of Palo Alto. According to that study, ‘both the medical and non-medical face masks are ineffective to block human-to-human transmission of viral and infectious diseases, such as SARS, CoV-2 and COVID-19.’”
6. “The Court finds the opinions expressed by Mr. Petty firmly established in logic. The inescapable conclusion from his testimony is that ordering masks to stop Covid-19 is like putting up chain-link fencing to keep out mosquitos. The six-foot-distancing requirements fare no better.”

During a public health roundtable held on March 18, 2021 in Tallahassee, FL the following information was shared by top medical professionals:¹⁴

- Sunetra Gupta, epidemiologist and professor of theoretical epidemiology at Oxford University, stated “In terms of masking children it seems painfully obvious that, that is psychologically, deeply damaging.”
- Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of medicine at Stanford University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research stated “I think masks, in some ways, they’ve been harmful because people believe that masks protect them, vulnerable people, and they end up taking more risks than they ought, because they feel like they’re protected by something that does not actually protect them. I think on net, the masks not only have not been effective, but they’ve been harmful.”
- When asked whether children in school should be wearing masks, Dr. Martin Kulldorff, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a biostatistician and epidemiologist

¹³ <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Agriculture.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.wesh.com/article/watch-live-gov-desantis-holds-public-health-roundtable-discussion-in-tallahassee/35874378>

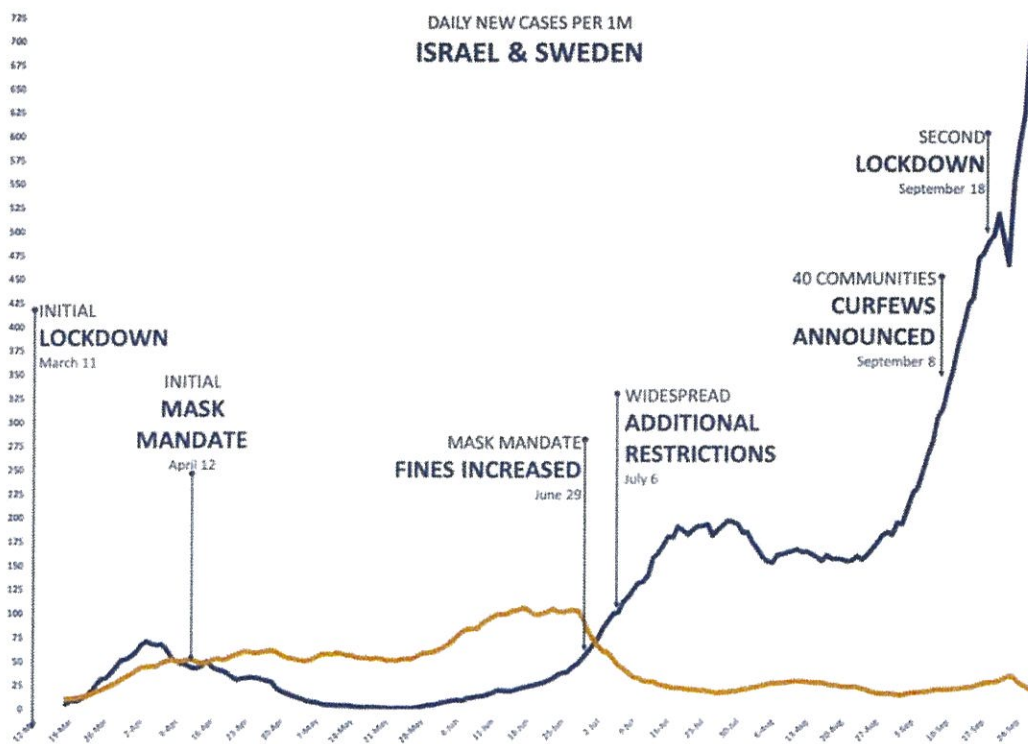
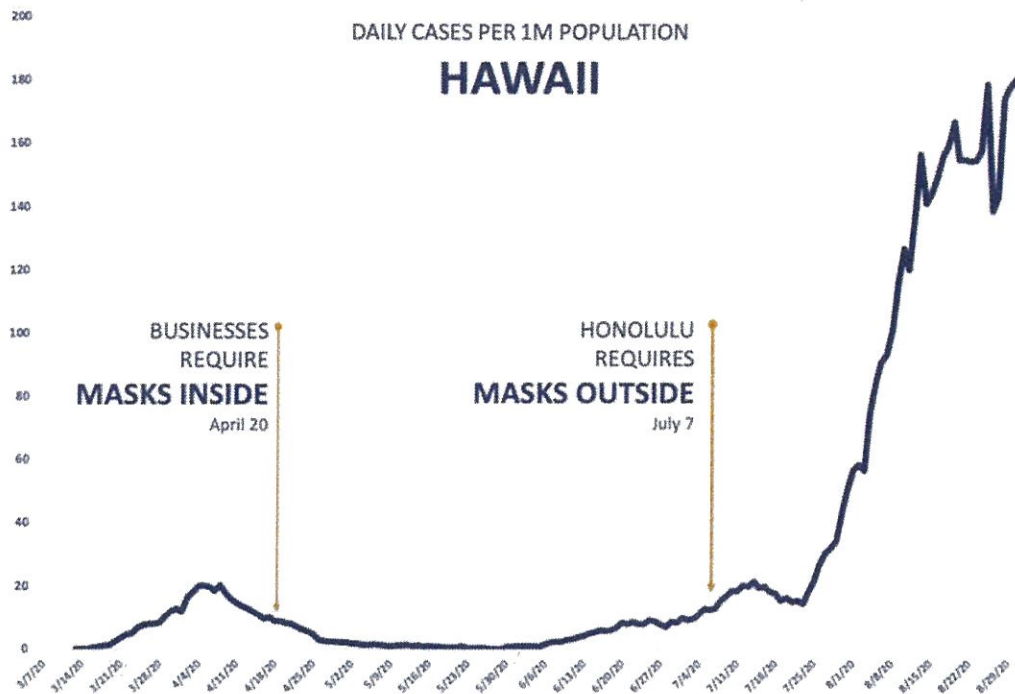
at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston stated "Children should not wear face masks, no. They don't need it for their own protection, and they don't need it for protecting other people either."

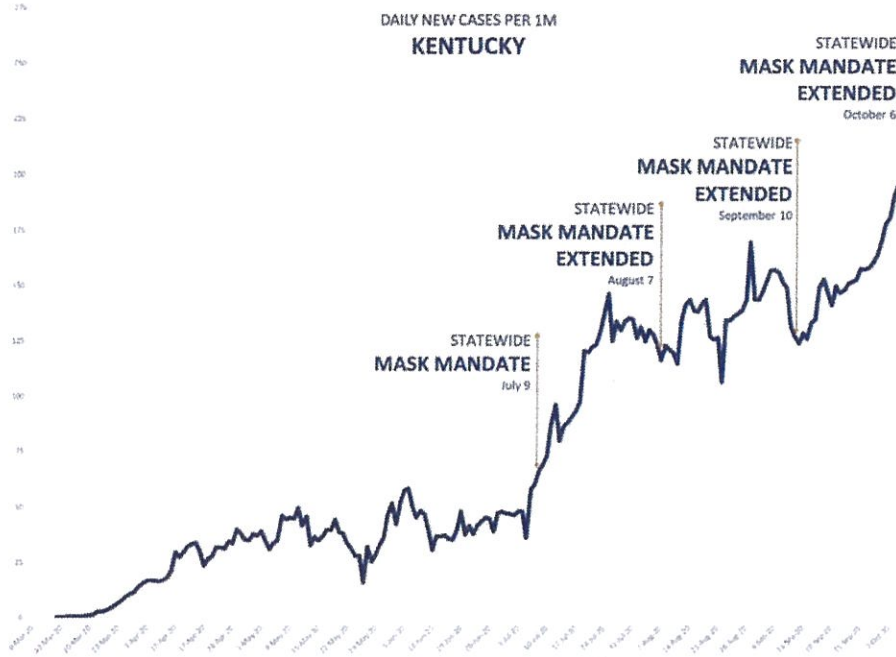
- Dr. Scott Atlas, Robert Wesson Senior Fellow in health care policy at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, stated "So there's no evidence that a mask mandate has worked, and in fact there is evidence as Jay cited, that the people in the United States had a very high frequency of wearing masks for months and the cases exploded."... "I think the masks in schools, there's no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in schools."

Additionally, please review the charts below which provide a visual as to what effect mask mandates have had on COVID-19 cases.¹⁵

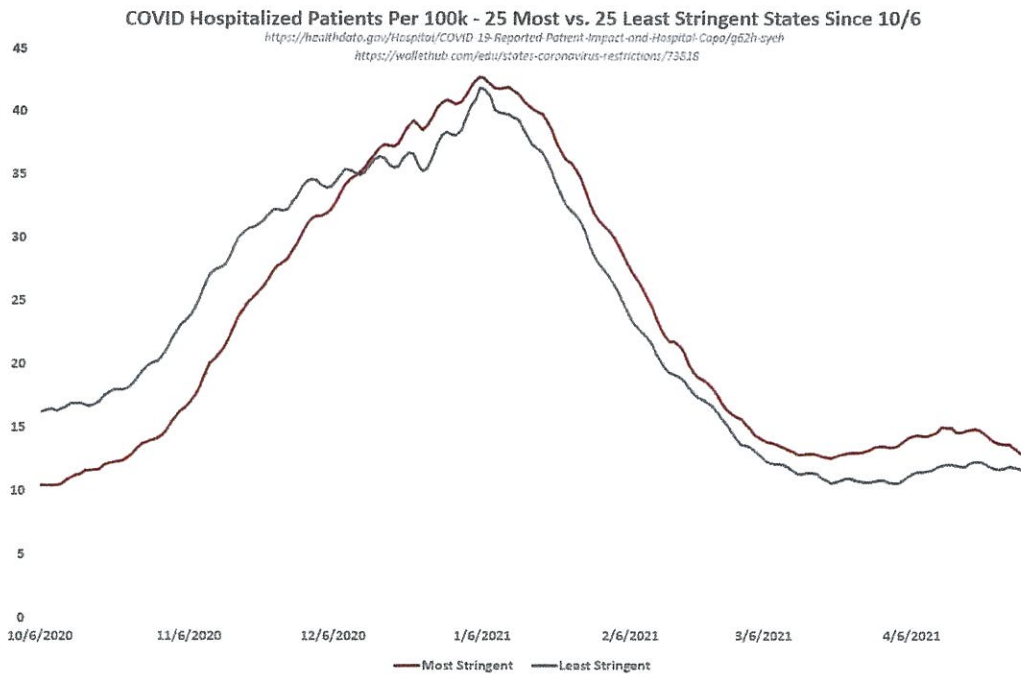


¹⁵ <https://tomwoods.com/covid/>





Below is a chart displaying the 25 most stringent lockdown states (red) graphed against the 25 least stringent (blue). There was little difference between the two groups' hospitalization rates. The trajectory is nearly identical. Both had the same average inpatients per day, 23 per 100,000.¹⁶



¹⁶ https://twitter.com/The_OtherET/status/1390368965994631175?s=20&fbclid=IwAR2ul7PXTh_An-oPqNvg8DKHTzt2-VRyABwkzyvzZjdNNCXgg_HzY1sQpqE

These findings have been available for some time and were known to anyone who cared to check. What we all knew, and we do not need a medical degree to know, is that fresh air is beneficial because people need oxygen, but that simple point was ignored completely by the people in charge, and masks were continued to be mandated for children.

What happened because of such a mandate? Children began to collapse from lack of oxygen, but no care was given.¹⁷ Parents would have to take matters into their own hands, and some did. In June of 2021, parents in Florida sent masks worn by their children in school to the University of Florida's Mass Spectrometry Research and Education Center to be analyzed for contaminants. The masks studied were new or freshly laundered before they were worn for five to eight hours by children aged 6 through 11. Of the six coverings, three were surgical, two were cotton, and one was a polyester gaiter. Masks that had not been worn and a t-shirt worn at school acted as the control samples for the analysis.

“Five of the masks were found to be contaminated with parasites, fungi, and bacteria. One was found to contain a virus that can cause a fatal systemic disease in cattle and deer. Other, less harmful pathogens that can cause ulcers, acne, and strep throat were also detected on the face coverings. None of the controls were contaminated with pathogens, while “samples from the front top and bottom of the t-shirt found proteins that are commonly found in skin and hair, along with some commonly found in soil.”¹⁸

On July 8, 2021, New Jersey senators held a hearing to explore whether or not science supports mask mandates for children in school. Dr. Martin Kulldorff, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School who was mentioned previously in our letter, stated “COVID is primarily spread through adults. When children do get infected ... they typically get it from an adult. And it's very unusual to get transmission from children to adults.” He further explained the risk of COVID-19 infection for teachers is the same or slightly lower than the average in other professions. “There's no purpose of wearing masks, either for the benefit of the children or for the benefit of teachers. There's no public health reasons to do that.” Maria Crisler, a clinical scientist with specialty experience in microbiology warned the issue of mask-wearing is even more critical for children than for adults because anatomical differences make a child more vulnerable than an adult to injury from oxygen deprivation and high intake of carbon dioxide. She stated, “There are physiological changes within 45 seconds of wearing a mask to the brain, from the heart, the lungs, the kidneys, and the immune system.” She further explained microbes can concentrate on the outside of masks because microbe carrying droplets are trapped in masks and can be re-inhaled. “Without a mask exhaled droplets and aerosol dry quickly. ... The longer the mask is used, the more bacteria are exhaled through it. The outside of surgical masks, the

¹⁷ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/ncaafb/track-coach-blasts-lawmakers-after-athlete-forced-to-wear-mask-collapses-at-finish-line/ar-BB1fZ4Qh>

¹⁸ https://www.theepochtimes.com/university-of-florida-lab-finds-dangerous-pathogens-on-childrens-face-masks_3865300.html?utm_source=YouTube&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=FactsMatter&utm_term=Bacteria

ones that the children are mostly wearing to school, tested in hospitals, found more concentrated microbes on the outside of the masks themselves than in the environment.”¹⁹

Public Health England has emphatically stated they do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of eleven.²⁰ Their strong consensus is that COVID-19 infection rates are very low among this age group, and that face masks affect children’s development.

Looking back at the unnecessary masking requirements, it is clear, with research in hand, these findings will expose a growing scandal. Those in charge may someday be held accountable for their actions in this matter. Despite the plethora of evidence that exists regarding the ineffectiveness and actual harm mask mandates cause for our children, they are still being considered for the 2021-2022 school year.

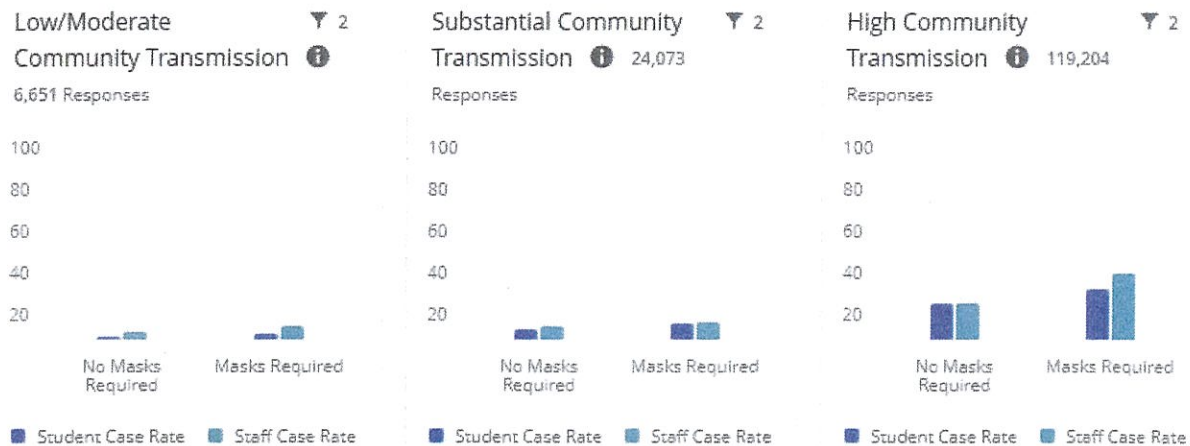
On July 9, 2021, the CDC issued new “guidance” that recommends anyone over the age of 2, who is not vaccinated, wear a mask indoors and schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.²¹ Such requirements are unscientific and unnecessary for more than just the many reasons outlined above. Through a partnership of organizations including *The School Superintendents Association*, *the National Association of Secondary School Principals*, *the National Association of Elementary School Principals*, and *Brown University Professor of Economics Emily Oster*, the National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard was formed. The National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard systematically maps schools’ responses to the pandemic across the United States to empower school leaders, policymakers, and the general public to make data-driven teaching and learning decisions.²² Below are three bar charts comparing the student and staff COVID-19 case rates among schools who require masks with schools who do not, within three distinct types of communities. As displayed below, the unmasked students and staff had lower COVID-19 case rates compared to those who were required to be masked, no matter how low or high their community transmission rate was. These findings are consistent with the results from various scientific studies previously referenced.

¹⁹ https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/mask-mandate-for-children-is-not-backed-by-science-new-jersey-senators_3903570.html?utm_source=sharemorningbriefnoe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mb-2021-07-18&mktids=294f7d611c2c5f6768ab137ff44dd7b2&fbclid=IwAR3UWScgQgsB6hRhJxMrN82LkXTIJrPE8gLkYAH4LBgsVloYII_RovJ3tOE

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

²¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

²² <https://covidshooldashboard.com/>



This new guidance published by the CDC is not rooted in science but is unfortunately rooted in politics. Remember, it was the CDC that asked teachers unions to craft language for its school reopening guidelines; guidelines that were not in line with actual scientific evidence. These guidelines unnecessarily kept children out of school and contributed to the skyrocketing cases of mental health issues and lack of educational development across the U.S.²³ It is also abhorrent the lack of a vaccine for young children is being used as a reason why children should be forced to wear masks during school. Children do not need this vaccine, period. In addition to their low infection rates, low transmission rates, presentation of mild symptoms and high recovery rates, in-school transmission rates are low. As the CDC states, “A study comparing COVID-19 hospitalizations between counties with in-person learning and those without in-person learning found no effect of in-person school reopening on COVID-19 hospitalization rates when baseline county hospitalization rates were low or moderate.”²⁴ To coerce our children by allowing them to breath freely and without harmful side effects caused by masks, in exchange for participation in a clinical trial of an experimental drug is unethical, immoral and repugnant.

According to the latest CDC data and estimating a 97% vaccine efficacy rate, mortality risk for unvaccinated children is lower than vaccinated adults over age 30. The mortality risk for unvaccinated children is 100x lower than vaccinated adults over 75.²⁵

The most recent concern stated by teachers unions and others is regarding the Delta variant of COVID-19. The latest data from Public Health England is finding the Delta variant is much less lethal than the Alpha. In its recent report dated July 8, 2021, Public Health England

²³ https://www.theepochtimes.com/teachers-union-head-cdc-asked-us-for-language-on-school-reopening-guidelines_3822052.html

²⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html

²⁵ <https://healthdata.gov/dataset/AH-Provisional-COVID-19-Death-Counts-by-Age-in-Yea/e3ga-yc7>

demonstrated Delta variant's case fatality rate (CFR) is .2%, compared to Alpha's CFR of 1.9%, and that vaccines help reduce Delta's CFR in people over the age of 50 but not under.²⁶

The state of Massachusetts is ranked as the second highest in the U.S. in terms of adults vaccinated and has the lowest rates of vaccine hesitancy in the country.²⁷ Every adult in Massachusetts who wants the COVID-19 vaccine has had the opportunity to receive it. "In Israel, a leader in the world in terms of the proportion of adults vaccinated, infection rates in unvaccinated children declined 99% after widespread vaccination of the adults. We have been witnessing the same trend in the U.S. Israel has, therefore, decided to recommend vaccination only for certain high-risk children aged 12 to 15 rather than all of them. Other countries are taking a similar approach because children are simply not the primary drivers of the pandemic. In Massachusetts, our unvaccinated children will be protected from SARS-CoV-2 infection as a direct result of the success of our mass vaccination campaign of adults. This is something to celebrate – and means that life can begin to return to normal for all of us – including kids inside and outside of school."²⁸

Iowa, Texas and Vermont have passed legislation or signed executive orders that forbid school districts from requiring face coverings because they have followed the data and the science, as you should be doing as well. DESE and Grafton School District removed parental choice during the 2020-2021 school year – this was wrong. Parents should always have the authority to make medical decisions for their children, not bureaucrats. This past year has been an extremely eye-opening experience. Throughout this human tragedy, something wonderful has happened. Parents across Massachusetts have come together. We have organized and mobilized by the thousands. We have connected with hundreds of like-minded parents in our immediate areas, and with tens of thousands of others across the state. Due to the failure of our so-called leaders, we have become involved, knowledgeable, and resourceful; and we will never let our children be abused and used as political pawns again. Jay and members of the School Committee, please do not resort to arbitrary, ineffective, emotionally, and physically harmful masking policies again – we will not stand for it. Tens of thousands of parents across Massachusetts are prepared to withdraw their children from public schools and in turn, withdraw the funds as well. Our children's emotional and physical well-being will always be our number one priority.

²⁶

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001009/Variants_of_Concern_VOC_Technical_Briefing_18.pdf

²⁷ <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/massachusetts-has-lowest-vaccine-hesitancy-rate-in-the-u-s/2362121/>

²⁸ <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2021-07-05/why-massachusetts-schoolchildren-shouldnt-be-required-to-wear-masks>

In closing, this letter serves as notice that mandates for any individual to wear a mask against COVID-19 for attendance at school violates federal law. All COVID-19 masks, whether surgical, N95 or other respirators, are authorized, not approved or licensed, by the federal government; they are Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) only. Federal law states:

Title 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(I-III) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) states:

individuals to whom the product is administered are informed -

- (I) that the Secretary has authorized the emergency use of the product;
- (II) of the significant known and potential benefits and risks of such use, and of the extent to which such benefits and risks are unknown; and
- (III) of the option to accept or refuse administration of the product, of the consequences, if any, of refusing administration of the product, and of the alternatives to the product that are available and of their benefits and risks.

EUA products are by definition experimental and thus require the right to refuse. Consent of the individual is “absolutely essential.”²⁹ A federal court held that even the U.S. military could not mandate EUA vaccines to soldiers. *Doe #1 v. Rumsfeld*, 297 F.Supp.2d 119 (2003). In a letter dated April 24, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration stated that authorized face masks must be labeled accurately and may not be labeled in a way that misrepresents the product’s intended use as “source control to help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2.”³⁰ The letter specifies the labeling “may not state or imply that the product is intended for antimicrobial or antiviral protection or related uses or is for use such as infection prevention or reduction.” Any EUA mandate requiring individuals to wear face masks conflicts with Section 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(I-III), which provides that the person must be informed of the option to refuse to wear the device. Liability for forced participation in a medical experiment, including possible injury, may be incalculable. You must uphold the rights of individuals to refuse to wear EUA masks.

²⁹ <https://history.nih.gov/display/history/Nuremberg+Code>

³⁰

<https://www.fda.gov/media/137121/download#:~:text=On%20April%2024%2C%202020%20in%20response%20to%20questions,protect%20the%20public%20health%20or%20safety%20under%20section>

We understand a school committee meeting is scheduled for 08/24/21. We are requesting this topic be added to the agenda and a vote by committee members is taken, ensuring masks will be optional for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

It is time to put our children and medical facts above politics and fear. Free our children NOW from the medical ignorance and abuse delivered by those who may mean well but who are instead hurting children with irresponsible and ineffective policies. Unmask the politics and fear, and unmask our children permanently.

Very truly yours,

Danielle Decker
 Jason Kenney
 Rachel Rodominick
 Susan Heale Craig
 Kait Dionis
 Amy Simpson
 Eileen Turcotte
 Elizabeth Partridge
 Leann Ferreira
 Cheryl Nelson
 April Lane
 Annie Barnatt
 Brian Barnatt
 Rachel Carlson
 Elyssa Margwarth
 Matt Keiter

Danielle Decker, Jason Kenney,
 Rachel Rodominick, Susan
 Heale Craig, Kait Dionis, Amy
 Simpson, Eileen Turcotte,
 Elizabeth Partridge, Leann
 Ferreira, Cheryl Nelson, April
 Lane, Annie Barnatt, Brian
 Barnatt, Rachel Carlson, Elyssa
 Margwarth, Matt Keiter

August, 2021

A letter from concerned parents and guardians of Grafton Public School Students

To the Grafton School Committee,

As we approach the new school year and observe the rise in COVID cases across the country and the predominance of the more potent Delta variant, we ask you to consider a mask requirement for the Grafton Public Schools; at a minimum for the elementary schools.

Despite the vocal efforts of anti-mask advocates, we believe the vast majority of parents in town care for the health of all children in the district - especially those that are too young to be vaccinated.

We also understand that some children aren't able to wear masks - and we believe that having the other students mask up helps to protect them and ensure that all kids can access inclusive classrooms, even if they aren't able to wear a mask or get vaccinated.

Last year's successful efforts - and lack of in-school transmission outbreaks - show that masks work. Until vaccines are available to students of all ages, and the various COVID variants are under control, requiring masks at school makes sense. The children are accustomed to wearing them, and continuing to care for our whole community by masking up can teach our students valuable lessons about empathy and caring for others in their community.

Please know that despite the many loud voices against masks, we, the undersigned parents and guardians of students in the Grafton Public Schools, will support and welcome a mask requirement when the children go back to school.

We understand that Dr. Cummings has already announced universal masking in all Grafton Public Schools, but wanted to reiterate our support.

We thank you very much for your consideration and the hard work you do.

With Gratitude,

Abby Baigelman	Christine Reid	Eric Gentile
Alan Baker	Christine Stahley	Erica Brophy
Alicia Martin	Christopher Hwang	Erika Sullivan
Alison Angell	Christopher Salvi	Erin Nascimento
Alison Carroll	Cindy Ing Fong	Erinn Wall
Amanda McLaughlin	Colleen Ouellet	Farrell Mead
Amar Clark	Constance Posterro	Firoza Akhter
Amber Lobo	Coriann Stinson	Frank E.Plumley
Amy ONeill	Cristina Brennan	Gail A. Plumley
Amy Seitz	Dan Cusher	Gaile Reardon
Andrea Marrone	Dan Gaspar	Gina Dalan
Andrzej Kielbasinski	Daniel Barsum	Gregory and Farleigh Krane
Anjanaben Gami	Danielle Pachico	Heather Davidson
Ashley Bustos	Danielle Pucillo	Heather L Nickerson
Autumn Adair-Hwang	Daryl Huynh	Heather Nadeau
Barry Posterro	Dave Grasso	Heather Trudell
Beth and Darren Foley	David Ayers	Heena Crouch
Beth Densmore	Dawn Sutherland	Heidi Singh
Brad Kozub	Deborah Hilk	Hilary Wynne
Brad Tabachnick	Deirdre Rakus	Hollie Gerwe
Brenda Turner	Derek Reid	Irene Au
Brent Crouch	Diana Montville	Itzeen Pla-Hernandez
Brian Langevin	Donna Trainor	Jacqueline Vandesteen
Brittany Sampson	Dorene Cable	James Nadeau
Candice Dixon	Douglas Prohn	James Sutherland
Carly Sjolander	Ed and Nicole Prisby	Jeffrey Flannery
Caroline Davis	Eliot Bless	Jeffrey P Lyon Jr
Carrie Hogan	Elizabeth Beshai	Jen Vacca
Catherine M Sewall	Elizabeth Gallaway	Jena Parmanand
Cheryl Dujnic	Elizabeth Levison	Jennifer Bean
Chris Pliakas	Elizabeth Marineau	Jennifer cardarelli
Chris Rozanas	Elizabeth pearson	Jennifer Davy
Christina Popsuj	Ellen McDaniel	Jennifer Lentz
Christine Ballou	Emily Barsum	Jennifer Reyes
Christine Breecher	Emily Hopkins	Jennifer Valente
Christine DiTullio	Emily Jah	Jennifer Woodall
Christine Gaspar	Emily Jah	Jeremy Stinson
Christine Lincoln	Emily Shugarman	Jessica de la cruz
Christine Milecki-Buonomo	Emmanuelle Sizensky	Jessica McCann
Christine Passler		Jessica Melo

Jessica Prohn	Krista Miller	Melissa Couch
Jessica Westcott	Kristin Pliakas	Melissa Fleming
Jessica Zaleski	Kristy Kielbasinski	Melissa S. Graves
Jillian Sweeney	Laura Rossi	Melody Gonzalez
John Anderson	Lauren godlewski	Mia-Bianca Ayers
Jon Costello	Lawrence Deutsch	Michael G. Salloum
Jonathan Mailloux	Lee Hume	Michael Gladstone
José A Restituyo	Lee Kaufman	Michael Meleski
José A, Aldana Ramirez	Leighann Gagnon	Michael Salloum
Joshua Suhl	Liisa M McMullen	Michelle and Dennis Williams
Juanita Roth	Liora Bram	Michelle Maloney
Juddson Marineau	Lisa Hall	Mike Marrone
Julia Anderson	Lisa Lyon	Mike Trudell
Julia jensenhuegel	Lori Brosnihan	Mirella Sawyer
Julia porter	Lori Kinney	Molly Salomon
Junjira Pavao	Lori L. Siefert	Natalie Talcott
Kaitlin Keddy	Louis Dundin	Nicholas Talcott
Kaitlin Sweeney	Lucas Mogensen	Nicole Bless
Kaitlyn marshall	Lynette Forder	Nicole Kelly
Kara Lauer	M Richard Pavao	Nicole Reynolds
Karen Griffin	Maeve Geer	Pamela Lorusso
Karen J Gallagher	Marci Deutsch	Patricia Sweeney
Kate Unterieser	Margaret Ann Ferraro	Patrick huegel
Katherine Blondheim	Maria Adamo	Patzy Martinez
Katherine Joncas	Maria McManus	Paula Paxson
Kathryn Horgan	Maria Murdock	Pauline Winn
Kathryn Kozub	Marilyn Cusher	Prashanti Naganti
Katie Giacometti	Mark Adamo	Randy Gomez
Katie Janda Va	Mark Buonomo	Raymund San Gabriel
Katie Marino	Martina B Arndt	Rebecca Kushins
Katie Taylor	Mary Rio	Rebecca soco
Kelly Magowan	Matt McDaniel	Rene McEvoy
Kelly Yellin	Matthew Brande	Renee Sloope
Kelsey foran	Matthew Hill	Robert Bean
Kendra Griffin	Maureen Swier	Robin Callahan
Kent D	Meachelle San Gabriel	Robyn Zwicker
Kiley DiGloria	Meagan Moore	Rodolfo de la cruz
Kimberly Priore	Meghan Costello	Rosa E. Licea
Krista kiley	Meghan Haney	Ryan Horgan
	Mehuikumar Gami	

Ryan J. Tierney	Tim McCann
Sara Zwicker	Todd L Clark
Sarah Cobb	Tonia Eslami
Sarah Drew	Traci Merloni
Sarah Herrin	Tracy Bazegian
Sarah Ileville	Tracy Kaufman
Sarah Macomber	Tracy O'Donnell
Sarin Va	Tresila fernandes
Satish K Mummadi	Trevor Herrin
Sean Brophy	Tricia Charles
Sebastian Rakus	Trisha Hiers
Shane Fleming	Victor Marolda
Shannan Rowell	Vincent Pucillo
Shannon Clark	W. McCusker
Shannon Grasso	Wanda I Malave
Sharon M. Flannery	Wendy Allen
Sheila Harrington	William Cobb
Sheri McCarrhy	William Hoehnke
Sherri Suhl	William Sullivan
Simer Suri	William Sweeney
Stacey Tamburro	
Stacie Herbert	
Stanley Borek	
Stella Dikas	
Stephanie Martone	
Stephanie Whitesel	
Stephen Porter	
Steve Liberis	
Steven Forder	
Steven Mergentheimer	
Susan Hall	
Suzy Langevin	
Swarnika Yadav	
Tania Paparazzo	
Tara Bouley	
Tara Gestrich	
Tatiana Gentile	
Terrence Masson	
Thomas F. Hume	
Tiffany Bubriski	