



**Agenda**  
**Minnetonka City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Friday, Jan. 14, 2022**  
**3:30 p.m.**

*Continuation of Monday, Jan. 10 Minnetonka City Council Regular Meeting*  
**WebEx**

1. Call to Order
2. Reconvene of Monday, Jan. 10 Minnetonka City Council Regular Meeting
3. Continuation of item 14D: Consideration of city-wide face mask mandate
4. Adjournment

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, all meetings of the Minnetonka City Council will be conducted pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, until further notice. City Council members will participate in the meeting remotely via WebEx. Members of the public who desire to monitor the meeting remotely or to give input or testimony during the meeting can find instructions at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/1516/3427>. Limited seating may be available at the regular meeting room, for members of the public who wish to attend in person, but the public is advised to call 952.939.8200 the day of the meeting to confirm that the room will be open.



**City Council Agenda**  
**Meeting of Jan. 10, 2022, continued to Jan. 14, 2022**

**Title:** Consideration of city-wide face mask mandate  
**Report From:** Corrine Heine, City Attorney  
**Submitted through:** Mike Funk, Acting City Manager

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**Action Requested:**  Motion  Informational  Public Hearing  
**Form of Action:**  Resolution  Ordinance  Contract/Agreement  Other  N/A  
**Votes needed:**  4 votes  5 votes  N/A  Other

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**Summary Statement**

At its meeting on Jan. 10, 2022, the city council directed staff to prepare, for the council's consideration, an ordinance that would impose a face mask mandate for specified indoor spaces in the city. City staff has also prepared an alternate resolution for the council's consideration.

**Recommended Action**

**Strategic Profile Relatability**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Strength & Operational Excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe & Healthy Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability & Natural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Livable & Well-Planned Development  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure & Asset Management           | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusiveness             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |  |

Statement: The proposed ordinance and the alternate resolution are both proposed in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and current rates of high transmission in Hennepin County.

**Financial Consideration**

Is there a financial consideration?  No  Yes [Enter estimated or exact dollar amount]  
Financing sources:  Budgeted  Budget Modification  New Revenue Source  
 Use of Reserves  Other [Enter]

Statement: NA

**Background**

The city, state and country have been battling the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly 13 months. In the past several months, the development of the highly-transmissible Omicron variant has

resulted in significant increases in the number of positive cases. Hennepin County is currently experiencing a high rates of positive cases, over 11 times the “high transmission” rate established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and higher than the rates the county has experienced since November 2020.

The CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health have consistently advised members of the public to be vaccinated, social distance, wear face coverings, and follow appropriate hand hygiene in order to minimize the risk of infection. On Jan. 5, 2022, the mayors of both Minneapolis and St. Paul issued orders (attached) imposing face mask mandates for their cities, effective Jan. 6, 2022. On Jan. 11, 2022, the cities of Golden Valley and Hopkins also adopted mandates (attached). Several cities, including Duluth, St. Cloud, Edina and Bloomington have declined to adopt mask mandates. Edina and Bloomington each adopted resolutions encouraging the use of face masks (attached).

The Minnetonka city council previously adopted a face mask mandate in July 2020, by Ordinance No. 2020-14. Governor Walz issued a statewide executive order that required masks prior to the effective date of the city’s ordinance; as a result, the city never enforced its ordinance.

In response to resident inquiries, the city council added to the Jan. 10, 2022 meeting agenda an item regarding the adoption of a face mask mandate. The council continued the Jan. 10 meeting to Jan. 14, 2022 with direction that staff prepare an ordinance for the council’s consideration and also advise businesses and the public that an ordinance would be discussed.

The city attorney has prepared an emergency ordinance for the council’s consideration. The ordinance is similar to the Minneapolis face mask mandate, with some modifications that mirror exemptions from Ordinance No. 2020-14. As an alternative to the ordinance, the city attorney also prepared a resolution encouraging the use of face masks. This resolution is similar to the resolution approved in Edina.

Under the city charter, emergency ordinances require five votes to pass. The ordinance can be effective immediately. In general, the city may not prosecute anyone for violating the ordinance until at least 24 hours after the ordinance either (a) has been filed with the city clerk and posted in three conspicuous places in the city; or (b) has been published in the official newspaper. The proposed ordinance does not include a criminal penalty for violation of the ordinance, but prosecution for trespass is possible, if a person refuses to comply with a property owner’s request that the person leave the property.

Consideration of a mask mandate has been communicated following the established process for notifying residents, businesses, visitors and the media of meetings of the Minnetonka City Council. The city notified over 700 license holders in the city, as well as all apartment managers. Stories highlighting meeting information have also been published to the news, city council and COVID-19 sections of the city’s website as well as all of the social media channels maintained by the communications division. Each story and social media post includes links inviting readers to share public comments and participate in the virtual meeting. Given the high level of interest in this topic, nearly 7000 subscribers have also received an email with notice of the meeting details and links to add public comment. Finally, notice of this meeting has been shared with local media organizations and has been reported by both the city’s official newspaper (Minnetonka Sun Sailor) and the state’s largest media organization (Star Tribune).

The Jan. 14, 2022 meeting will be held pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021. The meeting will be livestreamed. Members of the public will be able to provide comments through the following email address: [publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov). This email address is highlighted in the meeting notice as well as all news stories, email notifications and social media posts produced by the communications division. An alternative method to provide comments is through the call-in feature. This method was initiated early in the pandemic when the council first migrated to virtual meetings and it has been available as an option since.

Ordinance discussion items, points of consideration:

1. Expiration date. How long does the council want the ordinance to remain in effect?  
Under the charter, the maximum length is 61 days, but the council could set a shorter time period, if desired.
2. Schools: there was discussion and mixed support for the ordinance to apply to schools. The language in the ordinance currently provides an exemption to other units of government that have facilities in the city, as well as public and private schools. The exemption for schools mirrors the approach taken by Hopkins.
3. Other exemptions. Does the council want to consider additional exemptions, such as churches?





**Emergency Regulation**  
Issued pursuant to MCO Section 128.60

I, Jacob Frey, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, subject to the authority granted to me pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Ch. 12.29, and Minneapolis Code of Ordinances (MCO), Sections 128.50 and 128.60 do hereby proclaim the following Emergency Regulation:

**PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR**  
**Emergency Regulation No. 2022-01**

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, I declared a local public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the City of Minneapolis and assumed executive responsibilities attendant thereto; and

Whereas, pursuant to the authority granted to me pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Ch. 12.29, and Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Sections 128.50 and 128.60, I am authorized to promulgate emergency regulations to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during this declared emergency; and

Whereas, it is a priority that race and equity be of paramount consideration in enacting and carrying out emergency regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the data shows that older individuals and those suffering from underlying conditions are prone to more severe disease; and, in Minneapolis, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and immigrant community members are testing at a higher rate; and

Whereas, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), because COVID-19 is primarily transmitted by respiratory droplets, population density plays a significant role in the acceleration of transmission and cities like Minneapolis, the densest city in the State of Minnesota, are at a higher risk while also serving a greater proportion of vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, during the public health emergency, state and local health authorities strongly encouraged all Minnesotans to wear a face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any indoor public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow relevant face covering guidelines issued by governmental health authorities; and

Whereas, since March 2020, the City has issued and rescinded numerous disease control and prevention regulations as needed to address the ebbs and flows of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, on May 26, 2020, I promulgated Emergency Regulation 2020-12 (rescinded June 1, 2021), which required the wearing of a mask or cloth face covering in indoor spaces of public accommodation in the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, since June 2021, the CDC identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States and medical experts determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in Minneapolis, has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be easily transmitted; and

Whereas, the Omicron variant accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota; and

Whereas, 4.3% of all new COVID-19 cases have been in fully vaccinated individuals ages 12 and up in Minnesota as of the last reporting period (week of 11/28/21); and

Whereas, COVID-19 cases in the City of Minneapolis have trended upward since July 2021 with the community transmission rate exceeding 900 cases per 100,000 individuals, which puts the City in the CDC’s high-risk area category with associated increased rates of positive test cases; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis and the CDC continue to reinforce that the strongest defense against the Delta, Omicron, and other potentially dangerous variants is through vaccination, proper use of a face mask, avoidance of crowded spaces, good hand hygiene, and staying home when sick; and

Whereas, to aid in our efforts, under the emergency authorities vested in the Mayor pursuant to the emergency declaration, to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency and adopt additional protections for the preservation of public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacob Frey, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby order the following emergency regulation:

1. Effective January 6, 2022, any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering in accordance with CDC guidance when in indoor spaces of public accommodation regardless of vaccination status, except for the purposes of eating and/or drinking.
2. All employers of businesses that are spaces of public accommodation as defined by this Order shall require their employees, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering whenever such employees have face-to-face contact with the public.
3. Athletes, performers, and supporting staff competing or performing at indoor spaces of public accommodation are not subject to this regulation.

#### **Definitions**

4. A space of public accommodation means a business, or an educational, refreshment, entertainment, or recreation facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, government buildings, stadiums, arenas, convention centers, and service establishments as well as educational institutions, recreational facilities, and service centers.
5. Cloth face covering means a covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth but is not a Medical-Grade Mask.
6. Medical-grade mask means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a healthcare setting, or a setting in which direct patient care is provided.

**Additional Terms**

- 7. This Order is effective 5:00 p.m. (CST) January 6, 2022 and continuing until further notice or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended.
- 8. A violation of this Emergency Regulation may be enforced by the issuance of warning letter(s), administrative citation to City-licensed businesses, and/or misdemeanor prosecution. Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Sections 1.30 and 259.250
- 9. The Commissioner of Health is hereby authorized and directed to administer, interpret, and monitor requirements set forth in this Emergency Regulation, and to take such further actions as deemed necessary or advisable to protect the health and safety of the public.

JAN 05 2022

Date



Jacob Frey, Mayor of Minneapolis

ATTEST:

City Clerk

POSTED:

JAN 05 2022



The following executive order was printed from the St. Paul website:  
[HTTP://www.stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/emergency-executive-orders#jan-22](http://www.stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/emergency-executive-orders#jan-22)

## **Executive Order January 5, 2022, 2022-2**

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-2

I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, on January 5 2022, pursuant to Saint Paul Legislative Code Section 13.06, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

On March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-01 Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19 pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.31, Subd. 2. That Executive Order has expired.

On March 15, 2020, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter issued an Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.29; which the City Council consented to on March 17, 2020. This Emergency Declaration has been extended and remains in effect.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States and medical experts determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a "variant of concern" due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota and Ramsey County, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community. The COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in Ramsey County, has been determined by the CDC to be a "variant of concern" and appears to be easily transmitted. The Omicron variant accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been more than 5,617 COVID-19 hospitalizations and 1,090 COVID-19 deaths in Ramsey County. Case rates are now at an extremely high level of approximately 536 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people per day in Ramsey County, which places Ramsey County in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's high transmission category (which includes any location over 100 or more cases per 100,000). The positivity rate in Ramsey County is currently more than 13%.

COVID-19 infection is transmitted predominately by inhalation of respiratory droplets and studies show that masks and face coverings block the release of respiratory droplets into the environment and can also reduce the wearer's exposure to droplets from others because COVID-19 viral particles spread between people more readily indoors and when people are closer together for longer periods of time indoors. Inside activities, and in particular inside activities where individuals gather without masks and where individuals gather for extended periods, or both, increase the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19. Studies have indicated and public health experts have concluded that indoor dining is a significant driver of the COVID-19 pandemic, in part because it is not possible to wear a mask while eating or drinking.

The WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised all individuals to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, especially the Delta and Omicron variants, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, and getting vaccinated.

Saint Paul Leg. Code Chapter 13.06(b) provides that, "whenever necessary to meet an emergency ... the mayor may by executive order promulgate regulations ... for which adequate regulations have not been adopted ... respecting the conduct of persons and the use of property during emergencies; the repair, maintenance and safeguarding of essential public services; emergency health, fire and safety regulations; and all other matters which are required to protect public safety, health and welfare in emergencies."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Melvin Carter, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby issue the following Emergency Executive Order:

Executive Order 2022-1, related to masks in City-controlled property, is rescinded and replaced with this Executive Order on the below-listed effective date.



**Regulations:**

1. Individuals at City-Controlled Property: Must wear a face covering indoors at all times when social distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained.
2. Businesses Licensed by the City of Saint Paul: Must require all Individuals to wear a face covering indoors at all times when social distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained, except for temporary removal of face covering when eating or drinking.
3. All Businesses: Strongly encouraged to continue to require that all individuals wear a face covering indoors at all times when social distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained.

**Terms:**

1. Individual: all persons except young children at risk of suffocation and persons who cannot medically tolerate wearing a face covering.
2. City-Controlled Property: includes park facilities, libraries, and City offices and workplaces.
3. Face Covering: includes manufactured or homemade cloth face coverings. Face coverings must fully cover an individual's nose and mouth. Face coverings are not required to be medical-grade masks.

**Enforcement:**

1. Any Individual who fails to comply with this requirement will be asked to leave any City-controlled property. Any individual who subsequently refuses to leave said property upon request will be deemed to be trespassing and may be subject to criminal penalties as provided by law.
2. Any business licensed by the City of Saint Paul found in violation of this requirement may face adverse licensing action and penalties under Chapter 310 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code.

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, this Executive Order will take effect at 5:00 pm on January 6, 2022 following my signature and, if not sooner rescinded or later extended, shall expire at the end of forty (40) days after its effective date or at the end of the declared local emergency to which it relates, whichever occurs first.

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RESOLUTION NO. 22-008

CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY RESOLUTION  
ADOPTING EMERGENCY REGULATION NO. 22-01

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, I declared a local public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the City of Golden Valley and assumed executive responsibilities attendant thereto; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to me pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Ch. 12.29, and Golden Valley City Code, Section 8-7, I am authorized to promulgate emergency regulations to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during this declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, the data shows that older individuals and those suffering from underlying conditions are prone to more severe disease; and, in the Twin Cities metro area, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and immigrant community members are testing at a higher rate, and it is a priority that race and equity be of paramount consideration in enacting and carrying out emergency regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), because COVID-19 is primarily transmitted by respiratory droplets, population density plays a significant role in the acceleration of transmission; and

WHEREAS, during the public health emergency, state and local health authorities strongly encouraged all Minnesotans to wear a face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any indoor public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow relevant face covering guidelines issued by governmental health authorities; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, the City has issued and rescinded numerous disease control and prevention regulations and policies as needed to address the ebbs and flows of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since June 2021, the CDC identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States and medical experts determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases reported in Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in the Twin Cities metro area, has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be easily transmitted; and

WHEREAS, the Omicron variant accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, 4.8% of vaccinated Minnesotans have experienced a COVID-19 breakthrough case (individuals ages 12 and up as of the week beginning 12/5/21); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases in the City of Golden Valley have trended upward since July 2021 with the community transmission rate in Golden Valley of 103.4 cases per 10,000 individuals for the most recent 14-day period, which puts the City in the CDC's high-risk area category with associated increased rates of positive test cases; and

WHEREAS, the City of Golden Valley and the CDC continue to reinforce that the strongest defense against the Delta, Omicron, and other potentially dangerous variants is through vaccination, proper use of a face mask, avoidance of crowded spaces, good hand hygiene, and staying home when sick; and

WHEREAS, to aid in our efforts, under the emergency authorities vested in the Mayor pursuant to the emergency declaration and City Code section 8-7 I have the authority to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency and adopt additional protections for the preservation of public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Golden Valley City Council, does hereby order the following emergency regulation:

1. Effective January 13, 2022, any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering in accordance with CDC guidance when in indoor spaces of public accommodation regardless of vaccination status, except for the purposes of eating and/or drinking.
2. All employers of businesses that are spaces of public accommodation as defined by this Order shall require their employees, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering whenever such employees have face-to-face contact with the public.
3. Athletes, performers, and supporting staff competing or performing at indoor spaces of public accommodation are not subject to this regulation.

#### **Definitions**

1. A space of public accommodation means a business, or an educational, refreshment, entertainment, or recreation facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, government buildings, stadiums, arenas, convention centers, and service establishments as well as educational institutions, recreational facilities, and service centers.
2. Cloth face covering means a covering that fully covers a person's nose and mouth but is not a Medical-Grade Mask.
3. Medical-grade mask means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a healthcare setting, or a setting in which direct patient care is provided.

#### **Additional Terms**

1. This Order is effective 5:00 p.m. (CST) January 13, 2022 and continuing until further notice or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended.

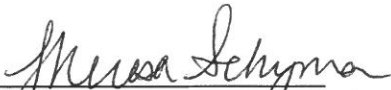


2. A violation of this Emergency Regulation may be enforced by the issuance of warning letter(s), administrative citation to City-licensed businesses, and/or misdemeanor prosecution. Golden Valley City Code of Ordinances Sections 8-11 and 1-9.
3. The Emergency Manager is hereby authorized and directed to administer, interpret, and monitor requirements set forth in this Emergency Regulation, and to take such further actions as deemed necessary or advisable to protect the health and safety of the public.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 11th day of January, 2022.

  
Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

Attested:

  
Theresa Schyma, City Clerk

**CITY OF HOPKINS  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1178**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE RELATING TO FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS  
WITHIN SPECIFIED INDOOR SPACES WITHIN THE CITY OF HOPKINS, MINNESOTA**

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The council of the City of Hopkins hereby ordains as follows:

**Section 1. Preamble**

Since March 16, 2020, the City of Hopkins has been under a declared local emergency, due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The conditions that gave rise to the state of emergency continue to exist. The United States leads the world in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and in some parts of the United States, the number of confirmed cases is surging, posing a threat to the response capabilities of health care facilities. Growing scientific evidence indicates that the wearing of face coverings in public significantly reduces the risk of infection from the coronavirus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Mayo Clinic, and Governor Tim Walz have all urged the use of face masks as a measure to reduce or prevent the spread of COVID-19. This emergency ordinance is adopted in response to the emergency and in accordance with Section 3.03 of the City Charter to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

**Section 2. Findings**

The Hopkins City Council makes the following findings:

- 2.01 The COVID-19 disease presents a serious health risk to the residents of Hopkins. As of January 5, there have been 57.7 million confirmed cases in the United States, resulting in 831,118 deaths, 1,045,170 million confirmed cases in Minnesota, resulting in 10,740 deaths. In Hennepin County the seven day positivity rate is up 22.6%, there have been 196,427 confirmed cases in Hennepin County, resulting in 2,152 deaths, and 3,223 confirmed cases in Hopkins resulting in 64 deaths (as of December 27).
- 2.02 Scientific studies suggest that wearing face coverings significantly reduces the risk of infection from the coronavirus and that face-covering mandates could save hundreds of thousands of lives in the United States.
- 2.03 Many businesses in the city already require face coverings for employees and customers, and others have indicated that they would also if the local jurisdiction requires it.
- 2.04 The primary benefit of most face coverings is that it reduces the spread of infection by the wearer to others. Because many persons infected with the coronavirus may be asymptomatic or presymptomatic, without any reason to know that they have the disease, a face-covering requirement protects the health of others, such as business employees who provide essential services to the public.

- 2.05 Businesses are adversely impacted when employees become infected or must be quarantined due to an exposure. Employee illness can result in temporary closure of some businesses. Reducing the rate of employee illness provides an economic benefit to individual businesses and to the economy as a whole. The state encourages businesses to “Stay Safe to Stay Open.”
- 2.06 This ordinance is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, promoting the local economy, minimizing the need for future reclosing based on public health, and reducing the demand that COVID-19 cases place upon the healthcare system.

### **Section 3. Face covering requirement**

#### **3.01 Definitions**

1. For purposes of this ordinance “face covering” means a manufactured or homemade cloth covering that fully covers an individual’s nose and mouth. Cloth face coverings include surgical masks, N-95 masks, but do not have to be hospital grade, but need to cover the nose and mouth. The terms “mask” and “face covering” are synonymous.
2. For purposes of this ordinance, a “space of public accommodation” means a business, refreshment, entertainment or recreation facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, city-owned buildings, and service establishments as well as recreational facilities, and service centers. This definition includes establishments and facilities that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries.

#### **3.02 Except as exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance, all individuals must wear a face covering in indoor areas accessible to the public within the city of Hopkins. Specific to the face covering mandate in this section 3.02, the following shall also apply:**

1. Restaurants and bars must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
2. Spaces of public accommodation. Owners and managers of spaces of public accommodation must include in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that all employees wear a face covering when the individual is within any area open to the public or within six feet of another person. Customers are required to wear a face covering before entering and until exiting.
3. Gyms, fitness centers and sports facilities, including city-owned sports facilities. Employees, staff, participants and spectators are required to wear a face covering at all times when the individual is indoors and within six feet of another person. Face masks are not required for an individual while actively participating in permitted athletic activities. Businesses must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

4. Indoor entertainment venues, including theaters. All employees and customers must wear face coverings when inside the entertainment venue and not seated in their assigned seat; individuals speaking to an audience are not required to wear a mask while speaking, as long as the speaker remains six feet or more away from other individuals. All indoor entertainment venues must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
5. Indoor Common spaces in multi-family residential and multi-tenant office buildings. Residents of multi-family housing building and their guests, and tenants and employees in multi-tenant office buildings and their guests, shall wear a face covering when in indoor common spaces such as hallways, corridors, lobbies, restrooms, mail rooms, elevators, trash and recycling rooms, fitness rooms, recreation rooms, laundry rooms and other space owned and used in common by the residents, employees and tenants of the building; except, that an individual within a fitness center is not required to wear a mask while actively participating in permitted athletic activities.
6. City buildings. City employees and all other individuals must wear face coverings within those portions of city-owned buildings that are open to the general public. This paragraph does not apply to city-owned facilities that are otherwise covered by paragraph 3 above.

### 3.03 Other requirements:

1. Except for facilities exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance, all employers of businesses that are spaces of public accommodation, as defined by this ordinance, shall require their employees to wear a face covering whenever such employees have face-to-face contact with the public, unless other physical barriers are in place or at least six feet of separation is maintained according to CDC guidelines.
2. Owners or managers of property subject to this ordinance shall post written notice at all points used by the public to access the property, notifying the public that face coverings are required.

### 3.04 Exemptions. The following locations and individuals are exempted from this ordinance:

1. Facilities operated by the county, state or federal government or a political subdivision of the state of Minnesota (other than facilities operated by the city of Hopkins).
2. Children five (5) years of age and under.
3. Individuals actively eating or drinking.
4. Individuals temporarily removing the face covering for identification purposes.
5. Individuals unable to wear a mask due to medical, disability or developmental reasons.

6. Individuals unable to remove their face covering without assistance.
7. Individuals speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires the mouth to be visible to communicate effectively.
8. Participants actively participating in youth sports activities.
9. Places of worship, so long as these establishments have written COVID-19 Preparedness Plans that are in compliance with State Guidelines.
10. Public and private school facilities, so long as these establishments have written COVID-19 Preparedness Plans that are in compliance with State Guidelines.
11. Individuals, with approval of the public accommodation, speaking to a group of individuals, or testifying in front of an audience are not required to wear a mask while speaking, as long as the speaker remains six feet or more away from other individuals and other individuals are wearing masks.
12. Any public safety personnel actively engaged in an emergency response situation.
13. Polling locations, no voter may be told to leave the premises for refusal to wear a mask.

### 3.05 Enforcement.

1. Any individual who fails to comply with this ordinance must be asked to leave by an authorized representative of the business or organization. If the individual continues to refuse to leave, law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws or any other law the individual may violate. Businesses and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if they claim to be exempt from the ordinance due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons.
2. An individual's subsequent failure to comply with this ordinance may be subject to the penalty provisions of City Code Sec. 1-20, which provides that violation of an emergency regulation adopted by the city council is a misdemeanor offense.
3. Any business violating this ordinance shall be subject to administrative action for any licenses they possess with the city.

## **Section 4. Recommendations**

1. The requirement in this Order that face-coverings be worn in certain circumstances is intended to add to (and not substitute for) other practices (such as hand washing, staying home when sick, and maintaining appropriate physical distancing of at least six feet) as recommended by public health officials to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

2. It is recommended that any individual cover their nose and mouth with a mask or a cloth face covering when physical distancing standards or at least six feet of separation cannot be maintained among all individuals in accordance with CDC guidelines when in outdoor spaces.
3. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to provide masks for customers at no or nominal cost.

**Section 5. Enforcement**

This emergency ordinance supersedes inconsistent or conflicting provisions of the City Code and any resolution or ordinance while this emergency ordinance remains in effect. To the extent that this ordinance directly conflicts with County, State or Federal ordinances, they would take precedence.

**Section 6. Duration**

This ordinance will expire on the earlier of:

1. February 13, 2022;
2. Upon the expiration of the local emergency to which it relates; or
3. Upon the issuance of an executive order by County, State or Federal mandates the wearing of face coverings for any geographic area that includes Hennepin County, Minnesota.

**Section 7. Effective Date**

This uncodified emergency ordinance adopted pursuant to the Hopkins City Charter Section 3.03, shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 14, 2022.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Hopkins, Minnesota, on January 11, 2022.



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Patrick Hanlon, Mayor

Attest:



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Amy Domeier, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13**  
**COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the public health emergency, state and local health authorities strongly encouraged all Minnesotans to wear a face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any indoor public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow relevant face covering guidelines issued by governmental health authorities; and,

**WHEREAS**, since June 2021, the CDC identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States and medical experts determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in Minnesota, has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be easily transmitted; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Omicron variant accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota; and,

**WHEREAS**, 4.3% of all new COVID-19 cases have been in fully vaccinated individuals ages 12 and up in Minnesota as of the last reporting period (week of 11/28/21); and,

**WHEREAS**, new COVID-19 infections in Edina are occurring at a rate higher than at any time in the pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CDC continues to reinforce that the strongest defense against the Delta, Omicron, and other potentially dangerous variants is through vaccination, proper use of a face mask, avoidance of crowded spaces, good hand hygiene, and staying home when sick; and,

**WHEREAS**, the healthcare system is experimenting significant stress right now from the sharp increase in COVID-19 infections and would benefit from people exercising more personal protective measures to mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to achieve maximum protection against the Omicron variant of COVID-19, that:

1. Residents, employees and guests in Edina are requested and strongly encouraged by the Edina City Council to take all reasonable protective actions, such as wearing appropriate face coverings, maintain social distancing in public places, washing hands regularly and getting vaccinated, if possible, in order to reduce the spread and negative impacts of COVID-19 during this period of infection surge caused by the Omicron variant; and

2. Staff is directed to develop strategies around the use of federal funds for providing the following to the residents of Edina:
- Flu shots
  - Rapid test access for COVID-19
  - Opportunities for COVID-19 booster shots
  - Providing high-quality masks to our residents that are effective against Omicron

Dated: January 7, 2022

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Allison, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) SS  
CITY OF EDINA)

**CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK**

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of January 7, 2022, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING BLOOMINGTON  
TO FOLLOW COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDANCE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota (“City”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council is the Community Health Board for the City, with powers and duties established by Minnesota Statutes Section 145A.04; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all residents; and

WHEREAS, health statistics in Bloomington show current infections with COVID-19 are the highest they have been during this pandemic. Cases are approaching 1,000 cases per 100,000 persons over the last seven days and rising quickly; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Minnesota Department of Health and Bloomington Public Health (“public health professionals”) recommend everyone five years and older be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 when eligible as the vaccines are our best tool to reduce the risk of severe disease; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend regardless of vaccination status that everyone over the age of two should wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission (more than 100 cases per 100,000 persons); and

WHEREAS, public health professionals recognize that people contract COVID-19 in the air they breathe. High quality tight fitting masks should be worn (such as an N95, KN95, KF94 or similar respirator) in public indoor settings. If those types of masks are not available, then cloth masks with two or more layers of tightly woven fabric or double masking is encouraged; and WHEREAS, public health professionals recommend multiple layers of mitigation to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community, knowing that the more actions we take, the better protected we will be.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, based on the foregoing recitals and in furtherance of the intent of this Resolution, that the City Council urges the City, its residents, and its businesses to:

1. Diligently follow COVID-19 Safety Guidance:
  - a. Get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19;
  - b. Ensure your HVAC system is providing the maximum ventilation and filtration possible in compliance with American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards;
  - c. Wear a N95, KN95, KF94 or other respirator, or a high-quality, tight-fitting mask in public;
  - d. Get tested if you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or have any symptoms;
  - e. Stay home when you are sick; and
  - f. Comply with Minnesota Department of Health isolation and quarantine guidance.
2. Encourage entities open to the public to require mask wearing of their patrons and staff and provide masks to those in need at no or low cost; and
3. Encourage entities open to the public to require proof of vaccination or negative test for entrance; and
4. Be cautious with your activities to avoid illness and injury in the coming weeks, as health care access delays are being reported and these delays are expected to continue for the foreseeable future; and
5. Consider how you can limit your activities to prevent exposure to COVID-19; and
6. Spend time outdoors enjoying our beautiful city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bloomington Public Health staff are hereby authorized and directed to provide the City Council and staff with periodic reports on COVID-19 conditions in the City.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City, its residents, and its businesses will get through this together; and if we are kind and patient with each other during this COVID-19 pandemic then we will be a stronger and even better City after this global health pandemic.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Mayor

Attest:

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Secretary to the Council

## Ordinance No. 2020-14

### An emergency ordinance relating to face covering requirements within specified indoor spaces within the city

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The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

#### **Section 1. Preamble**

Since March 16, 2020, the City of Minnetonka has been under a local state of peacetime emergency, due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The conditions that gave rise to the state of emergency continue to exist. The United States now leads the world in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and in some parts of the United States, the number of confirmed cases is surging, posing a threat to the response capabilities of health care facilities. Growing scientific evidence indicates that the wearing of face coverings in public significantly reduces the risk of infection from the coronavirus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Mayo Clinic, and Governor Tim Walz have all urged the use of face masks as a measure to reduce or prevent the spread of COVID-19. This emergency ordinance is adopted in response to the emergency and in accordance with Section 3.07 of the City Charter and Section 900 of the City Code to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

#### **Section 2. Findings**

The Minnetonka City Council makes the following findings:

- 2.01 The COVID-19 disease presents a serious health risk to the residents of Minnetonka. As of July 8, 2020, there have been 3,048,072 confirmed cases in the United States, resulting in 133,322 deaths, 39,133 confirmed cases in Minnesota, resulting in 1,511 deaths, 12,597 confirmed cases in Hennepin County, resulting in 787 deaths, and 214 confirmed cases in Minnetonka resulting in 28 deaths.
- 2.02 Scientific studies suggest that wearing face coverings significantly reduces the risk of infection from the coronavirus and that face-covering mandates could save hundreds of thousands of lives in the United States.
- 2.03 On June 28, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the following guidance on face covering use:
  1. CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who do not live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
  2. Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
  3. Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
  4. Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- 2.04 Many businesses in the city already require face coverings for employees and customers, and others have indicated that they would also if the local jurisdiction requires it.
- 2.05 The primary benefit of most face coverings is that it reduces the spread of infection by the wearer to others. Because many persons infected with the coronavirus may be asymptomatic or presymptomatic, without any reason to know that they have the disease, a face-covering requirement protects the health of others, such as business employees who provide essential services to the public.
- 2.06 Businesses are adversely impacted when employees become infected or must be quarantined due to an exposure. Employee illness can result in temporary closure of some businesses. Reducing the rate of employee illness provides an economic benefit to individual businesses and to the economy as a whole. The state encourages businesses to “Stay Safe to Stay Open.”
- 2.07 This ordinance is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, promoting the local economy, minimizing the need for future reclosing based on public health, and reducing the demand that COVID-19 cases place upon the healthcare system.

### **Section 3. Face covering requirement**

#### 3.01 Definitions

1. For purposes of this ordinance “face covering” means a manufactured or homemade cloth covering that fully covers an individual’s nose and mouth. The terms “mask” and “face covering” are synonymous.
2. For purposes of this ordinance, a “space of public accommodation” means a business, refreshment, entertainment or recreatio facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, city-owned buildings, and service establishments as well as recreational facilities, and service centers. This definition includes establishments and facilities that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries.

#### 3.02 Except as exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance, all individuals must wear a face covering in indoor areas accessible to the public within the city of Minnetonka. Specific to the face covering mandate in this section 3.02, the following shall also apply:

1. Restaurants and bars must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

2. Spaces of public accommodation. Owners and managers of spaces of public accommodation must include in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that all employees wear a face covering when the individual is within any area open to the public or within six feet of another person. Customers are required to wear a face covering before entering and until exiting.
3. Gyms, fitness centers and sports facilities, including city-owned sports facilities. Employees, staff, participants and spectators are required to wear a face covering at all times when the individual is indoors and within six feet of another person. Face masks are not required for an individual while actively participating in permitted athletic activities. Businesses must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
4. Indoor entertainment venues, including movie theaters. All employees and customers must wear face coverings when inside the entertainment venue and not seated in their assigned seat; individuals speaking to an audience are not required to wear a mask while speaking, as long as the speaker remains six feet or more away from other individuals. All indoor entertainment venues must include the requirements of this ordinance in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
5. Common spaces in multi-family residential and multi-tenant office buildings. Residents of multi-family housing building and their guests, and tenants and employees in multi-tenant office buildings and their guests, shall wear a face covering when in common spaces such as hallways, corridors, lobbies, restrooms, mail rooms, elevators, trash and recycling rooms, fitness rooms, recreation rooms, laundry rooms and other space owned and used in common by the residents, employees and tenants of the building; except, that an individual within a fitness center is not required to wear a mask while actively participating in permitted athletic activities.
6. City buildings. City employees and all other individuals must wear face coverings within those portions of city-owned buildings that are open to the general public; except that, with respect to polling locations, no voter may be told to leave the premises for refusal to wear a mask. This paragraph does not apply to city-owned facilities that are otherwise covered by paragraph 3 above.

### 3.03 Other requirements:

1. Except for facilities exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance, all employers of businesses that are spaces of public accommodation, as defined by this ordinance, shall require their employees to wear a face covering whenever such employees have face-to-face contact with the public, unless other physical barriers are in place or at least six feet of separation is maintained according to CDC guidelines.

2. Owners or managers of property subject to this ordinance shall post written notice at all points used by the public to access the property, notifying the public that face coverings are required.

3.04 Exemptions. The following locations and individuals are exempted from this ordinance:

1. Facilities operated by the county, state or federal government or a political subdivision of the state of Minnesota.
2. Personal care services/salons that already have state face covering requirements.
3. Children five (5) years of age and under.
4. Individuals actively eating or drinking.
5. Individuals temporarily removing the face covering for identification purposes.
6. Individuals unable to wear a mask due to medical, disability or developmental reasons.
7. Individuals unable to remove their face covering without assistance.
8. Individuals speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires the mouth to be visible to communicate effectively.
9. Participants in youth sports activities.
10. Places of worship.
11. Public and private school facilities.

3.05 Enforcement.

1. Any individual who fails to comply with this ordinance must be asked to leave by an authorized representative of the business or organization. If the individual continues to refuse to leave, law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws or any other law the individual may violate. Businesses and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if they claim to be exempt from the ordinance due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons.
2. An individual's subsequent failure to comply with this ordinance may be subject to the penalty provisions of Sec. 900.055, which provides that violation of an emergency regulation adopted by the city council is a misdemeanor offense.

3. Any business violating this ordinance shall be subject to administrative action for any licenses they possess with the city.

#### **Section 4. Recommendations**

1. The requirement in this Order that face-coverings be worn in certain circumstances is intended to add to (and not substitute for) other practices (such as hand washing, staying home when sick, and maintaining appropriate physical distancing of at least six feet) as recommended by public health officials to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
2. It is recommended that any individual cover their nose and mouth with a mask or a cloth face covering when physical distancing standards or at least six feet of separation cannot be maintained among all individuals in accordance with CDC guidelines when in outdoor spaces.
3. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to provide masks for customers at no or nominal cost.

#### **Section 5. Enforcement**

This emergency ordinance supersedes inconsistent or conflicting provisions of the City Code and any resolution or ordinance while this emergency ordinance remains in effect. To the extent that this ordinance directly conflicts with Emergency Executive Order 20-74 of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the language of Emergency Executive Order 20-74 shall take precedence.

#### **Section 6. Duration**

This emergency ordinance is effective as of 11:59 p.m. on July 23, 2020. The ordinance will expire on the earliest of:

1. Sixty-one (61) days after its effective date;
2. Upon the expiration of the local emergency to which it relates;
3. Upon the issuance of an executive order by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz that mandates the wearing of face coverings for any geographic area that includes Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on July 13, 2020.

DocuSigned by:  
  
21AA42DB33F7415...  
Brad Wiersum, Mayor



Attest:

DocuSigned by:  
*Becky Koosman*

C8FF609054C54E1  
Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**Action on this Ordinance:**

Date of introduction: Not applicable  
Date of adoption: July 13, 2020  
Motion for adoption: Schack  
Seconded by: Calvert  
Voted in favor of: Schaepi-Coakley-Kirk-Schack-Carter-Calvert-Wiersum  
Voted against: None  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None  
Ordinance adopted.

Date of publication: July 30, 2020

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk

CITY OF MINNETONKA  
14600 MINNETONKA BLVD.  
MINNETONKA, MN 55345

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 13, 2020, the Minnetonka City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-14, "An emergency ordinance relating to face covering requirements within specified indoor spaces within the city" ("the Ordinance"). Subject to specified exceptions, the Ordinance requires individuals to wear a face covering within indoor spaces that are open to the public. Exemptions are provided for buildings owned by government entities other than the city, places of worship and public and private schools. Children under age 5 and persons with disabilities or medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask or prevent them from being able to remove a mask are also exempt. Individuals who are speaking with someone deaf or hard of hearing are exempt, if they need to remove their face covering in order to effectively communicate. Businesses are required to tell non-compliant individuals to leave, and refusal to leave may be punishable as a misdemeanor. Violation of the ordinance is punishable as a misdemeanor and may result in disciplinary action against business licenses, where applicable. The ordinance is effective at 11:59 p.m. on July 23, 2020.

A full copy of the Ordinance is available on the city's website ([www.minnetonkamn.gov](http://www.minnetonkamn.gov)) and may be viewed during regular office hours at the city clerk's office in city hall. A copy may also be obtained by standard or electronic mail.

DocuSigned by:

*Becky Koosman*

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

## Ordinance No. 2022-\_\_

### An emergency ordinance relating to face covering requirements within specified indoor spaces within the city

---

The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

#### **Section 1. Preamble**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic. Since June 2021, the CDC has identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States. Medical experts have determined that some of these variants – most recently the Delta variant and Omicron variant -- are significantly more contagious than previously known variants. The Omicron variant now accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota, and the rate of COVID-19 transmission has spiked nationally and locally, largely due to the Omicron variant. The positivity rate of COVID-19 testing in the state reached a record 16.6% for the seven-day period ending December 31, 2021. The present conditions associated with COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency. This emergency ordinance is adopted in response to the emergency and in accordance with Section 3.07 of the City Charter to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

#### **Section 2. Findings**

The Minnetonka City Council makes the following findings:

- 2.01 The COVID-19 disease presents a serious health risk to the residents of Minnetonka. As of January 10, 2022, there have been 60,240,751 confirmed cases in the United States, resulting in 835,302 deaths, 1,104,494 confirmed cases in Minnesota, resulting in 10,838 deaths, and 206,106 confirmed cases in Hennepin County, resulting in 2,189 deaths.
- 2.02 The COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community.
- 2.03 The COVID-19 Omicron variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be even more transmissible than the Delta variant.
- 2.04 As of the reporting period ending December 5, 2021, 4.85% of all new cases in Minnesota have been in fully vaccinated individuals ages 12 and up.
- 2.04 The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) continue to reinforce that the strongest defense against the Delta, Omicron and other potentially dangerous variants is through vaccination, proper use of a face mask, avoidance of crowded spaces, good hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.
- 2.05 The primary benefit of most face coverings is that it reduces the spread of infection by the wearer to others. Because many persons infected with the coronavirus may

be asymptomatic or presymptomatic, without any reason to know that they have the disease, a face-covering requirement protects the health of others, such as business employees who provide essential services to the public.

- 2.06 Businesses are adversely impacted when employees become infected or must be quarantined due to an exposure. Employee illness can result in temporary closure of some businesses. Reducing the rate of employee illness provides an economic benefit to individual businesses and to the economy as a whole.
- 2.07 This ordinance is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, promoting the local economy, minimizing the need for future reclosing based on public health, and reducing the demand that COVID-19 cases place upon the healthcare system.

### **Section 3. Face covering requirement**

- 3.01 Definitions. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms have the meanings provided below:
1. “Cloth face covering” means a covering that fully covers an individual’s nose and mouth but is not a Medical-grade mask.
  2. “Medical-grade mask” means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a healthcare setting, or a setting in which direct patient care is provided.
  3. “Space of public accommodation” means a business, refreshment, entertainment, or recreation facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, stadiums, arenas, convention centers, and service establishments as well as educational institutions, recreational facilities and service centers.
- 3.02 Effective January \_\_, 2022, any individual who is over the age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering in accordance with CDC guidance when in indoor spaces of public accommodation, regardless of the individual’s vaccination status, except as specifically exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance.
- 3.03 Effective January \_\_, 2022, all employers of business that are spaces of public accommodation shall require their employees, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a medical-grade mask or cloth face covering whenever such employees have

face-to-face contact with the public, except as specifically exempted by section 3.04 of this ordinance.

3.04 Exemptions. The provisions of sections 3.02 and 3.03 do not apply to:

1. Athletes, performers, and supporting staff competing or performing at indoor spaces of public accommodation are not subject to this regulation.
2. Individuals are not subject to this ordinance while actively engaged in exercise or a fitness activity at any indoor recreational facility.
3. Customers at a restaurant or bar are not subject to this ordinance when seated at a table or counter.
4. Individuals unable to wear a mask due to medical, disability or developmental reasons.
5. Individuals unable to remove their face covering without assistance.
6. Individuals speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, if the mouth must be visible to communicate effectively.
7. Government buildings operated by any entity other than the City of Minnetonka.
8. Public and private school facilities.

3.05 Required signage.

Businesses covered by the provisions of section 3.02 of this ordinance must post signage at all public entrances to the business , notifying the public that face coverings are required pursuant to Minnetonka ordinance.

3.06 Enforcement. Violation of this ordinance is not a criminal offense. However:

1. Any individual who fails to comply with this order must be asked to leave by an authorized representative of the business or organization. If the individual continues to refuse to leave, law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws or any other law the individual may violate. Businesses and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if they claim to be exempt from the ordinance due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons.
2. Any business violating this ordinance shall be subject to administrative action for any licenses they possess with the city.

**Section 4. Effect**

This emergency ordinance supersedes inconsistent or conflicting provisions of the City Code and any resolution or ordinance while this emergency ordinance remains in effect.

**Section 5. Duration**

This emergency ordinance is effective as of 11:59 p.m. on January \_\_, 2022. The ordinance will expire sixty-one (61) days after its effective date.

Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Jan. 14, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**Action on this Ordinance:**

- Date of introduction: Not applicable
- Date of adoption:
- Motion for adoption:
- Seconded by:
- Voted in favor of:
- Voted against:
- Abstained:
- Absent:
- Ordinance adopted.

Date of publication:

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk



## Resolution No. 2022-\_\_

### Resolution regarding community protective measures for COVID-19

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Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. Public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms.
- 1.02. During the public health emergency, state and local health authorities strongly encouraged all Minnesotans to wear a face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any indoor public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow relevant face covering guidelines issued by governmental health authorities.
- 1.03. Since June 2021, the CDC has identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States, and medical experts have determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants.
- 1.04. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community.
- 1.05. The COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in Minnesota, has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be easily transmitted.
- 1.06. The Omicron variant accounts for 68% of the cases in Minnesota.
- 1.07. As of the reporting period ending December 5, 2021, 4.85% of all new COVID-19 cases in Minnesota have been in fully vaccinated individuals ages 12 and up.
- 1.08. The CDC continues to reinforce that the strongest defense against the Delta, Omicron, and other potentially dangerous variants is through vaccination, proper use of a face mask, avoidance of crowded spaces, good hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.
- 1.09. The healthcare system is experiencing significant stress right now from the sharp increase in COVID-19 infections and would benefit from people exercising more personal protective measures to mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant.

Section 2. Council Action.

- 2.01. Residents, employees and guests in Minnetonka are requested and strongly encouraged by the Minnetonka City Council to take all reasonable protective actions, such as wearing appropriate face coverings, maintain social distancing in public places, washing hands regularly and getting vaccinated, if possible, in order to reduce the spread and negative impacts of COVID-19 during this period of infection surge caused by the Omicron variant.

2.02. Staff is directed to develop strategies around the use of federal funds for providing the following to the residents of Minnetonka:

- Rapid test access for COVID-19
- Opportunities for COVID-19 booster shots
- Providing high-quality masks to our residents that are effective against Omicron
- Flu shots

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Jan. 14, 2022.

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Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**Action on this resolution:**

Motion for adoption:

Seconded by:

Voted in favor of:

Voted against:

Abstained:

Absent:

Resolution adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on Jan. 14, 2022.

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**From:** Brittany Samoylov

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12:19 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Please Maintain Mask Choice!

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Council Members:

As an Eden Prairie family who does great deal of shopping, dining, and kid activities in Minnetonka, I implore you to oppose a mask mandate for Minnetonka businesses. Study after study has shown that cloth masking has had no impact on the spread of the virus, which is also now milder than ever in the new strain. Should you reinstate this baseless mandate, my family will be one of many who will take our business elsewhere. We have already left Minnetonka schools due to forced masking of young children.

Thank you,  
Brittany Samoylov

**From:** Peter Gianforte

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:15 PM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Minnetonka Council Member,

As a member of the Minnetonka community as I live in Ward 4 and have owned a business in Ward 1 for the past 10 years I'm concerned about the talk of a future mask mandate again in the City of Minnetonka. We have complied as citizens and businesses owners over the past 22 months with the different mandates and it seems the goal post keeps moving. First it was a mask to flatten the curve, then it was when vaccinations were available it would allow us to start easing restrictions and there is talk of more mandates. From a resident of the city my concern is over- reach of government and as a business owner in the city I'm concerned about patrons of my business will use services out of the City of Minnetonka where there isn't over-reach and mandates.

If someone wants to wear a mask in Minnetonka they are more than welcome to but if someone doesn't and there is a mandate against it that isn't right. On top of it I have been reading research on the effectiveness of masks over the past 22 months and there is no clear evidence that they decrease the spread of the disease.

Thanks

Peter Gianforte

**From:** Jesse Nelson

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:30 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** 2 quick comments

Hello Mr. Mayor and Council,

I am a Minnetonka resident. Regarding the potential mask mandate here in our city:

1. My son cannot wear a mask while he exercises. I will have to pull him from skating lessons at the Minnetonka Ice Arena if you implement this mandate. Please don't make me disappoint my son.

2. This will only hurt small businesses here in Minnetonka. For example, if someone wants to go out to eat, shop at a boutique, go to a small hardware store, etc. and not be hounded about masks, they'll just skip Minnetonka businesses and drive a few minutes further to Wayzata, Hopkins, Plymouth, Eden Prairie....the list goes on.

Additionally, this will open the door to issues at local businesses and institutions when some people don't want to comply. Are the police seriously supposed to waste their time arresting people for not wearing a cloth mask or whatever?

Please ***actually look up the local data*** before you cause unnecessary issues for our local businesses, places of faith, parents, and kids. Cases are up, but Omicron is thankfully mild compared to previous variants, and our hospitalization rates and death rates are not high.

Sincerely,

Jesse Nelson

**From:** Patrick Ridgely

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:43 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** mask mandate

As a retired physician, I support the implementation of a temporary mask mandate.

Pat Ridgely

4134 Queens Way

Minnetonka

**From:** Jody McCoy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments for Mask Mandate

I support this. Omicron is everywhere

**From:** Diana Sweeney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting Written Comment

Hi,

I won't be able to attend the meeting, but I just wanted to say I am strongly for a citywide mask mandate. Minneapolis/St. Paul had already done so and it's about time we follow their lead. I wish the rest of the country would too.

We were unable to visit family this Christmas due to extended family members having Covid. My daughter's school had to close this week due to positive Covid cases.

The sooner we all do our part, the sooner we can end this pandemic.

Sincerely,  
Diana Sweeney

**From:** Karla Jennings  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am 100% in favor of a mask mandate. Wearing a mask in public is a minor inconvenience when faced with another significant virus surge. Masks are not enough on their own but experts tell us they make a difference. If my wearing a mask prevents even one person from catching the virus, it is well worth it. Please take a stand for public safety by passing a mask mandate.

Thanks for your continued efforts on this issue and for the reinforcement provided by the mayor's periodic emails.

**From:** Susie Nelson

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:44 PM

**Cc:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Some considerations for you

Hello Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Manager,

As a Minnetonka resident, regarding a city-wide mask mandate, I have some questions for you to consider:

Q. If this goes into effect, will you be providing all Minnetonka residents with N95s and K95s since those are the masks that are actually effective against Covid?

Q. How will this affect our local Minnetonka small businesses? It's easy for people to drive 5 more minutes to businesses in other neighboring cities where they won't be forced to mask. Additionally, if you implement this for only certain ages, will businesses need to check birth certificates for children who look like they may be older than their parents say? Will those who have legitimate medical exemptions like special needs children need to carry about a doctor's note to get into businesses? If businesses don't check on these things, will they be fined?

Q. How will this mandate be enforced? Will the police be called when people don't wear a mask? Is that really a good use of our taxpayer-paid resources? Is this mandate a law or a suggestion or something in between?

Places in the US right now with mask mandates have not seen a statistically significant difference in covid cases. New York City, for example, has a mask mandate right now (plus even a vaccine passport system) and their current "new covid cases" number is 35,371, according to the NY Times.

Please reconsider implementing this mandate. We have not seen a spike in Covid-caused deaths; thankfully Omicron is more mild compared to previous variants. This mandate is simply unnecessary and causes more issues than good. Please let individual businesses choose their policies.

Susie

**From:** Emily Bahr  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:57 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** NO mask mandate

Dear Minnetonka City Council members,

I was disappointed to learn you are considering re-instating the mask mandate. Masks should be a CHOICE, not a mandate. Any “mandate” is completely unlawful and unconstitutional.

Should you allow this to go through AGAIN, I will gladly take my dollars to a neighboring community that allows for mask choice. This includes grocery stores, convenience stores, and community buildings.

By continuing to force people to wear masks you risk hurting local businesses - which is NOT what the city of Minnetonka needs right now.

Please consider this email and vote against any new mask mandates.

Thank you,  
Emily Basara  
18900 Kingswood Ter  
Minnetonka MN 55345

**From:** Susan Sadowsky  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

Hello,  
Please support a mask mandate.  
Thank you.  
Susan Sadowsky

**From:** Tom Brunes  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate .

Are you gonna mandate vaccines next ? Mask mandating did not solve this issue the last time. With out a state wide or national mandate, I request that you steer clear of this mandate. The citizens of Minnetonka are responsible enough to regulate the use of masks or not. If you trying to mandate this , what are you saying about the citizens of this community, that we are dumb? I do not dictate what happens in your household and I would expect the same in return . Let me decide what is safe for my family!

Tom Brunes

**From:** Laura King  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Vote Yes for masks!

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Laura

**From:** Stacey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate - Vote NO

To whom it concerns:

I live in Eden Prairie but have kids who attend school in the Minnetonka school district so we spend a considerable amount of time in Minnetonka and the surrounding communities. I do not support a mask mandate as they do nothing to protect people from getting Covid. It is more of a response to Covid hysteria. Wearing a mask should be a personal choice. If someone is that worried about Covid, they would be best to remain at home or utilize pickup services. If you do in fact enact a mask mandate, I will no longer shop or dine in the City. Please think of your businesses' livelihood before you try to enforce something that should be each individual's choice.

Regards,  
Concerned Citizen



**From:** bre gmail

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:11 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** for the mask mandate

hello city of minnetonka council,

being a mother of two and concerned about the rising covid numbers, i am 1000% in favour of reinstating the mask mandate.

thank you for your time.

warmly,

briana\*

**From:** Bob & Jan Guetschow

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:17 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask requirements

YES. Please require. I want to protect my neighbors and community from the spread. Indoors for all. Use limits For three to four weeks. Two months. With extension possible if necessary.

This is not a political issue. It is caring for one another. It is our wonderful Minnetonka. We need to protect our seniors and our kids. Ours is a special community. Continue it. Masks are simple. Cheap. Easy. Reduce the risk. NOW.

Thank you.

Jan Guetschow

Woodgate Rd S.

**From:** Melissa Miller Block

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:17 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Of course a mask mandate should be activated. Burying our heads in the sand, because we're too afraid we'll make someone mad, will not make the virus disappear. Save lives, help our overwhelmed and exhausted caregivers, free up hospital beds...Wear a Mask! Follow the science, not the ignorant.

Melissa Miller Block

**From:** STACY GALLOP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please pass a mask mandate to protect our residents from the pandemic. Basic duty of elected officials.

Thank you  
Stacy Gallop  
12201 Meadow Lane West

**From:** Monica Mason  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Covid19 mask mandate

This has my full support. It is a small effort but can make a significant dent in the transmission of this deadly virus. Let's end this thing in 2022.

**From:** Judi Gleeman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please pass a mask mandate to protect our residents from the pandemic. Basic duty of elected officials.

Thank you

*Judi Gleeman  
5606 Pompano Drive  
Minnetonka MN 55343*

**From:** Meet Director - Hurricanes Swim Team  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** MTKA mask mandate

Hello,

I want to voice my support for instituting a mask mandate. We should do whatever we can to protect our community. If purchasing masks is cost-prohibitive for some of our community members, perhaps you could consider methods to provide them for free to those in need. In addition, there may be other challenges that make acquiring masks difficult (e.g., lack of transportation, lack of internet, language barriers, time). Are there ways to make it easier for those community members to acquire masks?

Kind regards,  
Sara Durham  
3810 Huntingdon Dr.  
55305

**From:** cynthia avery  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks....

Dear Committee,

I live in Minnetonka. I am not for a mask mandate. Please do not do this! I think people will stay home if they're sick, Give us a chance to Show you! Sincerely, C. Avery

**From:** Joan Charnas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:28 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I fully support a mask mandate. I further recommend that if individuals won't follow it - or wear it improperly (like below their nose),

they should be banned from the premises (like Williston Fitness center membership revoked) or be required to community service hours. Or...be required to watch various videos on social media about ill people wishing they had been vaccinated.

Joan Charnas  
14457 Stewart Lane

**From:** jon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** support of mask mandate

Please pass a mask mandate for our city.  
There is so little downside-and such a potential upside. The slight discomfort we all feel wearing a mask is worth the protection we to our fellow citizens.

**From:** Michelle Wahlen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Jan 14 Meeting comments

I recognize the people on our City Council truly want the best for our residents, so please review this information before voting on another mask mandate. I know you have a strong desire to “do something” to try and keep people in our city well and free from Covid, but putting a mask mandate in place is not supported by science. A mandate may make you "feel" better and will certainly make people who are immersed in Covid Fear feel better, but you should not be putting mandates in place for feelings. You should base your decisions on science and feel good about it because you have firm ground to stand on. Below is just a tiny fraction of the hundreds of peer-reviewed studies published in the world's most recognized journals that prove masks will not stop the transmission of an airborne respiratory virus like Covid. Even though the media loves to tell you they do - THE FACTS tell us they do not; no matter how many times they repeat the lie. There are many Minnetonka residents who suffer from anxiety with their nose and mouth covered as well as many who suffer from asthma who should not be restricting airways. The bullying and self-righteous people come out of the woodwork to shame those who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. Stop the madness. Follow the science.

Consider this...

*“Our systematic review found no significant effect of face masks on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza.” CDC*

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The Danish randomized controlled trial on the real-world efficacy of face masks against coronavirus infection – the first of its kind – has now been published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. As expected, the trial found **no statistically significant benefit** of wearing a face mask.

*“Meta-analysis on facemask use in community settings to prevent respiratory infection transmission shows no effect”* **November 17th, 2020** International Journal of Infectious Diseases

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This study published in February 2021 in the Lancet, stated: *“...we did not find any evidence of decreased risk of transmission in individuals who reported mask use.”*

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This study released Sept. of 2021 concludes:

There was no reduction in per-population daily mortality, hospital bed, ICU bed, or ventilator occupancy of COVID-19-positive patients attributable to the implementation of a mask-wearing mandate.

This study concluded: *“We did not observe association between mask mandates or use and reduced COVID-19 spread in US states.”*

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This study on the NIH website, including 19504 blood donors spanning over one and a half year shows that prolonged use of face mask by blood donors may lead to intermittent hypoxia and consequent increase in hemoglobin mass.

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This study concluded: *“Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients. “*

**From:** Jack Hillen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:40 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a Minnetonka resident and against reinstating a mask mandate. Please consider this email as a petition against putting an unnecessary burden on Minnetonka citizens and businesses.

Respectfully,

Jack & Caitlin Hillen  
5135 Dominick Dr  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** Jennifer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:40 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for mask mandate

Our family supports reinstating a city wide mask mandate while omicron numbers are high. We wanted to share our voices in the conversation.

Thank you,

Jennifer Leslie  
11927 Meadow Ln W

**From:** Scott Rheinhart  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate a very bad idea

Minnetonka Mask Mandate

As Minnetonka residents, my family and I are very much against the ridiculous idea of Minnetonka enforcing a mask mandate. If it hasn't been apparent already, citizens showing common sense know what they need to do to protect themselves. It is up to the individual to care for themselves. Minnetonka has not suffered because there was not a mask mandate. In fact I think you will find our citizenry proud that they haven't been forced to capitulate to draconian measures. Please, DO NOT pass this motion.

**From:** Monica Listokin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate discussion 1/14/22

I've been in NC for a month caring for my 92 year old mother. There is a mask mandate in her city, Winston-Salem. When I returned to Minnesota on 1/8/22, with COVID rates headed towards heaven, I shopped in Minnetonka (pharmacy) and St. Louis Park (groceries). In both places 2/3 of the patrons had freed themselves of masks (I counted!). I am a resident of Minnetonka, my teens go to Hopkins High School and wear masks all day, with no complaint. Really. We're heading into another wave of COVID cases. Please, implement a mask mandate.  
I

Thank you,  
Monica Listokin  
15697 Woodgate Rd. S, Minnetonka

**From:** Mae Tunks  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please enforce a mask mandate for all public spaces and school building in Minnetonka. We need to do all we can to reduce the spread of the Omicron variant.

Mae Tunks

**From:** Diane  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate for Minnetonka

YES, I am strongly in favor of reinstating a mask mandate for Minnetonka!  
Let's be a leader in curbing some anxiety for all who are in Minnetonka for school, jobs, shopping, living in homes, etc.! Hopefully, our suburban neighbors will also follow suit.

It's something we CAN do that CAN make a difference!

Diane Bancroft  
Resident of Minnetonka

**From:** Reed Nelson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please don't do this.

Dear Minnetonka city Council,

This will Kill business as people who value freedom will just go to other cities and do their business there. It will tick citizens off; we want our freedom to make our own choice.

Everybody knows masks don't work. The virus can go through a mask easily. That's the real science.

Please don't do this.

Reed Nelson

**From:** Kayla Tooley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:16 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** NO mask mandate  
Dear Minnetonka City Council members,

It is disappointing to learn you are considering re-instating the mask mandate. Masks should always be a choice, never a mandate. Any "mandate" is completely unlawful and unconstitutional.

Should you allow this to go through AGAIN, I will gladly take my dollars to a neighboring community that allows for mask choice. This includes grocery stores, convenience stores, and community buildings. By mandating masks, you risk hurting local businesses. A mask mandate is not what our city needs, especially right now as Minnetonka businesses are struggling to stay open and maintain employees.

Please consider this email and vote against any new mask mandates.

Thank you,  
Kayla Tooley  
18816 Kingswood Terrace  
Minnetonka, MN 55345



**From:** Don Honse  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:21 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

As a informed resident of Minnetonka I think a mask mandate is ludicrous. The virus will not be beaten by virtue signaling. The answer to the pandemic is therapeutic treatments and common sense, hey while your at it why not close schools and the economy, we've seen how successful that's been.

**From:** Kate Kowal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello! As a spouse of an emergency medicine provider who is currently unable to perform his job efficiently (because of how many beds are taken up by covid patients and the hospital system being overloaded as a result), we are 100% in favor of the mask mandate. We feel it is long overdue and an easy step that people can take to help ease the hospital system and protect the vulnerable in our community.

Thanks,  
Kate Kowal

**From:** Winston.Wood  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am writing to express my full support for implementing a mask mandate. At no time during the Pandemic have we seen case rates as high as they are now, and as such, now is a better time to impose one than ever. Knowing that in virtually any public indoor space that the chances that there is someone there that has covid are extremely high, it is very disconcerting to see anyone in those spaces without a mask. There continue to be many individuals who don't feel the need to wear a mask in public indoor spaces, either because they are not aware of the recent Omicron suge, are not fully understanding how Covid spreads, or for a variety of other reasons. This creates unnecessary health risks on everyone else.

Thank you,

Winston Wood

**From:** WARREN BANCROFT

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:49 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

To Whom it may Concern

I am in favor of a city wide mask mandate during the upswing in covid we are currently experiencing! The sooner the better to help try and head off some of the stress this upswing is placing on business, hospitals, schools etc.

Sincerely,

Warren Bancroft-citizen of Minnetonka

**From:** Andy Weigman

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:02 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Masks at the "Emergency" meeting

Hello,

As a person who just got robbed in Minnetonka in broad daylight, I suggest and hope emergency meetings stop focusing on masks, and onto things like community safety. Really. Think about where you are putting your time for a second. I am appalled.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, thinking that there will be a different outcome. Forced masks didn't work before, they won't work again.

It's time to move on.

Andy Weigman

3532 croftview terrace

**From:** Kristi Spike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:05 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that a mask mandate is being considered for the City of Minnetonka. Please use logic and reconsider this. Usefulness of masks is subject to who you ask. They haven't worked the past two years, so why would you consider implementing an ineffective policy again? Restaurants and other businesses will be the true sufferers of a "mandate" and I can assure you that, individually, I will not comply or I will take my business elsewhere. Please vote to allow people to make their own decisions whether to mask or not. Sincerely,  
Kristi

**From:** Summer Hendrickson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:20 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mtka mask

This is absolutely ridiculous to place a mask mandate. We are all capable of making our own decisions on wearing a mask or not. No one needs to be told to do so! We are completely against having a mask mandate.

Summer Hendrickson

**From:** Myroslav Billy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:24 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Why would we not take extra steps to try to stop or decrease the spread of COVID? It's a simple solution to a large problem! I wear a mask for over 8 hours a day for work and have no issues. Why is it so difficult to wear a mask when entering an establishment for a short period of time? Don't we want this to be over with and keep our friends and family safe?!

Have a Blessed Day  
Billy

**From:** Tammy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,

Please vote no on the mask mandate.

We've seen the data that masks aren't working. Even CNN has experts saying a piece of cloth over your face doesn't prevent a virus with such tiny droplets from going into the air. Walk outside with your mask on, can you still see your breath? Yes you can and that should be enough for you to vote no on any mask mandates. We will not go to any establishment that requires them and that's so sad because the small businesses will be the ones hurt by the reckless choice.

Thank you for your time.

Tammy

Tammy Zywojko  
Computer Connection Corp  
1101 W. 80th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55420

**From:** Marna Klammer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate meeting in Minnetonka

I vote YES !! for a Mask Mandate throughout our community and to begin immediately and is longtime overdue!

Marna Klammer  
17315 Bay Circle  
Minnetonka MN 55391

Thank you  
Marna Klammer

**From:** Linda Johnson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:36 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** January 14 meeting

I am against having Minnetonka put a mask mandate in place. I have yet to see any overwhelming evidence that wearing 'a mask' prevents anyone from getting the virus. Most of the time people are not even wearing the mask properly. If you are sick stay home and treat your symptoms.

It has been shown that the only type of mask that really does anything as far as preventing the spread is the N95 mask when worn properly. So, if you impose a mask mandate are you going to require everyone to wear the N95 mask? Are you going to provide them for everyone? It's winter, people are together indoors...

In my humble opinion people are so afraid of their shadows and that is exactly where the governing authorities want us. They sanitize everything - counters, door knobs, their hands, anything they could run a sanitizing cloth over; gloves on so your skin doesn't touch some surface you may not have sanitized to the nth degree; and are already wearing masks for so long they have no natural immunity left in their bodies. Get outdoors, eat some dirt, drink from a hose and stay home if you are ill. Treat the symptoms and stop running to get a new test kit every time you have the sniffles.

Yes, I am vaccinated. Yes, I know people who have had every one of the variants; I know people who have died; This last variant is like... the flu! We have no natural immunity left.

**Linda Johnson**  
**5725 Lake Rose Dr**

**From:** Therese Swenson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:04 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** mask mandate

Thank you Mayor Brad Wiersum and council members *for serving your Minnetonka Community.*

In reference to reinstating a mask **mandate** in Minnetonka;  
I think the key word is **mandate**. Regardless of whether a person chooses when to, where to, or if to wear a mask for health purposes should be the freedom of the individual deciding, and not mandated by a city or other governmental body.

With respect and kind regards,  
Therese Swenson

**From:** Kathryn Rogness

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:23:17 PM CST

**To:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: City Mask Mandate**

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to a city mask mandate. I imagine you have all seen the science of masking - they do not provide adequate protection by any standard. I will keep this short. My family will avoid ANY business in Minnetonka requiring masking. I will take my business to Excelsior, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria - literally anywhere else. I know many people who will do the same. Businesses in the city of Minnetonka will feel the financial pain of any mask mandates. Please consider the harm to our city should you decide to make our health choices for us. Masks, especially cloth or surgical masks, provide very little, if any, protection. And please remember - ALL of this disposable PPE (surgical masks, N95, KN95, etc) end up in landfills and our oceans. Billions of tons of PPE in our oceans! We are accelerating the destruction of the planet for no real health benefit! Follow the actual science.

Thank you,

Kathryn Rogness

**From:** Andrea Cady

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:32:07 PM CST

**To:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: City Wide Mask Mandate**

Members of the Minnetonka City Council:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE a mask mandate, and if you all enact one, I will NO LONGER dine or shop in Minnetonka. I will take my family's business elsewhere. I am sure you all know, and are more than likely aware of, this will hurt the city shops and restaurants that are owned by small business owners...which they have greatly suffered enough the past two + years. Masks do not work, and if people are that scared, there are store pickup services they can use.

Choose your vote wisely.

Andrea Cady

**From:** Melissa Moore  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please enact a mask mandate

Dear city council,  
I am so tired of not being able to live my life because too many people are NOT wearing masks. Please enact a mask mandate to help keep us all safe. Make it an n95/ kn95 mask mandate. It is past time to require masks in all public places. Protect all of us.  
Thank you,  
Melissa Moore  
4956 Clear Spring Rd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** David Birrow  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:50 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Pro Mask Mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and members of the city council,

My name is David Birrow and I live at 15028 Williston Ln, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

I am writing in strong support of a mask mandate. As you know, masks are the simplest and most cost effective way to stop the spread of COVID. My son, Nathaniel, is four years old and not eligible for vaccination. For him, everyday life is just as dangerous as it was for the rest of us in March of 2020 when the pandemic began. He has no protection other than his mask and he would be a lot safer if those around him wore one as well. He's a sport about wearing his mask, so adults should be able to follow suit and wear a mask without complaint.

Nathaniel loves preschool and we want schools to stay open. A mask mandate would help shorten the pandemic, keep schools open, and protect the vulnerable members of our community, especially young children.

Thank you for your work,

David Birrow

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:57 PM  
**Subject:** Do not mandate mask

**From:** heidi schoen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate and virtual “learning”

Please do not force a mask mandate or virtual learning on the Minnetonka high school students.

This is not proven helpful and productive to learning.

Heidi  
Mother of 10th grade MHS student- considering a move to private school if Minnetonka turns back to virtual.

**From:** Steve Leventhal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:26 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I would urge the city Council to vote against any mask mandate. If we follow the science, it shows that masks do not stop the Omicron variant.

I also feel that if somebody wants to wear a mask they can, I support someone’s choice in wearing one or not.

Steve Leventhal  
Fetterly Rd W 55305

**From:** Rachel Grise  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate please!

I’m a Minnetonka resident and mom of three - the best way we can keep kids in school and our community members safe and OUT of our overwhelmed hospitals is to have (and enforce) a mask mandate. This is a simple thing we can do that makes a difference, and can even save lives. Please pass one, and thank you for your hard work.

Rachel Hartland



**From:** Cheryl Carstensen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Requirement

Please do not require masks in the city of Minnetonka. I am not an anti-Vanderbilt or anti-masker. I am fully vaccinated with booster, and have had Covid in the past. However, in regards to businesses, if masks are required, such as at gyms, I will not attend. I cannot exercise in a mask, and will not go. Please leave the decision to the individual or the individual business. Thank you.

Cheryl Carstensen  
14212 Bellevue Drive, Minnetonka

**From:** Rachel Meneghini  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Consideration 1/14

Hello,  
I am writing in support of a city-wide mask mandate for Minnetonka. It would make my family and I feel more comfortable to be in public which means we would spend more money in the community. Currently my family and I are cutting back on non-essential outings for things like hair cuts, community ed classes, indoor recreation, and gift shopping at small businesses. Thank you for your consideration,  
Rachel

**From:** Ana and Jean-Michel Michno  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

We fully support the mask mandate. Given the high level of transmission in our community, it is crucial that a citywide mask mandate be established as soon as possible. Thank you.

Ana and Jean-Michel Michno  
4620 Eastwood Road  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Stephanie Herrick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:03 PM  
**Subject:** Minnetonka mask mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Minnetonka City Council Members,

My name is Stephanie Herrick; I live at 15028 Williston Lane. I am writing regarding the potential citywide mask mandate. I am strongly in support of this mandate. As the mother of a 4-year-old child who is too young to be vaccinated and has no protection against COVID, he relies on his community to help keep him safe. And that is the wonderful thing about Minnetonka - it IS a community that cares about its members. By passing the citywide mask mandate, our community will show it cares about young children like my son, along with immunocompromised and otherwise vulnerable individuals, and our healthcare workers, who have already been taxed to the brink. Wearing a mask is such a simple action with such a great impact. Let's do this for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Herrick

**From:** Lindsey Heritage  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate meeting

Yesterday, Monday, January 10, 2022, the CDC admits that 75% of all Covid deaths had at least 4 commorbidities, stated that masks don't work, and Covid has a 99% recovery rate, a mask mandate is government overreach at this point.

People are Not dying in the streets.  
People can stay home or wear a face mask by choice.

People are NOT dying in the streets.

Stop the nonsense!

Vote NO to mask mandates.

Thank you,  
Lindsey Heritage

**From:** Kevin Hatlestad  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:09 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Ann Hatlestad  
**Subject:** Please DO NOT implement a mask mandate!!

Minnetonka administrators,

PLEASE DO NOT implement a mask mandate!

The data and abundant real proven science says it won't stop the spread of Covid, Delta, Omnicron, or any virus.... All it'll do is further punish and crush Minnetonka businesses while folks take their money and community investments elsewhere. "Cases" are high, but death rate and hospitalizations are way down from their peak a year ago. Let's have some perspective and common sense.

Thank you!

Kevin & Ann Hatlestad

**From:** Jane Gordon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking up

I am former City Councilmember Jane Gordon and I am in favor of a city wide masking initiative!!!! Let's keep the outstanding citizens of Minnetonka safe as they shop, exercise and enjoy what our city has to offer!!!!

**From:** Rebecca McGrath  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please enact a mask mandate in our city. Many of us are afraid to visit our many businesses due to the lack of masking. Businesses are having trouble staffing because of the rapidly increasing rates of virus. Hospitals are filling up with Unvaccinated patients, making our very existence in this area more dangerous. Our healthcare workers are burnt out. The simple wearing of a mask could improve all of above. We will still get breakthrough cases but even if we could reduce by 20%, the trickle affect will be amazing. It is just a mask. We have shown that people can work, play sports and socialize while wearing a mask. Look at the two high schools in Minnetonka... one with a mask mandate and one without... the high school without the mask mandate has had amazingly high numbers throughout the past 4 months. Please mandate masks so that those of us who believe in science can feel safer leaving home.

Rebecca McGrath  
18 year Minnetonka resident.

**From:** Staci Caille  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:14 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please consider those of us who have done everything asked and understand that by yet reimplementing a mask mandate to protect those who refuse to protect themselves is only harming small businesses. I, for one, refuse to frequent a business with this mandate. We are reaching a breaking point to the human psyche. Those who want to wear one, do. We do not need big government restrictions on our daily activities.

-Staci Caille

**From:** Chaley Gloude  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:17 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** NO MASK MANDATE

End the mask mandates please!

Omicron is not as dangerous. People are going to get Covid no matter what. The masks need to stop!

**From:** Gina Ramacciotti  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:36 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate meeting

Hello,

I live on Scenic circle in Minnetonka. I am an attorney and a mom of two kids. I encourage you to vote in favor of a mask mandate. Almost all employees at target, Lund's, etc .. wear masks but yet they have to be subject to customers who refuse to wear a mask.

I can't imagine having to go to work and be exposed to hundreds of unmasked people. This mandate protects those workers in retail probably the most. It is difficult for stores individually to enact their own mandates as it is a polarizing issue. So please vote to protect those workers!

Thank you,  
Gina Iannone

**From:** Janice Srnec  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:08 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** masking in Minnetonka

Hello,

I saw a news article this morning that Minnetonka will be voting on a city masking requirement. Please require masks in Minnetonka & please include Minnetonka High School in this requirement.

The school board has declined to even discuss this possibility for MHS at this time. Studies have clearly shown that masks reduce transmission of the virus, case numbers are climbing rapidly, and MHS has thousands of students and staff inside one building. Masking at MHS would protect not only those students and staff, but would also protect their families and the rest of the community.

Thank you,  
Janice Srnec

**From:** Beth Schofield

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:51 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hello!

I'm writing in for support of a mask mandate to be passed yet again in Minnetonka. Our neighbors in Hopkins just passed a temporary mask mandate so there is no reason for Minnetonka to not do the same.

I'm one of those people who still wear masks even with being vaccinated and boosted to help keep those around me safe. It's one of the smallest and easiest gestures to try and keep those who cannot be vaccinated safe. Our neighbors who have been working in retail and front facing jobs have primarily been masked the whole time. Staying masked (if you haven't already) in stores helps them stay safe as well. It's just a courtesy.

Yes, I realize that wearing masks isn't fun or comfortable. But, because of them, social distancing, etc, I've been able to stay healthy, limit exposing others, and show respect to those in retail/front facing jobs by trying to make sure they stay healthy as well.

Dane County in Wisconsin has never dropped their mask mandate. I think Minnetonka should be able to handle having a mask mandate in place for the next month or two to reduce the case load, reduce the burden on the healthcare system, and just help out the greater community. If people DO get sick or injured, they should be able to access care and not be turned away or forced to wait for hours longer than it typically should be.

Be kind to all your neighbors, let's keep them safe.

Thank you,  
Beth S.

**From:** matt s

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:22 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Comments on Mask Mandate in Minnetonka

Hi, I am writing to support a mask mandate in Minnetonka during this unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases. We need to protect those most vulnerable in our community including children under 5 that can not be vaccinated yet and immunocompromised and other high risk individuals.

I would also encourage the council to include schools within the city as part of this mandate. This would have the effect of adding masks at the high school where district employees and students are not currently protected and where staff and student absences resulted in schedule disruptions and suspending in-person classes due to Covid-19.

I also encourage specifics to be applied to the masking to align with the CDC guidance on effectiveness. I have attached a graphic showing performance of the N-95 or similar vs other methods. Gators, single cloth masks and similar should be called out for being non-compliant. Also, clear guidance should be stated that masks must cover nose and mouth. This sounds simplistic, but many only will choose to conform to what is stated.

## Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.  
Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

I believe we are all in this together and that helping our community stay strong involves all of us working together.

Thank you,

--

Matt Srnec  
4613 Lynwood Terrace  
Minnetonka

**From:** Megan Miller

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:30 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

This will again destroys businesses and cause even more divisions. I personally will not be wearing a mask anywhere. If you mandate this you will only be putting more stress and strain on already weary employees as they now have to have the added stress of asking people to mask. This is not their job and you will not be forcing me or my family to wear a mask. Leave people alone!!!!

Megan Miller  
5613 W Glen Moor Rd  
Minnetonka

**From:** Gayle Jentz

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:35 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Please institute a mask mandate

Minneapolis and St Paul have instituted a mask mandate because of the high infection rate.

Minnetonka is not immune.

Wearing a mask is a simple, painless method to protect ourselves and others. Please reinstate the mask mandate.

Gayle Jentz  
Minnetonka



**From:** Amy Fischer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:13 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** mask mandate

I 100% support a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I know many people are opposed to it, but I believe they are more opposed to being told to wear a mask more than they are opposed to wearing a mask.

Thank you.

Amy Fischer  
Minnetonka resident

**From:** Shelly Frederickson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Minnetonka mask mandate should include Minnetonka High School

Hello,

I am a parent of a Minnetonka schools child. I have cancer and am immunocompromised. Minnetonka high school does not have a mask mandate. If a mask mandate is enacted for the city of Minnetonka, then it needs to include Minnetonka High School as 3200 kids and several hundred staff are in very close contact daily and further spreading the virus to family members and community members. Omicron is especially virulent to children under 5 and kids and adults who are either unvaccinated or immunocompromised. It will do no good to enact a mask mandate for the city but leave out the thousands of people at Minnetonka high school. Thank you for your consideration.

Shelly R. Frederickson

**From:** Julie Rolfe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Potential Mask Mandate

I am very disappointed to hear that Minnetonka is considering a mask mandate when most current information available on Omicron is that the symptoms are milder and hospitalization for Omicron is lower. Yes. It is more contagious than previous versions.

We need to accept COVID is here to stay. The death rate is low. I believe heart disease is still the number one cause of death in the United States. We could probably save more lives by banning fast food restaurants in the city than by wearing masks. Especially, given the ability to prove masks help prevent COVID does not have statistics to support it.

A Minnetonka Resident

**From:** James Heer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am in support of a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka. I think it should also apply to all public schools in the city. Covid cases in our are are still on the rise and masks can slow and prevent spread. It is a small step everyone can take for the good of all. Slowing and preventing spread will also help ease the burden on overwhelmed healthcare workers, teachers, and staff that support these important roles.

Thank you,  
Kristy Heer - Minnetonka Resident

**From:** Julie Grice  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting

Hello, my name is Julie Grice, and I am a Minnetonka resident. I'm writing to ask the Council to please vote in favor of a mask mandate for a short term until this COVID peak subsides. We have disabled and chronically ill friends and family members, as well as a child who is still too young to be vaccinated. With COVID cases at an all-time high, please protect our most vulnerable neighbors by requiring masks in Minnetonka.

As I'm sure you're aware, it is extremely difficult to access tests (both home antigen tests and appointments for PCR testing) right now, which means that is a mitigation tool we are all short on at the moment. Despite that, our test positivity rate is over 27%, according to the CDC (as seen here: [https://covidactnow.org/us/minnesota-mn/county/hennepin\\_county/?s=27951685](https://covidactnow.org/us/minnesota-mn/county/hennepin_county/?s=27951685))—how many more cases also aren't being caught? Masks have been shown to be an effective tool to decrease the spread of COVID, and we should be doing what we can to protect our community.

Hopkins has enacted a 30-day mask mandate beginning at the end of this week, and Minneapolis and St Paul have also reinstated their mask requirements. Please follow our neighbors' example and set a mask mandate for Minnetonka to protect our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Grice

**From:** Christina Larson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:33 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

To whom it may concern:

We are homeowners in Minnetonka, and have two young children in elementary school. Please do not make masks mandatory for businesses or restaurants. We will simply take our shopping and dining to a neighboring city who is not participating in this Covid craziness. Our kids are forced to wear masks all day at school, and we refuse to harm their mental wellbeing past the point that is required to receive an education.

-The Larson Family

**From:** Sherri Anderla  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:33 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

As a resident and family of Minnetonka, I ask that you reinstate a city wide mask mandate including all schools.

The impact of this pandemic is enormous and my family is at high risk. Thank you for considering the mask mandate and implementing it to be effective promptly.

Sherri A.

**From:** Darcy Wright  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:47 AM  
**To:** Mike Funk  
**Subject:** NO Mask mandate

Hello,

These mandates must stop! We know lock downs didn't work and we need the facts! If you want to wear a mask please do. We have been vaccinated, we have been boosted, there is natural immunity now. We now know how to keep our environments clean. Let's protect the elderly and the compromised, but we need to live our lives, our kids need to go to school! I can share that my 88 year mother wants to live her life to the fullest. The fear mongering must stop! Your raincoat only works if it rains!

Thank you,  
Darcy Wright

<https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

**From:** Becky Garroch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

For the meeting Friday 14 Jan

I'm writing to request that you support the temporary reinforcement of the mask Mandate across Minnetonka.

Given the surge in cases, and experiences seen globally with Omicron. Surgical mask wearing will reduce the infection rates so that it is manageable for hospitals and healthcare settings.

Also urge, as a parent of two Minnetonka High Schoolers that this is required in MHS. The only school in District not requiring masks and in the age group which is had the highest positivity rate. They don't live in a bubble, they have younger unvaccinated siblings, elderly relatives and they serve front line roles on many businesses across the city.

Thank you

Becky Garroch

**From:** Fetter, Chad M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:09:58 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

It is my understanding that you are considering implementing a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka.

I would like to understand the rational for this consideration? There is plenty of both scientific and real live evidence (over the past two years), that masks have not and cannot stop or even slow down the spread of Covid. Please consider what you are doing to your business and your local economy. I cannot speak for everyone, but know there are many with my same feelings, that if this mandate goes through, then you have eliminated my business and many that I know from considering Minnetonka for any of their/our discretionary money. There are plenty of restaurants and business in nearby cities that we would be happy to give our business to.

Regards,

**Chad Fetter**

**From:** Suzi Fannon

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:50:39 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Brad, Dev, Kimberly, Brian, Rebecca, Bradley and Kissy:

If you decide to dictate a mask mandate, myself and many others will travel to Chanhassen or other places to do our business. We will protest this Marxist agenda designed to "look" like you're doing something, when, in fact, it is proven that masks DO NOTHING given the source and way people wear and use them. Don't you realize people have hands that touch things? Do you really think one scoop of sanitizer covers all? Are people's eyes covered? This disease is fiercely contagious and there is NOTHING a mask can do about it. LET US DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO DO. The government can do nothing and only prolongs the variant!

The vulnerable and scared should stay home ... THAT is what you should suggest. The other 99.9% of us will get it less than a cold! Many already have. If you want to feel good and wear a mask ... great, but the mask will not prevent anyone from getting Covid! LET US DECIDE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES.

Susan Fannon  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Bonnie Burton

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:45 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To the Minnetonka City Council:

We very much support the proposed City wide mask mandate, given Covid/Omicron's stunning contagion rate and recent state statistics.

We understand there will be pushback by some; however most intelligent folk will comply and support this mandate.

Thank you.

Bonnie Burton & Edward Soltis  
13801 Minnetonka Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Kate Granger

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:45 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Please DO NOT include Minnetonka High School in potential mask mandate

Good morning,

I am aware that there is a relatively small group of high school parents who are up in arms following a recent school board meeting. It was apparently their hope that the school board would discuss and subsequently vote to update the school's policies regarding the handling of Covid-19, including but not limited to requiring all students and staff to wear masks. Since this did not occur, I know some of these parents are requesting that the City of Minnetonka include the high school in a mask mandate, should the city vote to reinstate one. I would just like to point out that this position is certainly not shared by all parents. The district's Covid numbers show that the schools that have had a mask mandate all year (middle and elementary schools) have not had lower Covid numbers than the high school. If anything, it has been the opposite. I understand that people are nervous and that we all want what we think is best for our children. While I would hope that these decisions would be made based on data and not the public's feelings or guesses on what the upcoming days may bring, I just wanted to make sure that a very vocal minority wasn't the only group sharing their thoughts on the subject.

Thank you for your time,

Katie Granger

**From:** D Cadreau

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:54 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

I would really like to see a temporary mask mandate. I feel it is very important to keep all people safe. Masks work!! Thanks for your consideration.

Deanna Cadreau  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Brynn Warminsky  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:49 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please pass MTKA mask mandate

Hello,

I am a resident of Minnetonka and I would like my thoughts to be considered when voting on reinstating the city wide mask ordinance this Friday, 1/14/22.

PLEASE LISTEN TO SCIENCE - masking WORKS! It helps to mitigate the spread of Covid 19, especially with the current surge due to the Omicron variant. Unfortunately, Covid is not going away, so we as citizens need to be able to live life safely with it. That means getting vaccinated, boosted, AND WEARING MASKS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES - most especially in the schools.

I have a child at Minnetonka High School (MHS,) where there are no masking requirements and it is NOT working. Last Friday, MHS went virtual for the day due to the high numbers of staff out sick with Covid. Making masking voluntary at the High School is just plain stupid and IRRESPONSIBLE. We all know that being in school is the best option for our children; both academically & socially. But it needs to be SAFE and not a health hazard - I believe that having a mask requirement will help to keep all students and staff safe & healthy at school.

I appreciate the opportunity for my voice and opinion to be heard. I truly hope the city will vote to reinstate the city wide mask mandate (including in the schools,) in order to help mitigate the spread, which will in turn helps to keep everyone stay safe and healthy during this health crisis.

Best,  
Brynn Warminsky  
10794 Cedar Bend - Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Josh Larson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:00 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Meeting Comment

No mask mandate please!

I am a Minnetonka resident and much of my shopping and dining is done within the city of Minnetonka. If the city of Minnetonka enacts a mask mandate, I am confident that I will frequent other businesses in neighboring cities where masks are not mandated. Please allow our residents freedom of choice.

Thank you,  
Josh Larson - Minnetonka Resident



**From:** Dan Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In Favor of a Masking Requirement

Good afternoon, and thanks for all you're doing on behalf of our city.

I strongly encourage you to implement a masking requirement for all public indoor spaces within the city of Minnetonka, and for outdoor public events as well. Our healthcare system is facing one of the greatest challenges of its lifetime, and I view it as our job as responsible citizens to ease that burden as much as possible.

Additionally, I believe requiring masks is the only measure we can take at this point to give our schools and businesses the greatest chance to stay open. I want my children to be in school learning, and I want our restaurants and shops to stay busy so we can enjoy what they offer and their employees can earn a living.

Please consider requiring masks in all public indoor spaces - both privately and publicly owned - for the good of our community's health and economy.

Thank you,

Dan Olson / Ward 4 resident

**From:** Barbara Berg  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:56 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I support an indoor mask mandate that includes the public schools that are within the Minnetonka city limits. I'm specifically asking for the public school inclusion because the school board tabled the concept on January 6 and won't meet until January 20. Given the exponentially more rapid spread of the Omicron variant, our community cannot adequately protect itself if thousands of people per day are in our city at the schools but are exempt from indoor masking requirements.

Barbara Berg  
17560 Barrington Court  
Minnetonka, MN. 55345

**From:** Walt Pitman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:00 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate feedback

Thank you for considering this question and asking for feedback.

I am 100% opposed to a “mask mandate” for businesses in Minnetonka. All that will do is drive people out of the city for restaurants, businesses, and churches. That said, I’m fine with the approach that Edina has taken where they "strongly worded encouragement” to wear masks but not making it a city-wide mandate. Then businesses and individuals can choose what is best for them.

In the Potter's hands,

**Walt Pitman**  
15001 Wychewood Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Mary Rausch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:07 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I believe in “better safe than sorry”.  
It doesn’t hurt anyone to mandate masks, but not having a mask mandate can be life-threatening for many people.

**From:** Nina Crittenden  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:28 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** A Minnetonka Mask Mandate Would Be AWESOME!!!

Dear City of Minnetonka,

I am writing in full support of a city-wide mask mandate. PLEASE make it include all Minnetonka Schools.

Thank you for listening to science and medical professionals!

Sincerely,  
Nina Crittenden

**From:** Aaron Everett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:05 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on mask mandate

Follow the science! Studies from the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research state cloth masks do little to prevent the spread of COVID19. The CDC and Mayo Clinic have released similar, supporting research showing the effectiveness of cloth masks at or below 10%. Per the CDC, the vast majority of serious illness was in people with multiple comorbidities. Such people should protect themselves with N95 masks, but there is no evidence supporting blanket mask mandates. To quote the CDC Director: "The overwhelming number of death, over 75 percent, occurred in people who had at least four comorbidities"

Now is not the time to place burdensome restrictions on the entire Minnetonka community, hindering business growth and further restricting our children from having healthy social interactions. Voting for a mask mandate is a vote of fear, not science. Encourage N95 masks for high-risk individuals, but it is time to move forward with optimism and decisions based in reality, not fear-mongering.

Regads,  
Aaron Everett

UMN source:  
<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>

**From:** Vanessa Stockard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:02 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** please require masking in Minnetonka

Please pass a masking mandate in Minnetonka to reduce the spread of Covid and to protect the public, especially those that are medically vulnerable and children under five who cannot be vaccinated. Please make this mandate apply to all public spaces in Minnetonka not just city owned buildings.

Thank you,

Vanessa Stockard  
Minnetonka resident

**From:** Bill Marzolf  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:31 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Meeting

To the members of the Minnetonka City Council, neighbors and friends,

I am not a voting constituent however I am an interested party in that I own a building in the Opus II Park, employing 7 people.

I am opposed to a forced mask mandate for several reasons. While it is well demonstrated that masks will limit particulate spread, they are understood to be permeable to viral distribution and, as such have little benefit with the exception of when a person is speaking or coughing. Masks provide some benefit, but it is limited.

When educated, many people will voluntarily use masks. They do this and it may help protect themselves from spreading and contracting the virus. Anecdotally, we believe this to be true but I have yet to see a definitive study proving this to be true. Viruses are really, really small and will find their way to the human respiratory system. Masks tend to make one feel good but certainly do not protect 100% from exposure. By recommending voluntary mask wearing, people will “get the message” and many will comply, some won’t. If you are concerned about contracting the virus, wear an N-95 style mask and protect yourself, stay home if you must. Unless you live in an isolation chamber, you will be exposed to the virus. Mask mandates have never been proven to work.

Mandating masks is governmental overreach. Citizens don’t like to be told what to do. In 2020 42,000 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents and another nearly 5 million were seriously injured. Those are big numbers, lets stop driving, that’s not likely to happen. The presence of this virus has had a terribly disruptive effect on all our lives. Mandating masks does more damage to our real and perceived sovereignty than the good that it creates. People need to feel (and be) free to make choices. With limited, demonstrated real benefit, why mandate something that just irritates people more. It’s high time to prepare for the next phase of this pandemic and that phase is learning to live with it.

Mandating masks has the effect of inducing fear into people unnecessarily. This fear causes people to avoid interaction with others. People tend to wear masks while driving alone in cars, they will avoid passing on the same side of the street, they will mask-up when walking alone on a sidewalk. People will avoid places of business and dining establishments. It should be well understood that forced closures of “non-essential” business has had a devastating effect on our economy, destroyed many small businesses and has done little to mitigate the spread of the virus. Mandated masks has the same effect. Remember this virus is a very, very small object, you have been or will absolutely be exposed to it in one form or another. As a governmental body, this council can do more to protect the vitality of our shared community by showing some restraint

I am not a person that is “anti-vaxer”, anti-masker or a denier of the damaging effects of this virus. I am a strong believer in liberty and the freedom to choose, of free will. I urge the members of this city council to demonstrate some restraint and resist the temptation to assert powers over citizens in this community. Try very hard to resist the temptation to politicize mask wearing. As a community let’s demonstrate common sense, preserve and protect the civil liberties of our citizens, work to preserve and encourage economic vitality and trust the good will engendered by delivering the message that we exist in a participatory democracy.

Thank you and I wish you all well.

Bill Marzolf  
President  
Anodyne, Inc.

**From:** Bancroft  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:31 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Vote YES to mask mandate!

Dear Minnetonka City Council Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to reinstate a mask mandate for all indoor spaces in the City of Minnetonka. We must do our part to curb the spread of this highly infectious variant of Covid. With hospitals being stretched so thin in beds and staff, this is one small and easy thing we can do to help decrease the spread of Covid and increase the likelihood that a bed and doctor/nurse will be available to take care of any Minnetonka city resident should they need emergency medical attention.

In addition, as a resident of Minnetonka, I would feel more comfortable shopping at and getting take-out from Minnetonka establishments if I knew masks were being worn by both the workers and customers. Currently, since I work by Minneapolis, I have switched over to picking things up from Minneapolis stores and restaurants where a mask mandate is already in progress.

Finally, schools are having a terrible time staffing and delivering quality education to all students as both kids and staff are coming down with Covid at unprecedented rates. We must do our part to help schools teach and kids learn by decreasing the spread of Covid.

Thank you,  
Kara Bancroft  
15849 Woodgate Road N  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Stacia Christenson

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 10:19:15 AM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack

**Subject: Thank you for your hard work and support**

THank you for your hard work and support in the wonderful community of Minnetonka.

I have raised my children here and have been here for 20+ years.

Ms. Schack, I respectfully and earnestly request your support and consideration of NOT voting for a mask mandate. The devastation we have experienced in the last two years has undoubtedly affect everyone... everyone. However, one of the single pieces of that devastation has been the society of masking. Not only is it now unproven in its effectiveness, but it also eliminates smiles and support and compromises our own immunity as we are breathing in bacteria that is in its breeding ground... a closed off/warm/moist area. I recognize masking keep large droplets from entering the air, but if one is sneezing and coughing, that is a sign of illness. Ill people should be encouraged to stay home.

Masking will devastate the small business community. It was reported that a Minneapolis restaurant owner had business down 70% the very weekend the masking mandate went into effect last weekend. Masking is detrimental. Help us make masking make sense, because it currently does not. We mask to go into a restaurant environment, for example, where we would then take off said mask (*and put it where? The clean, sanitary environment of the table in open air? The pocket? The coat pocket? The purse?*) and then we eat (where the greatest exposure to the orifice occurs) when we are closest to someone across the table. How about we just live life, eat healthy, exercise, get fresh and life-giving oxygen, wash our hands (what happened to that campaign?), appreciate natural immunity, and respect others by not coughing and sneezing in someone's personal space and stay home if not well.

Masking will do more harm than good; I earnestly ask that you vote no to mandate masks. I promise you, you have a MOUNTAIN of support on this side.

Thank you kindly for your consideration. It is all I could do to work on brevity here; I could go on and on with stories of dissuasion, but will thank you for your commitment to speak on our behalf.

Warm Regards,  
-Stacia Christenson

**From:** Brenda Heim

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:08:06 AM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Kimberly Wilburn; Deborah Calvert

**Subject:** Re: Supporting Mask Mandates

Good Morning Mayor and Council Members,

I am resending my letter of 1/10/22 with sincere thanks to Council Members Kirk and Calvert for their response.

It has come to my attention that Hopkins City Council voted last night in favor of a mask mandate. This in support of the students of Hopkins Schools. I'm sure you are all aware that many students of Hopkins Schools reside in the city limits of Minnetonka. Once again, I urge you to vote Friday in support of a mask mandate for Minnetonka...for the short term...in hopes of keeping students in school and maybe even saving a life or two.

Council Member Schaeppi, as our Council Representative, could you please reply as to how you intend to vote on this issue?

Thank you,  
Brenda Heim  
David Heim  
1900 Deer Hill Court  
Wayzata (city of Minnetonka)

**From:** Pat Alexander

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:47:33 AM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** MASKS

Dear Mayor and Minnetonka City Council members,

My husband are against a mask mandate.

We've tried masks mandates and we're no further ahead with the pandemic.

We've haven't seen any studies to prove they work. In fact we've seen papers written about the adverse effects of mask wearing.

Please consider the validity of masking up again.

Thank you,  
Pat and Mary Alexander  
Minnetonka, Mn.

**From:** Stacey  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:46:01 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Fw: Mask Mandate - Vote NO**  
Hi Rebecca,

Below is the email I sent in last night. I am personally asking for you to vote NO on the mask mandate. There are several studies out there that show how ineffective a mask is. It should be a personal choice whether someone wears a mask or not. If someone is so scared of getting Covid because someone else is not wearing a mask they should not leave their home or utilize drive/pick up services. If masks are so effective, the mask that is worn should protect the individual enough as to not care what others are doing. This is a power trap in trying to control others, which is appalling. As I said in my email below, if the City enacts a ridiculous mask mandate I will no longer shop, dine or do business in Minnetonka. Twice a week I walk into our church not wearing my mask and all is good. One of these times I am volunteering as a faith formation leader in my child's class. Please read the following article.

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbrownstone.org%2Farticles%2Fmore-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1812ZbbKST5w0pvrca35ZOBUrHN19XhLIDrtgoGzuKSUtQtEeq1LgBVil&h=AT348SVP9UY9Q34CvqFDrNyle\\_9iFRIfzJ-BWvsAlQNG3FaNkRRe3xe4yt06bzsga5rC1SV2J0CbsCFA5F\\_b1V2Oky7NWxSi1HCw8OqthV1JiiD8zTpo1WWziazZIF\\_3ww&\\_tn\\_ =R\]-R&c\[0\]=AT0-pllyE0gjzLXoampeyPmphCjLoiuV4mYViU3b-gj6vh9wyUnf7ITAo3mOIU90OgtnddXYhVsVeeNG7aSuSAJrnrN3JxEty0Go34RQIEm1X3CTQIQ7U7FpyApETNP0KNOMSbZpM8UR9oFxHsA857u6yhm](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbrownstone.org%2Farticles%2Fmore-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1812ZbbKST5w0pvrca35ZOBUrHN19XhLIDrtgoGzuKSUtQtEeq1LgBVil&h=AT348SVP9UY9Q34CvqFDrNyle_9iFRIfzJ-BWvsAlQNG3FaNkRRe3xe4yt06bzsga5rC1SV2J0CbsCFA5F_b1V2Oky7NWxSi1HCw8OqthV1JiiD8zTpo1WWziazZIF_3ww&_tn_ =R]-R&c[0]=AT0-pllyE0gjzLXoampeyPmphCjLoiuV4mYViU3b-gj6vh9wyUnf7ITAo3mOIU90OgtnddXYhVsVeeNG7aSuSAJrnrN3JxEty0Go34RQIEm1X3CTQIQ7U7FpyApETNP0KNOMSbZpM8UR9oFxHsA857u6yhm)

Thank you.  
Concerned Citizen

**From:** "S. Proudfoot"  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:42:16 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Support the mask mandate!**  
My household fully supports a mask mandate for the city!  
Dr Suzanne Proudfoot  
1916 Yorkshire Ave S  
Mtka, MN 55305



**From:** Corey Keller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:55:14 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** No more masks! Enough is enough

These people are ridiculous triple vaxxed, wearing double masks. If that's what they want to do fine, but they can't make others do what they want to do!! Enough is enough

Businesses will be hurt, schools will have kids pulled out of it where kids are hurt and parents are pissed.

These people who complain need to start staying home if they're so concerned. They cannot control everyone's lives especially the people who have already had it. This is out of control

**From:** Corey Keller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Re: No more masks! Enough is enough

35 Northrup Ave  
Excelsior MN 55331

I don't live in Minnetonka, but my whole world is Minnetonka, my kids go to Minnetonka, my kids play sports at Minnetonka, I shop in Minnetonka, I work in Minnetonka. Everything I do is Minnetonka.

I don't understand why people who have a choice to stay home, keep their kids out of school, not take public transit whatever it is, just don't make that choice. These mask mandates have never proven to help on any chart, i've seen as far as cases.

This Mask thing is out of hand. State doesn't even mandate it why would an individual city. Out of hand...

**From:** Jennifer Noble  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:18:42 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi, Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** no mask mandate please

Please look at the covid deaths in our Minnetonka area before mandating a mask. You will find that yes people are getting covid right now BUT they are not dying from it. We need to worry more about Mental health right now and theft/burglaries in our area. Besides it's very easy to go to another city 5 miles away and give them my business. Please don't hurt our Minnetonka businesses.

Thank you!

Jennifer Noble

**From:** Tom Shawgo  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 8:29:28 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Please vote no mask mandate for our area.**  
Please vote no mask mandate for our area.

**From:** Jessica Kim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:16:25 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley  
**Subject:** Stop the mandates

To whom it concerns,

It is my understanding that you are considering implementing a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka.

I would like to understand the rationale for this consideration? There is plenty of both scientific and real live evidence (over the past two years), that masks have not and cannot stop or even slow down the spread of Covid. Please consider what you are doing to your business and your local economy. I cannot speak for everyone, but know there are many with my same feelings, that if this mandate goes through, then you have eliminated my business and many that I know from considering Minnetonka for any of their/our discretionary money. There are plenty of restaurants and business in nearby cities that we would be happy to give our business to. These such mandates are hurting our citizens, our children and taking away our freedom.

Thank you,  
Jessica Kim

**From:** Matt Bouts

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 9:59:42 PM CST

**To:** Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*NO FORCED MASKING\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

As someone who does extensive business in Minnetonka, I can't tell you how dissapointed I will be in your leadership if you vote to re-instate forced masking.

I will avoid doing any business in Minnetonka for the duration of any draconian mask mandate, should it be implemented.

These blanket policies hurt people and businesses.

Some people say that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity.

Please make the only right choice and vote no to this.

**From:** Matt Bouts

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:50 PM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Cc:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: \*\*\*\*\*NO FORCED MASKING\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your response. I am not a resident. I own a business in Wayzata right on the border of Minnetonka at 15600 Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata, MN 55391. I conduct staff and client engagements at restaurants and other businesses mostly near the Ridgedale area. Moving these things to downtown Wayzata is not my preference, but will happen if Minnetonka goes forward with this mask mandate. And who knows if that business comes back to Minnetonka.

Thank you for your time,

Matt Bouts

**From:** Darcy Wright  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi, Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** No mask mandate

Hello,

These mandates must stop! We know lock downs didn't work and we need the facts! If you want to wear a mask please do. We have been vaccinated, we have been boosted, there is natural immunity now. We now know how to keep our environments clean. Let's protect the elderly and the compromised, but we need to live our lives, our kids need to go to school! I can share that my 88 year mother wants to live her life to the fullest. The fear mongering must stop! Your raincoat only works if it rains!

Thank you,  
Darcy Wright

<https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

**From:** Jennifer Shawgo  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 8:28:25 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: No mask mandate**  
Please vote no mask mandate for our area. Thank you

Jennifer Shawgo

**From:** Candace Rust  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:37:44 PM CST  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate-Friday meeting**

Please do not mandate masks in the city of Minnetonka. We know masks don't work unless it's N95. Please do not mandate masks.  
Candace and David Rust

**From:** Andrea Cady

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:32:07 PM CST

**To:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: City Wide Mask Mandate**

Members of the Minnetonka City Council:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE a mask mandate, and if you all enact one, I will NO LONGER dine or shop in Minnetonka. I will take my family's business elsewhere. I am sure you all know, and are more than likely aware of, this will hurt the city shops and restaurants that are owned by small business owners...which they have greatly suffered enough the past two + years. Masks do not work, and if people are that scared, there are store pickup services they can use.

Choose your vote wisely.

Andrea Cady

**From:** Vicki Weber

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:15:11 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Vote No for Mask Mandate**

Mr Mayor and Council Members

I urge you to vote NO on Friday for the mask mandate. If you vote "yes", you are saying Minnetonka residents are not intelligent enough to make informed decisions for themselves and their families. That's not who we are. Lets concentrate on solving the crime issues to keep our city safe. Lets not do what Minneapolis feels is the way to go. We are better than that!  
Thank you.

Vicki Weber

**From:** Kathryn Rogness

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:23:17 PM CST

**To:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: City Mask Mandate**

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to a city mask mandate. I imagine you have all seen the science of masking - they do not provide adequate protection by any standard. I will keep this short. My family will avoid ANY business in Minnetonka requiring masking. I will take my business to Excelsior, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria - literally anywhere else. I know many people who will do the same. Businesses in the city of Minnetonka will feel the financial pain of any mask mandates. Please consider the harm to our city should you decide to make our health choices for us. Masks, especially cloth or surgical masks, provide very little, if any, protection. And please remember - ALL of this disposable PPE (surgical masks, N95, KN95, etc) end up in landfills and our oceans. Billions of tons of PPE in our oceans! We are accelerating the destruction of the planet for no real health benefit! Follow the actual science.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Rogness

**From:** Vijai Singh

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 6:42:01 PM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Friday meeting**

Good afternoon,

My wife and I heard about the vote last night and the pending meeting this Friday. I came from a 3rd country where basic human rights were a luxury. I was lucky enough to move to Minnesota in 1986 with my parents. My parents and I moved to Minnetonka in 1988. My parents still live in the same house and my wife, also lived in Minnetonka since 1988. We have lived in Minnetonka for 15 years. We have 5 kids, my wife was part of the cheerleading board and I've been part of Minnetonka baseball for a decade. We love this community and the openness of its members. My family and I would like to thank you for supporting "mask choice."

Thanks you,  
Singh Family

**From:** Sandy Brown

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 6:24:03 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask Mandate: VOTE NO**

Good evening Mr Mayor and council members.

I am a life long Minnetonka resident and am tired of being mandated to do something that has never been proven to be effective. If you read the news or listen to opposing parties you will hear that states that are mandating masks are not faring any better, much times worse than those that have no mask mandate.

Wearing a mask is a personal decision and should not be a mandated rule. Wearing a mask will not stop the spread of this disease. Would it not be wise for everyone to get Covid so that all people have natural antibodies that prevent them from getting the disease for a period of time (vaccinated or not)? Do you really feel more protected by wearing a mask?

It has been proven that cotton masks do not work. So why do we wear one? Because someone once said that you should or must wear a mask to be able to enter, do business or have contact with someone. Prove to the residents of Minnetonka that the mask mandate is actually going to make a difference. Show the raw unedited data. Can you do that?

So far the data we have been provided is skewed and communicated in a way to confuse and misinform. How many of the hospitalized are vaccinated and were admitted for Covid and not some other reason, AND how many of those that were admitted for covid were wearing a mask when they were out and about? Those numbers are not available are they?

Having lived here my entire life in the house I was brought home from the hospital to, it makes me sad and disappointed in those that have been elected for even considering this mask mandate. If this mandate passes I will take my business to another city in which is open and respectful to all persons. Driving a longer distance for food or services is not a inconvenience but a joy when you are treated with respect, dignity, and as a human being with choices. Remember we live in the United States where we the people have free speech and rights.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Brown

**From:** Sara Heffernan

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 6:19:36 PM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** City of Minnetonka mask mandate

Please do not allow the city of Minnetonka to reinstate a mask mandate. Studies have shown them to be mostly useless, cloth for sure. I'm upset that my kids still have to wear masks in Minnetonka elementary and middle schools. My son hates it, and honestly the masks and all the other covid measures have made him hate school. He's in third grade, his one and only normal year of school was kindergarten! If Minnetonka passes this mask mandate I will not set foot in any store in Minnetonka, I don't care how inconvenient that is. This must stop, how many more years will we be engaging in this mask kabuki theater! People who want to wear masks are free to do so I should be free to not wear a mask if I don't want to!

Thank you,

Sara Heffernan

12618 Cedar Lake Road

Minnetonka MN 55305

**From:** Melanie Teichner

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:13 AM

**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

The government doesn't have the right to tell me how to breathe. That should be the end of the the mask debate but unfortunately its not enough.

If masks "worked" then we wouldn't need to be having this debate again. Areas of the country that have high vaccination rates and mask mandates still have covid spikes, because these preventatives that make people feel safer, don't actually work. Break this never ending liability cycle and say no to a mask mandate.

Two years into a "pandemic"; at this point it is time to let people make their own healthcare decisions. Everyone who wants to be vaccinated and boosted is, time to live and let live. At no level of government is it okay to make healthcare decisions for the public, that's not the city of Minnetonka's job. Protects my rights and my freedoms, don't restrict them.

Thank You for reading,

Melanie Teichner

3607 Farmington Rd.



**From:** Nicole Stueve

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 6:45:16 AM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask Mandate**

Good morning,

I just heard you are considering a city of Minnetonka mask mandate, and I wanted to let you know that if this is put in place I will not step foot in one business in the city of minnetonka. This would be detrimental to businesses in this city.

I have many friends and family who feel the same way. We are done playing this game.

Nicole Stueve

**From:** Suzi Fannon

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 11:50:54 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask Mandate**

Dear Brad, Dev, Kimberly, Brian, Rebecca, Bradley and Kissy:

If you decide to dictate a mask mandate, myself and many others will travel to Chanhassen or other places to do our business. We will protest this Marxist agenda designed to "look" like you're doing something, when, in fact, it is proven that masks DO NOTHING given the source and way people wear and use them. Don't you realize people have hands that touch things? Do you really think one scoop of sanitizer covers all? Are people's eyes covered? This disease is fiercely contagious and there is NOTHING a mask can do about it. LET US DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO DO. The government can do nothing and only prolongs the variant!

The vulnerable and scared should stay home ... THAT is what you should suggest. The other 99.9% of us will get it less than a cold! Many already have. If you want to feel good and wear a mask ... great, but the mask will not prevent anyone from getting Covid! LET US DECIDE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES.

Susan Fannon  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Norm Olafson

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 5:04:18 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Deborah Calvert

**Subject: Mask Mandate**

Dear Mayor and Minnetonka Council Members,

There is no reasonable basis for a mask mandate, most certainly for masks of one's own choosing. Kindly vote "No" on such a proposal.

Norm Olafson

12025 Townview Road

Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** NANCY DICKINSON

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:42:11 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Deborah Calvert

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate Vote this Friday January 14th

Good Afternoon Mr Mayor and Councilmembers.

I have just heard about a Minnetonka mask mandate that will be voted on this Friday. Please vote "no" on this mandate.

Thank You!

Have a great evening!

Nancy Dickinson

2930 Oakland Road

Minnetonka Mn 55305

**From:** Ann Wiesner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:48 AM  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please, please establish a mask mandate in the City of Minnetonka, and include school buildings. Your window of opportunity for doing the right thing is very narrow, this surge is like wildfire. 6 weeks, 8 weeks, that's all we'll need. A crisis requires a crisis response. I'm literally begging you.

Thank you,

Ann Wiesner (*she/her*)  
16435 Norwood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Karen Burmeister  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:34:07 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate**  
Hi Rebecca,

I'm emailing you to ask you respectfully to vote "no" on the proposed mask mandate for Minnetoka. While we live in Shorewood, we shop and dine in Minnetonka daily. If a mandate is proposed for Minnetonka, we will take our business elsewhere. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Karen Burmeister

**From:** Susan Sadowsky  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 2:52:10 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate**

Hello Ms. Schack,

Please support a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I'm tired of this too however maybe fewer people would get infected and spread covid if all of us would simply wear a mask (and get vaccinated).

Thank you.

Sue Sadowsky  
11653 Cedar Pass  
Mtka. 55305

**From:** Eden Bodnar  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:03 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am a resident of Minnetonka and I would like my thoughts to be considered when voting on reinstating the city wide mask ordinance this Friday, 1/14/22.

I hope you will listen to the current science and see that masks work. Masks help to mitigate the spread of Covid 19, especially with the current surge due to the Omicron variant. Unfortunately, Covid is not going away, so we as citizens need to be able to live life safely with it.

Masks should be mandated everywhere right now, especially in our schools.

I have a child at Minnetonka High School (MHS,) where there are no masking requirements. Last Friday and apparently this Thursday and Friday and for part of next week, MHS will be virtual due to the high numbers of staff and students out sick with Covid. My senior wants to be in school with his friends, he wants to enjoy his last year of high school. The Minnetonka School Board would not even consider a motion to discuss masking and now school is disrupted again. I hope the city will vote to reinstate the city wide mask mandate (including in the schools,) in order to help mitigate the spread, which will in turn helps to keep everyone stay safe and healthy during this health crisis.

Sincerely,

Eden Bodnar

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:31 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** We have been doing mask for 2 years now we need to wake up this does not work and only hurts businesses. I am in the healthcare and see more people now have it with 3 injections then people with none. When are we going to admit we are handling this wrong?

**From:** Greg Hawkins

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 4:21:38 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum

**Cc:** Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject: Mask mandate**

It has finally come to a head with me after I heard the city was going to vote on a mask mandate.

( enough is enough )

We the people for which each of you "work for" need to listen to ALL the facts on masks, not just the one-sided direction that is politically motivated.

And that motivation is? "Fear" within the general public.

Under the governments direction many medical sites and medical information has been shut down because it goes against their agenda of keeping us in fear! (there are many successful solutions to this Covid thing other than what's being broadcast)

Wearing a mask for some could be prudent, but not all need to be mandated to wear one.

Let those that want to wear a mask do so, and those that wish not to wear one, likewise. It's our choice not that of the government.

Wearing a mask under stressful conditions is NOT healthy for the user. Example: playing sports in a building requiring masks be worn. NOT HEALTHY !!!

I hope everyone remembers this quote:

" The only thing we have to fear is fear itself"

By voting for a mask mandate you are bowing down to the fear of this situation, and in my eyes that's un-American.

Each of you need to dig deep and justify your vote based on ALL the facts, not just what you have heard or been told. If you need an answer, go and read the Bible and pray for guidance in your decision.

I have read thru the City of Minnetonka City Council Policies (all 235 pages) and did not find anything that states you have a duty, job, or even an obligation to issue such a mandate.

God bless you all !!!!

Greg Hawkins

Called Minnetonka home for 58 years and would like to keep saying "proud to be from Minnetonka"

**From:** Mike Ulasich

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 1:54:25 PM CST

**To:** Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kissy Coakley; Kimberly Wilburn; Rebecca Schack

**Subject:** YES to mask mandate

Dear Minnetonka City Council members,

I am very much in favor of a mask mandate for our community, to be implemented as soon as possible.

I live in Minnetonka and shop the local businesses regularly. It is important to me to protect our community and I personally wear a mask to protect those most at risk and slow the spread of the current COVID spike. Our restaurants and retail businesses need to stay open for business, kids need to be in school, and our teachers need to be protected and able to do their jobs. Our medical facilities are at their breaking point. Wearing masks is a simple easy way of protecting our whole community.

Michael Ulasich

4128 Pepperwood Trail

Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Jesse Nelson

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 1:30:16 PM CST

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** 2 quick comments

Hello Mr. Mayor and Council,

I am a Minnetonka resident. Regarding the potential mask mandate here in our city:

1. My son cannot wear a mask while he exercises. I will have to pull him from skating lessons at the Minnetonka Ice Arena if you implement this mandate. Please don't make me disappoint my son.
2. This will only hurt small businesses here in Minnetonka. For example, if someone wants to go out to eat, shop at a boutique, go to a small hardware store, etc. and not be hounded about masks, they'll just skip Minnetonka businesses and drive a few minutes further to Wayzata, Hopkins, Plymouth, Eden Prairie....the list goes on.

Additionally, this will open the door to issues at local businesses and institutions when some people don't want to comply. Are the police seriously supposed to waste their time arresting people for not wearing a cloth mask or whatever?

Please **actually look up the local data** before you cause unnecessary issues for our local businesses, places of faith, parents, and kids. Cases are up, but Omicron is thankfully mild compared to previous variants, and our hospitalization rates and death rates are not high.

Sincerely,

Jesse Nelson

**From:** Peter Gianforte  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 1:13:35 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Minnetonka Council Member,

As a member of the Minnetonka community as I live in Ward 4 and have owned a business in Ward 1 for the past 10 years I'm concerned about the talk of a future mask mandate again in the City of Minnetonka. We have complied as citizens and businesses owners over the past 22 months with the different mandates and it seems the goal post keeps moving. First it was a mask to flatten the curve, then it was when vaccinations were available it would allow us to start easing restrictions and there is talk of more mandates. From a resident of the city my concern is over- reach of government and as a business owner in the city I'm concerned about patrons of my business will use services out of the City of Minnetonka where there isn't over-reach and mandates.

If someone wants to wear a mask in Minnetonka they are more than welcome to but if someone doesn't and there is a mandate against it that isn't right. On top of it I have been reading research on the effectiveness of masks over the past 22 months and there is no clear evidence that they decrease the spread of the disease.

Thanks

Peter Gianforte

**From:** Jennifer Lewandowski  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:41:19 AM CST  
**To:** Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** We need a city wide mask mandate!

Hello,

Please consider an immediate mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. It does not feel safe to send my child to school, to go to work, or to the grocery store. I'm recommending a 3-week mask mandate to slow the spread down.

Thank you,  
Jenny Lewandowski

**From:** Mary Ulasich  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 9:00:51 AM CST  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Yes to Mask Mandate

Dear Minnetonka City Council members,

I want to voice my opinion in favor of a mask mandate for our community, to be implemented as soon as possible.

I live in Minnetonka, and shop the local businesses regularly. It is important to me to protect our community and I personally wear a mask to protect those most at risk and slow the spread of the current COVID spike. Our restaurants and retail businesses need to stay open for business, kids need to be in school, and our teachers need to be protected and able to do their jobs. Our medical facilities are at their breaking point. Wearing masks is a simple easy way of protecting our whole community.

Mary Ulasich  
4128 Pepperwood Trail  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Kate  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:21 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates

Hello all,

Thank you for your work as public servants in our community. I know it hasn't been easy and probably much more than you signed up for.

I am asking for you to keep masks as a recommendation and not a mandate. I realize this may not be popular. I realize that there are many Covid cases right now and it seems overwhelming. But masks are not the solution. As we are learning, vaccines are not the total solution to these new variants either. And yes, I have chosen to get all three shots.

Today's society wants a quick fix, something/someone to blame for any inconvenience or bad thing that happens in life. Many times without enough thought or research put into where/who/why they place blame. This is a result of our consumerism, instant gratification, easy society that have fostered. It's time that we are honest and admit that no one has all of the answers. There is no quick fix solution. We are doing the best we can.

We need to stop using fear to control and divide and be honest: there are only recommendations that might help and might not. So do what's best for you and your family.



**From:** Thomas Stockert

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 7:15:25 AM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Brian Kirk; Deborah Calvert; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Rebecca Schack; Kimberly Wilburn

**Subject: Mask Mandates**

Good morning,

A huge thank you goes out to the entire City Council for refraining from passing a mask ordinance assembled during a recess as a knee-jerk reaction to a complicated matter.

It's important to note that my household and I were vaccinated as soon as vaccines were made available, as was the case with the booster. We practice social distancing, to the extent possible, in public places.

I have, however, been following "scientific thought" on masks for quite some time and was not surprised to read the following from CNN on December 24: *"Cloth masks are little more than facial decorations. There's no place for them in light of Omicron,"* said CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and visiting professor of health policy and management at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, on CNN Newsroom Tuesday."

The link to the CNN article is below, though don't just take my chosen article please simply Google "Cloth Mask" then select "News". I had read similar scientific opinions prior to this and, will no longer wear my musty multi-laundered cloth masks. During a recent trip to Florida, I wore two disposable medical-grade masks per leg on my flight. I did this while surrounded by people essentially wearing cloth placebos.

We recently cancelled our annual February California vacation shortly after statewide mask and vaccination mandates were announced. I'm for vaccinations, I just don't think showing my card to get a cup of coffee (or taste wine) is relaxing. We're now looking at Atlanta and hope California finally welcomes us back in 2023.

The same could happen in Minnetonka on a smaller scale. There are very few Minnetonka businesses (or City owned gym as referenced near the end of the discussion) so unique that residents couldn't just drive a similar distance to Plymouth, Hopkins, Edina, Eden Prairie, etc. We did some shopping in Edina over the New Year weekend. Edina doesn't need a mask mandate, just about every shopper had a cloth mask that nicely coordinated with the rest of their outfit. Their residents and visitors have spoken.

Another consideration may be that, though Omicron is easily spread, the cases haven't been nearly as devastating as was the case with other variants. It may be best to keep more drastic measures in the tool kit for a more severe variant.

Again, thank you for taking a few days to consider Minnetonka's options. I've not run for City office and respect the perspective each member brings. I'll likely not think poorly of how

anyone chooses to vote, though know that residents, and those passing through, have nearby alternatives if the City goes too far.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/24/health/cloth-mask-omicron-variant-wellness/index.html>

Tom Stockert  
5524 Dominick Drive

PS - Welcome Council Member Wilburn, I'm excited to have you on the council!

**From:** Shelly Frerichs  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mandate Masks, PLEASE!

Thank you for reading!

I'm twice vaccinated AND boosted, and have been extremely careful for 2 years BUT.... I am writing this on my 9th day of absolute isolation after testing positive for Covid on 1/3/22. I've chosen to be highly responsible to the community I live in as well as to my dear family, who are also in strict quarantine. These 9 days have been very hard on my nuclear and extended family. My husband has worked so hard to keep up his job and manage the household. The kids are on their second week of missing school, to their educational and social detriment, as to be responsible to our community. Our family is lucky. We are vaccinated and boosted (as able) and I am recovered and not hospitalized. We do not rely on my income. I cannot imagine how devastating these days could be if I were a single parent, a working mother, had additional sickness within the family, were immunocompromised, or if my husband fell ill.

To our disappointment, both children attend schools without mask mandates. Both School Boards and Principals quietly tip toe around masking requirements, and we quietly know that they are scared to impose mandates for fear of angering the families with money or hefty political ties. Covid does not care about net worth or what your affiliations are, but humans Ego's do. A mask mandate is the most selfless, responsible, humane stance a City could take. It would show citizens that live or work in Minnetonka that "The City" cares, is concerned, and regards health and well being as a key component of a strong and vibrant community. Please take the high road and be a leader and role model for other cities in the state.

**WE MUST PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND NEIGHBORS FROM THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO BE IRRESPONSIBLE.**

Please be brave, strong, and unwavering by reinstating a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka.

Thank you!  
Shelly Frerichs

**From:** Allison DeGrood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:24 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Minnetonka Masking Policy

Hello,

My name is Allison DeGrood and I have been a Minnetonka resident for 7 years. I would strongly encourage you to enact a Minnetonka Masking Mandate given our current situation with Covid-19. The rate of community spread right now is very high and the numbers of infected individuals has an impact on every aspect of our community--from restaurants to schools to postal and trash workers. While the impact from Omicron seems to be less severe illness, our infrastructure cannot support itself with the number of people being impacted. It would be very reasonable to have a mask mandate in place for the next few weeks to help ease this strain. Please include our schools in this mask mandate, as well. Minnetonka high school currently does not have mandatory masking and it is having a big impact on students and teachers in our community. We want to continue to keep and attract quality teachers to our schools and any bit of help we can give them right now is appreciated. We all want to keep our kids in school as much as possible right now, but we cannot do that if we aren't doing everything in our power to help lessen the impact of covid.

Thank you for your time,  
Allison DeGrood

**From:** Jenny Halsch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please reinstate the mask mandate.

At a time when positivity rates are at record highs, hospitals are full, and people want to continue with daily activities and contributing to our local economy- masks are necessary.

Let's keep our local businesses open by wearing masks.

Please do not cave to the lowest common denominator whom complain about masks. Please make a choice based on science, public health for our community, and keeping businesses open.

Thank you!  
Jenny Halsch  
Plymouth rd. 55305

**From:** Heidi Travis

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:34 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Proposed Mask Mandate

Since the Minnetonka City Council has failed to do so, allow me to point out that roughly half to 2/3 of observed people in the population are already wearing ineffective cloth or ineffective paper “surgical” masks *voluntarily*. One needed to look no further than any of the 3 local Target stores during the height of the holiday shopping season (now over, leaving stores and malls sparsely populated) to notice this. That said, numerous studies have pointed out repeatedly, but have been suppressed by media, that wearing anything less than an N95 mask does not protect anyone from the spread of any virus as the openings are too large, and in fact, N95 masks aren’t even 100% effective at preventing transmission, as countless healthcare workers have contracted the disease from working with infected patients, and that fact is also printed right on the packaging. N95 masks are good. Very good, even, but they’re not perfect. How much less so the inferior masks the population has at its disposal? Mask mandates are nothing more than security theater for the irrationally frightened and facial decoration when it comes to the general population, which has been prohibited from purchasing N95 masks under the guise of “they must be saved for healthcare workers”, but not the people actually spreading the virus to the general population and healthcare workers alike. We’ve had mask mandates before, and it did absolutely nothing to curb the spread.

Despite both mandated and voluntary mask wearing, and vaccination rates at or exceeding the national average, Minnesota remains 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in overall infections, 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in new infections, in the nation in overall deaths, 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation in currently active cases, 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation in total cases per capita and 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation in total deaths per capita. We’re actually doing very well compared to the coastal states that have been in near-continuous lockdown with tyrannical (and in many cases, unconstitutional) mandates in place for up to two years now. These numbers have not fluctuated much throughout the past two years, with or without mask mandates, and with or without vaccines/boosters, which are now shown to be largely ineffective against the omicron variant, particularly as regards transmission. This is merely another winter wave, no different than the annual cold and flu season, and is not even as serious as our highest recorded number of cases, which occurred on November 21, 2020, when we reached 51,401 cases while we were under a state-sanctioned mask mandate (and many businesses were closed down). The good news is this new variant is far less virulent than the variants that have preceded it, in that it is less deadly. The virus has done what viruses always do because as with all organic systems that are made up of DNA, its sole purpose is to replicate itself. To do that, the virus has evolved/mutated to be less lethal, as high lethality also kills the virus when the host dies, but it is more transmissible to ensure its spread and replication.

The Spanish Flu of 1918 killed far more people in a world with a much lower population and fewer means of global travel, yet remains with us over a century later. Most people do not realize that “Spanish Flu” is today called H1N1, yet we do not mandate masks or vaccines to

prevent the spread of that every single year, nor did we when it once again became a pandemic in 2009. We have simply learned to live with it. It did what all viruses do, and transitioned from pandemic to endemic, just as the current virus is in the process of doing.

Give the residents of Minnetonka the benefit of the doubt in that most are already doing what they feel is in theirs and their family's own best interest, one way or the other. One thing that should have been learned throughout the past two years is that mandates cause those opposed to them to simply dig in their heels and circle the wagons, but worse, is causing serious division and outright hatred for each other in the country. Do not contribute to what is already a dangerously volatile situation in this country. Just say 'no' to mandates.

Kind Regards;

Heidi Travis  
13239 Orchard Road  
Minnetonka MN 55305-4040

**From:** brian weitz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:34 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In favor of Mask Mandate

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to voice my support for Minnetonka to reinstate a mask mandate. Covid is at unprecedented numbers, hospitals are filling up, schools are considering shutting down, and businesses are struggling with staffing. Simply reminding people that getting vaccinated is the most effective way to combat Covid or just encouraging people to mask has not proven to be an effective communication strategy. We're seeing historic rates of the virus, despite those recommendations, which is why efforts need to be increased to keep people safe. A mask mandate is the best, most efficient way to accomplish greater protection for the community. It's always disheartening to go places and see that people aren't wearing masks. Given the high rate of spread currently, it's enough for me to take my business elsewhere (Minneapolis, for example) because it doesn't seem worth the risk. Unlike the initial mask mandates closer to the start of the pandemic, at this point, it's nothing new. There is no shortage of masks, almost everyone already has one, employers can easily buy and provide high quality masks, and it shouldn't take long for people to prepare themselves and comply.

Thank you for considering this important step in navigating our city safely through the pandemic.

Brian Weitz  
15849 Woodgate Road N  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Terry Bryce  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:46 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask rules

Masks do not work, check the scientific evidence. Mask mandates are not constitutional. After 2 plus years of disruption in our lives, please leave us live our lives as we desire. If a citizen wants to wear a mask let it be their choice.

In my opinion this “mask mandate” is nothing more than “virtue signaling” and is degrading to our city and to it’s citizens.

Terry Bryce

**From:** Janice Srnec  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:48 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: masking in Minnetonka

I would like to add that I am a Minnetonka resident and have children at both MHS and MME.

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 08:07:50 AM CST, Janice Srnec wrote:

Hello,

I saw a news article this morning that Minnetonka will be voting on a city masking requirement. Please require masks in Minnetonka & please include Minnetonka High School in this requirement.

The school board has declined to even discuss this possibility for MHS at this time. Studies have clearly shown that masks reduce transmission of the virus, case numbers are climbing rapidly, and MHS has thousands of students and staff inside one building. Masking at MHS would protect not only those students and staff, but would also protect their families and the rest of the community.

Thank you,  
Janice Srnec

**From:** Katie Newman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:23 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In favor of masks

A member of our household is severely immunocompromised with multiple myeloma, cardiac amyloidosis and in stage 3 heart failure. We have three kids in Minnetonka schools who have been forced into an almost two year long isolation in order to keep their father safe. Please vote in a mask mandate so our family can be safe and stay together!

Thank you,  
Katie Newman

**From:** Michael Ruesewald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley  
**Subject:** Upcoming Mask Mandate Vote - Please vote FOR Mandate

Dear Council Woman,  
My wife and I are senior citizens living in your ward. We would ask you to please consider voting for a indoor mask mandate to protect our citizens during this dangerous period of the Omicron outbreak.  
Mike and Sandy Ruesewald  
15601 Dawn Drive, Minnetonka  
--  
Mike Ruesewald

**From:** Kris Rose  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:57 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

As a citizen of Minnetonka I am against another mandate. Let businesses and people make their own choice.

There are plenty of opportunities for contactless shopping etc. If you're worried, put a mask on.

Thank you,

Kris Rose

**From:** Sara Ellis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:41 AM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn  
**Subject:** Minnetonka city council to consider mask mandate

Hello Council Members Coakley, Calvert and Wilburn,

I am a Minnetonka resident with two boys in elementary school at Scenic Heights Elementary. I would fully support a city wide mask mandate at this time. I am hoping my children can continue being in school and their teachers stay healthy. So far, we are healthy.

I think this would help at the Minnetonka High School as well since I hear there are many students and teachers out ill.

Thank you,

**Sara Ellis**

  
**16509 Lakeland Drive**  
**Minnetonka, MN 55345**

**From:** Wes & Kathryn Bonine  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:22 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate!

Do not implement a mask mandate in the City of Minnetonka. We will not comply. We will not shop at businesses that enforce this. Allow this to be an individual choice. This is America, land of the free. You do not have legal authority to require this.

It will not stop the spread. If mask wearing worked America would not be in the place it is as a result of masks. Allow for choice!



**From:** Naomi Damask  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No mask mandates in minnetonka.

Hello,

I am writing to you as a resident, a board certified holistic wellness coach and a 10 year cancer survivor.

I personally do not feel at harms way and do not support the mandate of masks in the city of minnetonka or at the high school.

It is time for people to start to take control of their health. If you do have underlining health issues, please do mask up or stay home. For everyone else, I think it's up to the person what they want to do.

I feel very confident in my choices. I know that masking actually has it own health challenges and issues around it.

Happy to have a bigger conversation and to share "science" as well.

Blessings,  
Naomi Damask

**From:** Mickey Baker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No shopping in Minnetonka

Hello. As government restrictions related to COVID-19 have consistently shown to be ineffective over the past two years, the impending mask mandate from the city of Minnetonka means we will not be spending any of our money within the city until the policy is repealed. We typically grocery shop at Target or Cub at 7/101 and frequently dine at Ike's, Duke's and Spasso. We will not spend any money at these establishments, or similar businesses in Minnetonka for the foreseeable future. We look forward to hearing when the useless mask mandate is lifted and we can again patronize stores in your jurisdiction.

Michael Baker

**From:** Kelly Johnson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Minnetonka mask mandate

Please vote in favor of a mask mandate. The medical workers have expressed that they are overwhelmed. The teachers cannot find subs that are willing to come into the unmasked high school. My personal feelings do not matter. These are the workers who should have the most say and they are asking for this.

Thank you  
Kelly Johnson

**From:** Lisa Larson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 1:36:11 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Please don't mask-mandate Minnetonka!!!**  
Good afternoon,

I am a resident of Minnetonka, have children in Minnetonka schools and am a member of Williston Fitness Center.

I understand the Minnetonka City Council is meeting on Friday to discuss a city-wide mask mandate.

I am writing to encourage you to vote **against** such a mandate.

**The desire for widespread masking is a knee-jerk reaction in response to anxiety over the pandemic and is not based on any legitimate science.** By now, we know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any protection from infection. There are numerous studies showing masks don't work in real world environments where 1) People cannot wear them on their face consistently or properly all day long; and 2) There are no quality standards for the type of mask being used.

Furthermore, many studies show very little efficacy for masks even in medical environments, so it is completely irrational to believe they are going to work in public with people touching them all day long and moving them on and off their faces to eat, drink and talk.

Efficacy of masks aside, I want you to also consider the ramifications a city-wide mask mandate will have on the local community.

Let's look at local businesses. Instituting a mask mandate will undoubtedly have a negative impact on local businesses. There is no reason to believe businesses will have any different outcome this time around. When mask mandates were enforced last year, local businesses suffered. It will happen again and I fear to a higher degree because there is an increasing lower tolerance for mask mandates.

I would also like for you to consider what sort of ramifications a mask mandate will do on Williston Fitness Center and specifically the tennis program (of which I am a part). Mandating masks for adult athletes regardless of vaccination status is an overreach and I believe it will harm the physical and mental health and wellness of your citizens who are trying to play sports and exercise.

Tennis, for one, is a sport that can be safely played with substantial physical distance between players. The majority of players already mask as we enter the facility and proceed down to the courts. Allow us to take the masks off and breathe while we play. The program that Felicia Rachiatore has built will suffer if masks are enforced on players. Other teams will refuse to play at Williston. And Williston players will refuse to play as well because I assure you it is extremely difficult and also extremely dangerous to play tennis in a mask. This will undoubtedly affect your bottomline at WFC.

Also, so that you are aware: there is a contingent of parents from Minnetonka Schools who will be emailing you in support of a mask mandate. They are unhappy with the school board who has chosen to allow masks be optional (but still encouraged) for the high school. These parents haven't been successful with lobbying the school board so they believe pushing through a city-wide mask mandate in Minnetonka will force the high school to mask. I am pointing this out so that you know there may be disingenuous voices weighing in whose sole focus is to force masking at the high school and may not have the overall city's best interests at heart.

This is not an easy decision. People are divided and believe strongly on both sides. But this is where we need local leadership to stand up and appeal to reason and, yes, the science. Allow people to mask in public spaces, if they so desire. Allow them to triple mask, if they want. But don't mandate it. **Mask mandates are disastrous policy.**

Please, don't mask-mandate Minnetonka!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Larson  
16421 Pine Street, Minnetonka

**From:** Julie Berman

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 12:20:56 PM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** yes to mask mandate (include schools)

Please vote YES to have an indoor mask mandate in Minnetonka. I have two students at Mtka High School and would like that included in the mask mandate.

Thanks!

Julie

Julie Berman  
1995 Dwight Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Molly Diethelm

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 11:58:09 AM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Cc:** Tony - My Husband <[ardcon72@gmail.com](mailto:ardcon72@gmail.com)>, [dennis.peterson@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:dennis.peterson@minnetonkaschools.org)

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate Vote

Hello,

We are not residents of Minnetonka but have a son who is a sophomore at Minnetonka High School. It is our understanding that you will be voting on reinstating the city wide mask ordinance this Friday, 1/14/22.

PLEASE LISTEN TO SCIENCE - masking WORKS! It helps to mitigate the spread of Covid 19, especially with the current surge due to the Omicron variant. Unfortunately, Covid is not going away, so we as citizens need to be able to live life safely with it. That means getting vaccinated, boosted, AND WEARING MASKS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES - most especially in the schools.

As I mentioned, we have a child at Minnetonka High School (MHS) and if you reinstate the mask mandate hopefully it will apply to the Minnetonka Public School buildings. There are currently no masking requirements at the High School and it is NOT working. Last Friday, MHS went virtual for the day due to the high numbers of staff out sick with Covid. Today we received notice that semester finals have been canceled/rescheduled, school will be online Friday and Tuesday, and Wednesday-Friday will be days off unless kids have outstanding work to complete. Making masking voluntary at the High School is just plain stupid and IRRESPONSIBLE. We all know that being in school is the best option for our children and using all of the available tools to protect our kids and the MHS staff is the best way to avoid future disruptions. The Minnetonka School Board will not agree to using all the available tools, but we hope that you will.

I appreciate the opportunity for my voice and opinion to be heard. I truly hope the city will vote to reinstate the city wide mask mandate (including in the schools,) in order to help mitigate the spread, which will in turn help to keep everyone safe and healthy during this health crisis.

Thank You,  
Molly & Tony Diethelm

**From:** Linda Russell

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 11:20:37 AM CST

**To:** Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, "Caverly, David C" <[DCaverly@txstate.edu](mailto:DCaverly@txstate.edu)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** mask mandate

Dear Council Members,

I am in favor of reinstating a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I know some people reject this idea, but I feel it is a small inconvenience that has good potential to reduce the spread of the newest Covid variant(s). Omicron, especially, is so contagious!

I hope our community can focus on kindness to others, rather than selfishness. Also, in light of a huge rise in cases in the Minnetonka School District, we should be pulling out all the stops to contain the spread.

Thank you for taking time to discuss this important public health matter.

Linda Russell  
5423 Maple Ridge Ct.

**From:** Laura Johnson

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 11:15:41 AM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** NO Minnetonka mask mandate

Please DO NOT initiate a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. Masks are ineffective in the spread of Omicron and will negatively impact the local businesses. I for one, will not support businesses in Minnetonka if I must wear a mask, I will drive out of my way to other cities. Thank you for considering reason and not fear.

Laura Johnson

**From:** Luke Lorence  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hi!

Don't even consider a mask mandate. The omicron "surge" is almost over. I have Covid currently. As does my entire household. A couple of days of bad flu. Big deal. No masks would have prevented this. This is an embarrassment to Minnetonka that you would even consider it.

Act like adults and treat us like adults.

**From:** Darryl Landstrom  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking Mandate

I lead a national sports organization and was a co-chair of our Covid Committee. Our direction was to, and municipalities should, follow local CDC guidelines rather than arbitrarily mandating masking, especially for those who have been vaccinated. I understand there are decisions not to vax whether for religious, medical or simply personal reasons but this should not influence how the city of Mtkka manages the general public. Let the citizens of Minnesota follow "best practices" until the pandemic transitions to an endemic. Broadly promote masking but please do not mandate - we are a democracy first and foremost.

*Darryl Landstrom*

**From:** Carole Brouellette  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate-Support

I support a mask mandate for Minnetonka. I would feel more comfortable shopping in our local businesses if all employees and customers were masked.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter that is so important to the health of Minnetonka residents.

Carole Brouellette

**From:** Shelstad, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Say 'no' to mask mandate

Hello,

I urge you to stand up to the “addicted to fear” crowd and vote against a mask mandate. The masks do not help anything, and they do harm.

Kind regards,  
David Shelstad  
Minnetonka resident

**From:** Heather Melsness  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:16 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** MASK mandate please

Hello to whom it may concern,

I am a teacher at Minnetonka High School. My only ask is that you please consider a mask mandate immediately. I am by no means a scientist; however, I feel as if we are further along in this pandemic and can conclude that if we implement measures such as: vaccination, distancing, and masking we may be able to have greater outcomes in the here and now.

I took this job to serve my community, but never in a million years would I have thought we would have to risk our lives every day. It feels like I am walking into a war zone every day, a mask mandate for the city would cover the high school, and would give me and my colleagues a little sense of reprieve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All my best,  
Heather Melsness

**From:** Mary Jewell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking for Covid

Hi, I am A hairstylist in the city of Minnetonka. I would really appreciate it if the city would follow through with mask mandating at least while Covid is spiking. We come in such close contact with people, face to face daily and to have to fight with people and lose money because they won't put a mask on. It's a hardship financially for us. I believe it is your job being in public office to make decisions for the good of all people to keep them safe. It is a temporary and EASY fix for such a grand health problem!Thank you. MJ

**From:** Carter Anderson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:22 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Grow up.

Denying science because you desire to look virtuous is truly pathetic. Masking doesn't work. Science has proven this. If you can't accept science and are too weak to stand up for the truth. Resign. This job requires adults. Time for you to put on your big boy pants and learn to be an adult. Masking destroys businesses. I get you clowns work for the government and lack the skills required to succeed in the private sector but our taxes dollars support you idiots. If we can't conduct business because you clowns are too weak to stand up to the science deniers, do us a favor and get the hell out of the way. If you need the dozens of studies that prove masking doesn't work, let me know. Since there is no study to support your science denying mask wearing idea, I won't bother to ask you.

**From:** Kelly Johnson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 12:03:21 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** **Minnetonka mask mandate**

Please vote in favor of a mask mandate. The medical workers have expressed that they are overwhelmed. The teachers cannot find subs that are willing to come into the unmasked high school. My personal feelings do not matter. These are the workers who should have the most say and they are asking for this.

Thank you  
Kelly Johnson

**From:** Jennifer Mullin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Rules

No Mask Mandate for the City of Minnetonka.

Citizens can Choose to wear masks if desired or not.



**From:** Dan Kral  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:59 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Mr. Schaeppi,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on the proposed mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. I am a small business owner and am very concerned about starting down this path and where it might end up. There has been enough damage to small businesses. The Citizens of Minnetonka are responsible people. They are wise enough to make their own decisions about personal safety.

Please vote no on the mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Kral  
Minnetonka Resident  
3532 Tonkawood Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** T L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am a Minnetonka citizen writing in support of a mask mandate please. I am a parent to high school and middle school students, and I frequent many local businesses. I've noticed a change recently in our community...Target pharmacy isn't staffed fully to provide all services, the Lakewinds deli closed daily due to staffing shortages, and all the shortened hours of other businesses. Our community is so vibrant and important and with the recent Omicron infection rates, if adding a mask mandate (which we are all accustomed to at this point) would help one business or one family, that seems like an easy way for all of us to support our local community health and wellness.

I've been so impressed with Minnetonka and how new rules, changes and concerns have been communicated during these last couple years.

Thank you for all of your work,  
Tesa Laskin

**From:** Linda & Michael Halley  
**Date:** January 10, 2022 at 4:28:27 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Council Member Wilburn,

As a long time resident of Minnetonka I am asking that the City Council follow the example of Minneapolis and St. Paul and issue a mask mandate as we face another Covid 19 surge. Please be leaders in keeping our most vulnerable citizens safe!!

Thank you for your consideration on this very important public health issue.

Linda Halley  
18610ClearView Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Amy Lindberg  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 12:09:45 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate - vote no

Dear Dr. Wilburn,

Please vote no to any proposed city wide mask mandates. Please allow residents the freedom to make the best decisions for their family.

Thank you for representing our citizens,

Amy Lindberg  
4307 Annika Court

**From:** Andy Weigman

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:59 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Susan Carter; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Re: Groveland Neighborhood Robberies / "Emergency" Mask Meeting

Good Afternoon,

I was planning to follow up to see what the punishment was for the team that was caught robbing us a few weeks ago but then I saw the "emergency" mask meeting that was scheduled. I know that between the two of them, they had a dozen+ felonies and were still somehow allowed to be walking the streets.

Seeing the "emergency" meeting to talk about masking the city of Minnetonka was like throwing salt on my wound. The fact that you are calling an "emergency" meeting for something like that, and not on actual crises like public safety is offensive to me and many in our town.

I wanted to stick to the point above but I can't help myself while I am here typing: it is obvious that two years of lockdowns and mandates like the one you are proposing do not stop the virus. It will, however, stop our small businesses from recovering and many from shopping here in town. This is coming from a guy that wiped his groceries down in the spring of last year and was the only vaccinated person in the house... that spread COVID to his wife and kids. If you haven't turned on CNN lately or listened to the new rhetoric from the CDC, they are downplaying the effectiveness of masks and the fact that a virus will spread, no matter the amount of grandstanding by politicians (maybe this is because of the mid-terms coming up, but I guess you guys should take that in to account as well if that is, in fact, true).

For those of you that supported the release of criminals and those that thought lockdowns and masks would end the pandemic, it is OK to admit you were mistaken. The sooner you do, the better for everyone. It is time move on and start to take direct action to improve life for the citizens in your town.

Thanks,

Andy

**From:** Jennifer Noble  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 8:10:06 AM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** no mask mandate in minnetonka please

Please look at the covid deaths in our Minnetonka area before mandating a mask. You will find that yes people are getting covid right now BUT they are not dying from it. We need to worry more about Mental health right now and theft/burglaries in our area.  
Thank you!

Jennifer Noble

**From:** Michele Lesmeister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:25 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on a mask mandate. The mental health of our community is seriously at risk. Suicide is dramatically rising and the schools are dealing with massive amounts of mental health crisis. Please consider this!  
Thank you,  
Michele Lesmeister

**From:** Jean-Marie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear City Council Member Schaeppi,

I understand that Minnetonka is voting over the issue of enforcing a mask mandate again. I also understand that you oppose it. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for voting for our rights as humans and citizens of the USA to make our own health decision.

Thank you,

Jean-Marie Prueter

**From:** Megan Sighting  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 10:54:07 AM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate**  
Good morning Kimberly,

Please stand strong against the mask mandate going back into place. This is outrageous that people are trying to mandate when Omicron is barely more than a cold.

We appreciate your push to not mandate masks, then they do not even work against this variant.

Sincerely,  
Megan

**From:** lesley leonard  
**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 1:41:56 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate**

Crazy and useless. Unbelievable that you're once again trying to control with ineffective masking. Making small children mask to leave their house. Abuse is what it is. You should be ashamed but you don't even see it. The insanity and deep deep control you're after. Sad and disgusting.

**From:** Jean-Marie  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 2:28:22 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask mandate**

Dear City Council Member Wilburn,

On Monday, January 10, 2022, the CDC admits that 75% of all Covid deaths had at least 4 commorbidities, states that mask don't work and Covid has a 99% recovery rate, a mask mandate is government overreach at this point.

People are not dying in the streets. People can stay home or wear a face mask by choice.

Stop the nonsense!

Vote NO to mask mandates.

I assure you I will be taking my business to cities that allow me the freedoms to make my own health decisions.

Jean-Marie Prueter

**From:** Deb Swenson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 3:00:00 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I'm asking you to reverse your vote for mask mandates in Minnetonka. I personally will not go into any business that requires a mask, but will first tell them why and that you voted for this. You will be responsible for harming many businesses from Minnetonka.  
Deb S

**From:** Luke Lorence  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Nice Try!

Oh, and my address is in Minnetonka. You can look it up on the voter rolls.

On Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 3:03 PM Luke Lorence <[luke.e.lorence@gmail.com](mailto:luke.e.lorence@gmail.com)> wrote:  
The text of your proposed mask mandate includes:

"Businesses and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if they claim to be exempt from the ordinance due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons."

LOL! Clearly, you're not serious about enforcing this mandate. Clearly, this isn't about public health. It's about control.

I will not comply and you will not enforce. This is nonsense.

Regards,  
Luke Lorence

**From:** Rick Little  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:23 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate For Minnetonka

Hello:

We are quickly approaching the two year anniversary of the 2 week lockdown of flattening the curve. Enough with the mask mandates. I have been vaccinated, boosted, and adhered to the first mask mandate. If the vaccines work and we have met the Governor's goal of 60% of Minnesota Residents receiving vaccine, why is there a need for a mask? We are currently above a 70% vaccination rate, not to mention natural immunity, I'm old enough to remember when this was actually scientifically relevant.

Go ahead and approve this mandate if you want to drive that final nail into our local businesses. Enough is enough.

Rick Little

**From:** Karen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Institute a Mask Mandate to Protect Everyone

Thank you for your consideration,  
Karen Winner  
14301 Stewart Lane #305  
Minnetonka 55345

**From:** Darcy Wright  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No mask mandates!

If masks work why are they not working?  
These mandates must stop! We know lock downs didn't work and we need the facts. If you want to wear a mask please do. We have been vaccinated, we have been boosted, there is now natural immunity, and the vaccination rate is 66% in MN. We know how to keep our environments clean and safe. Let's protect the elderly and the compromised, but we need to live our lives, our kids need to go to school! Stop killing the businesses here! We all have complied and 2 years later you want to do this again? No!

Just remember... Your raincoat only works if it rains!

Thank you,  
Darcy Wright

<https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

**From:** knops.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Local Mask Mandate

Yes, please! Especially since those not wearing masks are most likely to be unvaccinated as well, exposing the rest of us—who have done and are doing everything we can to stay out of the hospital—to the short and long-term consequences of a Covid infection.

For reluctant business owners: If you haven't been requiring at least your employees to wear masks, I haven't been in your store for two years. With a mandate, I'd consider giving you another chance at my business because I'd feel safer.

Thank you, Minnetonka, for looking out for those of us who are more vulnerable!

Maria Knops  
5702 Seven Oaks Ct.  
Minnetonka MN 55345

**From:** Julie Rolfe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Potential Mask Mandate

It has been brought to my attention that people who do NOT live in Minnetonka are being requested to reach out to the Minnetonka City Council and weigh in on the potential mask mandate.

Is that being allowed? It seems only Minnetonka residents who live in Minnetonka, pay city taxes, are eligible to vote for our city representatives should be allowed to have a voice in a potential Minnetonka mask mandate. How are we ensuring that Minnetonka residents are the voices being considered?

Julie Rolfe



**From:** Mary  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandates

We are strongly against the proposed mask mandates. Among the many reasons

1. The CDC had already said cloth masks are ineffective. Only N95 or NK95 really work  
Is that the mask you would mandate?
2. It has been proven by virologists that there is no asymptotic spread of the virus. 'Show you care about others ....wear a mask' was the original reasoning to wear a mask
3. Those of us who have had COVID are naturally immune we can not get or spread the virus
4. It has been stated by experts that the masks are unhealthy impeding oxygen to the brain Other experts have stated mask wearing has lowered IQ by an average 20 points in children
5. They are a visual psychological tool Causing division among us Not to mention the unknown harm for children What is the point?

Thomas and Mary Owen  
16300 Highwood Drive  
Minnetonka MN. 55345

**From:** Sarah Browne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:21 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** City-wide Masking Mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council Representatives,

I am writing as a lifelong member of the Minnetonka Community and as a parent in the Minnetonka School District.

Earlier today, I was in a monthly PTO/A Leaders Meeting with Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson when he was asked about whether a mask mandate by the City of Minnetonka would apply to the schools. He responded that he hopes that City leaders will recognize Minnetonka Schools as an independent and autonomous organization. I strongly oppose his stance on this matter.

Time and again, the Minnetonka School Board and Administration has failed to act in the interest of public health. In fact, at the January 6 regular meeting of the board, they abdicated their responsibilities by tabling all discussion of their Safe Learning Plan, even while COVID-19 infections amongst students and staff are skyrocketing. Given this dearth of leadership from school officials, the community now looks to you to take necessary action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other common communicable diseases that are disrupting schools and places of employment, medical facilities, and even supply chains. A masking mandate costs little and causes scant inconvenience but could significantly pump the brakes on the spread of the Omicron variant and other airborne contagions.

It is not as if we are asking City Leaders to mandate a new school curriculum or to set a new student dress code. This is a matter of public health, and with more than 12,000 students and staff traversing the City of Minnetonka to attend schools, participate in sporting events, shop, and more, it's critical that schools located in Minnetonka be included in a citywide masking mandate.

It's worth noting that Dr. Peterson has repeatedly and publicly stated that N95 and KN95 masks are effective in mitigating the spread of corona viruses including the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Minnetonka Schools has a stockpile of several hundred-thousands of these masks available for distribution to students and staff. In fact, during the PTO/A Leaders meeting this morning, Minnetonka Schools Director of Health Annie Lumbar Bendson stated that the district is expecting a new shipment of child-size KN95 to boost the supply. Therefore, there is reason not to act to reduce disease spread by use of this simple intervention.

I urge you to exercise your authority to enact a mask mandate in the interest of public health and the greater good to NOT exempt Minnetonka Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Sarah S. Browne

**From:** Jennifer Peck

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:25 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** MANDATE Masking in the city and AT SCHOOL

Hi! I have been in healthcare for the last 29 years. I am begging the city to make masks mandatory for both the city AND THE SCHOOLS so that in-person learning and life in general can continue to go on despite this pandemic. Let's keep our businesses open by requiring masks. Let's keep our kids IN SCHOOL by requiring masks.

There are very few perks to my job as an RN in the operating room. I can't work from home, I don't get free lunches or flexible schedules like my friends in other fields. The one thing I do get is a lot of face time with expert opinion. The physicians I work with believe in science. They have dedicated their lives to making others' lives better. They read and keep up-to-date on all of the data driven decisions. I 100 percent respect their thoughts and opinions because they are based on science, not on FOX news, social media or water cooler gossip. The best part is, besides being physicians they are moms and dads living in society just like the rest of us. They have elderly parents, they have kids in the schools. They support vaccination and masking and the real scientific reasons behind all of it. Please show that you are a spokesperson for the community that elected you by making masking mandatory in the city and in all of our schools. Best, Jennifer Peck, RN, BSN, CNOR

**From:** Susan Wilkening  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:24 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In favor of mask mandate

I support a city-wide mask mandate. It's a small enough thing to do to try to keep our families and communities healthy, and to prevent the overloading of our health system. Personally, I am MORE likely to go into and support a local business if I can be assured that everyone will be wearing masks and it won't just be left up to personal preference.

Thank you!

**From:** Marina Bakman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I strongly encourage the city of Minnetonka to reinstate a mask wearing policy inside all public building to help reduce the incredibly fast spread of covid 19. I also believe children should be wearing while playing sports. Better safe than all sick. I have two kids 6 and 7 and If they can wear masks all day in school and during sports anyone child and adult can ( with very limited exceptions)

Vote for the mask mandate in Minnetonka on Friday. Please help keep others safe and slow the spread

Thank you

Marina

**From:** Kari Jobe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

My family and I live and shop in Minnetonka and we absolutely disagree with a mask mandate! Several studies have come out to show that masks do not make a difference in the numbers. We believe that mandating masks is the wrong decision, let everyone decide for themselves if they want to wear a mask or not. Thank you.

The Jobe Family  
11660 Fetterly Ln

**From:** Jim Hadley

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:20 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Dear Minnetonka City Council,

It has come to my attention that there is a push by some members of the Minnetonka City Council to install a mask mandate in all city buildings. I am opposed to this concept for a number of reasons, the biggest of which is that if you look at REAL science and REAL empirical evidence, anything less than a properly-fitted N95 mask does not stop the spread of COVID.

It is an added cost to us citizens of Minnetonka when the city needs to provide masks at all their facilities and the burden of enforcing the mandate lies on the city employees, who were not hired to be facility babysitters.

Let's not succumb to politically correct virtue signaling like Minneapolis and St. Paul have. You could not pay me to live in those cities, and if our City Council decides that Minnetonka should be like those Leftist city councils, then I will not be living in Minnetonka any longer, either.

Sincerely,  
Jim Hadley  
4th Precinct voter

**From:** julie gronberg

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:23 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote

Dear City Council members,

We are writing to express our sincere concerns about the proposed mask mandate. It is not the solution. In fact, it would be mentally damaging, useless, and a threat to Minnetonka businesses.

Think about the continued damage you will cause to the mental health of your constituents. People have lived with fear and anxiety for the last two years.

Chronic anxiety and fear destroys people and creates mass psychosis. A mask mandate is just another stressor to an already stressed population. Do you really want to continue that?

Plus the fact, that masks don't work, they are useless. The covid virus is so small it goes right through masks. We have already done this and it didn't work then. Remember what Einstein said, "Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results."

Last of all, this mandate will harm your businesses. We have started to vote with our dollars, and will no longer shop in any store that requires a mask. We can easily go to Hopkins, Shorewood, Excelsior or Chanhassen. There are plenty of Targets, grocery stores, and other merchants who are a short drive away.

The world has been locked down, shuttered in fear, and the economy shipwrecked all for a virus that has a 99.997% survival rate for the bulk of the population. It is time to stop the insanity. Please do not add to this calamity with a futile mask mandate.

Sincerely,  
Julie and Pat Gronberg  
18025 Minnetonka Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55391

**From:** Leighton Wilkening  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** City-Wide Mask Mandate

I support a city-wide mask mandate. I will gauge my shopping based on businesses that support a mask mandate, so for me--no mask mandate, no shopping.

It's a small thing for citizens to do in light of what our healthcare workers and hospitals have been begging us to do for a long time now.

Leighton Wilkening  
Citizen of Minnetonka Since 2001

**From:** Christine Poston

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:55 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to voice my support to mandate masks in the city of Minnetonka. The Omicron and Delta variants are spreading at a rapid rate in our community. Our hospitals are full, the hospital staff are overtaxed and simply tired of the physical and mental toll of seeing so much sadness, sickness and death over the last two years and much of us don't have a lot left to give. The Minnesota Health Department strongly recommends masking but that translates into a few masking and the rest ignoring the recommendation, this is why we need a mandate. I mask for 12-16 hours a day on my shift on my critical unit, I fail to see why people don't have the courtesy to others and to the community spread of covid to mask for 20 minutes while running into Target or for the day if their child is in school.

The latest tragedy is that our Minnetonka school board did not second the motion of one brave school board member to discuss masking. In response to the immediate [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition the school board's president Chris Vitale stated "...School Board members wanted more time to reflect on all of the information they had just received before having such a conversation." They were given days before to "reflect" on the information. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO REFLECT ANY LONGER! Over and over the schools have listened to individuals that have no business opining on covid and providing non-evidence based research in support of their non-masking agenda. I don't care what a holistic chiropractor or a lawyer has to say about masking, I care what the science based research and the medical professionals have to say. We need a mask mandate to protect our kids and the community that it is spreading to. I say this on the heels of Dr. Peterson, our superintendent that said Covid is not spreading in the schools on several occasions just announced we will be e-learning after the high number of absence due to covid. I beg to differ, also the fact that we aren't talking about masking in the schools is negligent.

This is such a simple thing to ask, to have one more layer of protection for our community to require high quality masking. There are many countries that are requiring vaccination records which would be wonderful, but at the very least if we could stop some transmission through masking that is a step in the right direction. Myself and my colleagues do not need to feel endangered going to our local grocery store, we already get plenty of that working with critical covid patients. If it would save one more person so we don't have to watch them die and connect them in their last moments to google meet so their family can say goodbye isn't it worth it? We are tired, overworked, dismayed at the lack of support of some in our community and all we are asking right now is for Minnetonka to mandate masks. That is your part while we do our part and take care of the result of this horrible virus. Merely "highly recommending" it doesn't work. It's not a "me" situation, if I mask and you don't it affects everyone you are around. Time for us to be a community and institute a public health measure and require masking in

Minnetonka. Golden Valley and Hopkins require it. It is our turn to follow what is best for the community.

Sincerely,  
Christine Poston, RN, BSN, PHN

**From:** Ali Lee-O'Halloran  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking mandate for the City of Minnetonka

Dear Mayor and All Members of the City Council,

I am writing to ask for a mask mandate for the the City of Minnetonka. We are amidst an unprecedented pandemic and we are currently surging in our rates of infection. Our hospitals are truly overwhelmed.

I believe the council has a civic obligation to help ensure that citizens are able to access the health care they need. Mitigating this Omicron virus will go a long way to ensure our resources aren't fully tapped out and to ensure our Minnetonka residents the ability to receive medical care should they need it. Medical facilities and medical personnel are not infinite resources and it would serve all of us well to remember this. Any one of us is merely one accident away from needing serious medical intervention and expertise. Our ability to get such care is buckling with hospitals over-run with Covid cases.

Please, please, mandate masks for the foreseeable future and please extend that mandate to include Minnetonka High School. Experts ranging from virologists and epidemiologists, to the CDC and MDH all recommend masking as one of several mitigation efforts to combat this virus. We are at the point of a public health crisis and I ask that all members have the courage to vote for a mask mandate.

The courage to actually vote for a mandate has unfortunately become an act of political courage. I say this because the science behind vaccinations and mitigation processes is solid. Unfortunately, we are in a time where scientific literacy is at an all time low where suddenly, there is more than one possible interpretation of "facts." Science doesn't lie and a virus has no political agenda!

The United States will head toward well over a million people dead from this virus if we continue to ignore science and the facts about viral spread. We have the knowledge to combat this virus but now we need the power to execute mitigation strategies. I ask that you all exercise the power entrusted to you by the residents of this City and vote YES on a mandatory mask mandate, to include Minnetonka High School. Thank you,

Ali Lee-O'Halloran  
Minnetonka resident.

**From:** Cortney Whitehouse  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Require Masks

I am a resident of Minnetonka. I have 2 kids at the high school and am so disappointed that the board did not address masks at the last meeting. I am proud that you are going to and absolutely support a mask requirement in our city. Thank you for your time.

Cortney Whitehouse

**From:** Ann Pearson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 4:46:42 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** **NO mask mandates!**

Dear Rebecca,  
I am asking you please vote NO to a mask mandate!!!  
This will once again hurt ( potentially destroy) small businesses, and hurt the mental health of the people in this city.  
The city has absolutely no right to tell me how to dress, parent, or live.  
The masks are not effective...they cause more damage than good.  
I pray you will use common sense and uphold our constitutional rights to make our own decisions.  
Sincerely,  
Ann Pearson  
Mtka Resident

<https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/?fbclid=IwAR0QTne7tNPKnXsXLSCeKqGP7KQCudKJzNXIW9HOkBy-2E1mBaUcN-SWLLM>



**From:** Rachel Walsh

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 4:36:56 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello -

I'm a resident of Minnetonka and am writing to share my thoughts on a citywide mask mandate as I've read that you'll be discussing this in a meeting on Friday. As a resident of Ward 2, I've shared my thoughts with Council Member Schack already but I wanted to go ahead and share more broadly with the entire council.

I'm pleased that you are considering a mandate and strongly encourage you to enact such a mandate in the City of Minnetonka - at least for the next 4 to 6 weeks until the Omicron wave subsides or until Hennepin county ceases to have substantial or high community transmission. In my mind it's the right thing to do to protect our most vulnerable population and to help our healthcare workers. I recently lost my immunocompromised father to complications of COVID that he contracted through community spread and I'd urge the council, in your capacity as community leaders, to consider how your actions could help save lives.

I read this morning that when the Bloomington city council took up this topic earlier this week Mayor Busse and some members of the council expressed concern about putting the burden of enforcement on retail workers. I can see how enforcing a mandate could put businesses in a tough position but I think many of our neighbors have simply relaxed in their approach to masking based on being vaccinated - they aren't strongly opposed to it and spoiling for a fight with the cashier at the grocery store. My honest opinion is that not everyone realizes that the CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status in areas of high transmission and many people may just need a prompt or nudge to return to masking.

In my experience, Minnetonka residents are good people who want to do their best for one another. I believe that most who have stopped wearing masks consistently will pick right back up if they hear about a temporary mandate, see a sign on the door of businesses, or just see that all employees inside are wearing masks. Even if businesses don't go overboard on enforcing a mandate just having it in place will prompt a lot of people to return to wearing masks more consistently which will help reduce the spread of the virus in our community and could save lives.

Thank you,  
Rachel Walsh

**From:** Deb Swenson

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 3:03:47 PM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask mandate**

I am asking that you reverse your decision and vote no to the mask mandate in Minnetonka. This decision will affect many Minnetonka businesses and constituents. I will not buy anything at a store that requires a mask in Minnetonka, but will first go in and tell them why I am not shopping there and that you personally voted this in.

Deb S

**From:** Christine Poston

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 3:55:36 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask Mandate**

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to voice my support to mandate masks in the city of Minnetonka. The Omicron and Delta variants are spreading at a rapid rate in our community. Our hospitals are full, the hospital staff are overtaxed and simply tired of the physical and mental toll of seeing so much sadness, sickness and death over the last two years and much of us don't have a lot left to give. The Minnesota Health Department strongly recommends masking but that translates into a few masking and the rest ignoring the recommendation, this is why we need a mandate. I mask for 12-16 hours a day on my shift on my critical unit, I fail to see why people don't have the courtesy to others and to the community spread of covid to mask for 20 minutes while running into Target or for the day if their child is in school.

The latest tragedy is that our Minnetonka school board did not second the motion of one brave school board member to discuss masking. In response to the immediate [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition the school board's president Chris Vitale stated "...School Board members wanted more time to reflect on all of the information they had just received before having such a conversation." They were given days before to "reflect" on the information. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO REFLECT ANY LONGER! Over and over the schools have listened to individuals that have no business opining on covid and providing non-evidence based research in support of their non-masking agenda. I don't care what a holistic chiropractor or a lawyer has to say about masking, I care what the science based research and the medical professionals have to say. We need a mask mandate to protect our kids and the community that it is spreading to. I say this on the heels of Dr. Peterson, our superintendent that said Covid is not spreading in the schools on several occasions just announced we will be e-learning after the high number of absence due to covid. I beg to differ, also the fact that we aren't talking about masking in the schools is negligent.

This is such a simple thing to ask, to have one more layer of protection for our community to require high quality masking. There are many countries that are requiring vaccination records which would be wonderful, but at the very least if we could stop some transmission through masking that is a step in the right direction. Myself and my colleagues do not need to feel endangered going to our local grocery store, we already get plenty of that working with critical covid patients. If it would save one more person so we don't have to watch them die and connect them in their last moments to google meet so their family can say goodbye isn't it worth it? We are tired, overworked, dismayed at the lack of support of some in our community and all we are asking right now is for Minnetonka to mandate masks. That is your part while we do our part and take care of the result of this horrible virus. Merely "highly recommending" it doesn't work. It's not a "me" situation, if I mask and you don't it affects everyone you are around. Time for us to be a community and institute a public health measure and require masking in Minnetonka. Golden Valley and Hopkins require it. It is our turn to follow what is best for the community.

Sincerely,  
Christine Poston, RN, BSN, PHN

**From:** "Shelstad, David"  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 2:21:09 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** please no mask mandate!

Hi Rebecca,

I urge you to stand up to the "addicted to fear" crowd and vote against a mast mandate. The masks have no benefit, and they do real harm.

Kind regards,  
David Shelstad  
Minnetonka resident

**From:** Benjamin Peck  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** MANDATE masking in the city and at school

As a student who has struggled SO much with motivation while doing online learning I implore you to mandate masks so I can keep going to in person school. With my Minnetonka VANTAGE program I am able to go on lots of interesting site visits but all else will be cancelled if cases continue to rise. I understand wearing a mask isn't pleasant but I also believe that safety comes before comfort even supported by Maslow's hierarchy of needs. So even if it makes some students and adults uncomfortable, I would rather that than expose my immune-compromised mom, myself and my sister by simply going to school. My hope is that our city and school can believe medical experts who have dedicated their lives to studying this topic rather than privileged people who are unable to put a piece of cloth around their ears.

Sincerely, Benjamin Peck, Minnetonka student, Target worker

**From:** Kristin Jackson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

My husband and I are against making masks mandated. It has been proven that cloth masks do not work. It will only hurt our community businesses. People are free to wear their masks but those of us who believe in freedom of choice for our health believing that masks are not helping should have that choice. Masks cause thrush in my throat due to a steroid I'm on and I know of other issues that are caused by masking.

Please do not mandate!!!!

Kristin and Todd Jackson

**From:** Kathy Weinschel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Eric Weinschel  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

City Council and Mayor,

We are writing today in support of a mask mandate for Minnetonka. As a Physician and a nurse, we have experienced directly the effect of COVID on our patients, health care workers, families and all of the community. The city should support efforts to keep residents of Minnetonka safe as we go about the community. We are much more likely to shop and patronize businesses in the city when masks are required.

Thank you.

Regards,

Kathy Weinschel and Eric Weinschel MD  
5405 Vining Point Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Tim Bergeland  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for January 14th Council Meeting

To the Minnetonka City Council,

Especially given this unprecedented spike in COVID-19 infections, the absence of a mask-mandate is an equity issue. I believe our city needs to instate a mask mandate for the sake of the most vulnerable among us: for people who are immuno-compromised, ailing in health, and essential workers required to labor in high-exposure environments. A trip to the grocery store or mall should not be a health/safety risk, and I urge the Council to take this simple measure to keep us all safer.

Thank you so much,  
Tim Bergeland

**From:** Pat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Vote NO on mask mandate

The city of Minnetonka should not MANDATE the wearing of face masks. There is no legitimate peer-reviewed scientific study showing that face masks stop the transmission of corona viruses such as omicron. People are smart enough to decide on their own whether or not to wear a mask. No one should be forced to do so.

Many people have difficulty breathing when wearing a mask. Others who are hard of hearing hate masks because they can't read lips of masked people they are trying to communicate with. Children and especially teens are harmed emotionally and socially when forced to wear masks. Furthermore, masks are filthy dirty and full of exhaled waste product. Healthy people don't need or want to wear filthy rags over their mouth and nose.

The only people who really like mask mandates are criminals who want to hide their faces.

Minnesotans were promised that mask mandates would be lifted if we just got vaccinated. Now we are seeing that we were lied to, once again.

Just say NO to the authoritarian control-freaks pushing this nonsense.

Patricia Wolff  
Hennepin County

**From:** brian ellis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Concerned employee in Minnetonka

Good evening.

I am taking a moment to ask for your support for a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. I work at Trader Joes in Minnetonka and there are numerous customers who come in without masks. It creates anxiety for many of us. Personally, I have a 3 year old who is unvaccinated at home and am deeply concerned that I will bring it home to her.

Please make it safer for us to work.

Thank you!

Brian Ellis

**From:** Jen Kable

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:08 PM

**To:** Mike Funk <mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Comment on mask mandate proposal

Dear City Council members and Mayor Wiersum,

**Please vote "no" to mandating masks in the city of Minnetonka.**

Current data show that most masks do little to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We know that cloth masks and even surgical masks are NOT effective. And while there is some evidence for the effectiveness of N-95 masks, this is not a feasible option for most people because they are extremely uncomfortable.

Please know that if a mask mandate is implemented, my family and I will be taking our business to other cities without a mask mandate.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Kable  
5819 Oakview Circle  
Minnetonka

PS: Below are a few resources for your consideration.

A 2015 study directly compared cloth masks to surgical masks. Its 1,100 participants, each of whom was a healthcare worker, were instructed to wear their masks at all times on every shift for four weeks. The study found that those who wore cloth masks were 13 times more likely to develop an influenza-like illness than those who wore surgical masks. But even the surgical masks were found to be "poor" at preventing the penetration of particles, and cloth masks were "extremely poor."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/do-masks-actually-work-the-best-studies-suggest-they-don-t/ar-AAIfurl>

More than 150 Comparative Studies and Articles on Mask Ineffectiveness and Harms:

<http://www.brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

**From:** M F

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:17 PM

**To:** Mike Funk <mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Vote NO on mask mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council,

I do not support the City Council's proposal to impose a mask mandate on Minnetonka residents. I am disappointed to see that the City Council is yet again considering such a proposal. There is insufficient evidence showing that cloth or surgical masks slow community spread of respiratory viruses, including SARS-Cov-2. A recent randomized controlled trial found that cloth masks are not effective in preventing the wearer from getting the SARS-Cov-2 (1). This finding isn't surprising given the design of cloth masks and the size of viral particles (2).

I urge you to consider the information cited below.

Finally, the controversy over masks reminds me of a wonderful novel by a native Minnesotan -- Sinclair Lewis. The novel is *Arrowsmith*, and in it Lewis tells the story of a pandemic and a young scientist fighting against the dogma in medicine, the panic of the public, and the weak politicians looking to appease the public with fake solutions. Lewis was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for this novel, and he was the first American to be awarded this prize. Like all good literature, it remains relevant today

Sincerely,  
Michael Franklin, MS  
5819 Oakview Circle  
Minnetonka, MN

(1) <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817>

A total of 3030 participants were randomly assigned to the recommendation to wear masks, and 2994 were assigned to control; 4862 completed the study. Infection with SARS-CoV-2 occurred in 42 participants recommended masks (**1.8%**) and 53 control participants (**2.1%**).

(2) [https://www.aier.org/article/the-year-of-disguises/amp/?\\_\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.aier.org/article/the-year-of-disguises/amp/?__twitter_impression=true)

**From:** Jennifer Flom

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:18 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

I support a mask mandate and support it extending into the schools.

Jen Flom



**From:** Jennifer Callan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:21 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Mandating a mask in Minnetonka will not stop the spread. Edina and other surrounding cities are not implementing a mask mandate and the City of Minnetonka does not reside in bubble. People travel in and thru multiple cities a day in the metro. A mask mandate will not reduce cases when the surrounding areas are mask optional. Even Walz noted that he would not be instituting a state mask mandate as not enough people would comply to make a difference. Implementing a mandate in Minnetonka, when the surrounding cities are mask optional makes even less sense. In addition, there has been enough media buzz that cloth masks do not stop the spread and everyone would need to wear N95 masks. This will not be the case and thus this mandate will do nothing more than push consumers like myself to shop in mask optional cities.

Jennifer Callan

**From:** Kate riebe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:28 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please enforce city wide mask mandate

Hello,

I would like to encourage you to please enforce a city wide mask mandate. The community is experiencing such incredibly high case numbers. Wearing N95, KN95 or KN94 masks has been scientifically backed to greatly reduce the spread of Covid. We need to do all we can to help stop the community spread in order to keep our schools and businesses open. It's also crucial so we can try not to completely overwhelm our healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kate Riebe - concerned Minnetonka resident

**From:** Kathy Barth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed mask mandate

We do not support a mask mandate. The newest variant has not been slowed by mask requirements at the schools nor by vaccination status. The schools masked vs unmasked show no transmission difference. Please follow the data. For those that feel more comfortable wearing masks they can. All the data shows that it is spreading regardless and it is harmful to people's mental and physical health to remain masked when in public. If you choose to implement a mask mandate our family along with many other Minnetonka families will transfer our business to Edina which just voted a mask mandate proposal down to protect businesses.

Thank you!

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

A few points...

Provide people with accurate unbiased information and let them choose how to protect themselves. People can wear masks today if they want and businesses can choose to require them. It's government over reach to require them.

Will certain masks or types of masks be mandated? Efficacy of kind/type of masks vary widely not to mention how they fit.

Current predictions indicate covid will be peaking and on the decline in the next 10 days. Do we really want to go down this road?

**From:** Amy Rylander  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:42 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No mask mandates

Please do not pass another mask mandate.

I normally shop in Minnetonka (i.e. Ridgedale mall) and if you pass a mask mandate I will no longer be able to patronize those merchants which hurts the local economy.

This study concluded: "We did not observe association between mask mandates or use and reduced COVID-19 spread in US states." <https://1epk.com/3zT5MtU>

**From:** Matt Castle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I do not support the mandates that the city of Minnetonka will be voting on this Friday January 14, 2022. If it should pass I will take all my business to surrounding suburbs that do not impose such restrictions.

**From:** krista besser barnes  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Vote no on the mask mandate

I am writing to urge you to vote no on the mask mandate. I am not a resident of Minnetonka but I do much of my shopping there, at Lakewinds, Whole Foods and Ridgedale. I will not patronize these businesses or abide by a mandate. I am a nurse, and masking is utterly useless, with a minimal change at best.

Looking at data from other omicron surges, we should be done with this one in the next week or two.

Thank you!  
Krista Barnes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Opposed to Mask Mandate

City of Minnetonka –

I am against the mask mandate you are proposing and voting on this week. There are numerous studies that show wearing masks is NOT effective in preventing the spread of disease. Some of the decisions made regarding public health are being made NOT based on facts or science and appear to be politically motivated. Shut downs, mask wearing and social distancing have all been minimally effective in preventing the spread of any virus. I normally shop in Minnetonka and will no longer be able to patronize those merchants which hurts the local economy.

Below is one link published early in 2021 on the INEFFECTIVNESS of mask wearing. This study published in February 2021 in the Lancet, stated: "...we did not find any evidence of decreased risk of transmission in individuals who reported mask use."  
<https://1epk.com/3fkElu0>

We should not be imposing mandates that have no benefit other than supporting a political agenda ---which this clearly appears to be.

Susan Grothe

**From:** Candace Rust  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:25 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Please say no to masks!!

Hi Rebecca!

Thanks for all you do on the council. Times are tough right now and I beg you to vote no on the mask mandate. By the time it is implemented the peak will have passed and we will be sailing into better times. I love Minnetonka and the area but I will not spend a penny in any city that mandates this. I will go to Chanhassen, Wayzata, Excelsior or Chaska, Edina (they passed a no on masks) Please vote no to masks 🙏

Candace and David Rust

**From:** Sara Warden  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition for a mask mandate in Minnetonka. As a regular patron of the Ridgedale Mall, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Target, Corepower, and The Marsh, I have felt grateful these last two years that Minnetonka entrusted me to know what is best for me and my family when deciding whether or not to wear a mask.

I ask that you look at the science, which at this point has numerous data demonstrating that masks do not work. Here are just two examples:

This study concluded: "We did not observe association between mask mandates or use and reduced COVID-19 spread in US states." <https://1epk.com/3zT5MtU>

"Meta-analysis on facemask use in community settings to prevent respiratory infection transmission shows no effect" November 17th, 2020 <https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

If you pass a mask mandate I will not only stop shopping in Minnetonka entirely, but I will also pull my memberships from the fitness gyms, just as I have in Minneapolis. I am done with this, I will no longer comply with mandates that are quickly showing they are for power and control and not health and safety.

Please do what's right and leave the decision to wear and mask to the individual. This is not a decision for government.

Most Sincerely,  
Sara

**From:** Angie Johnson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please consider...

Hello members of the city council,

It has come to my attention that there will be a vote within the city council this Friday as to whether or not to reinstate a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. I beg of you to vote down this mandate. I live on the border of Plymouth and Minnetonka and frequent businesses all throughout Minnetonka on a daily basis. If you vote for a mandate to be put in place, even though so many studies over the last year have shown no beneficial effect in areas enforcing masks vs. areas that have not required it, I would be forced to instead take my business into other areas such as Plymouth and Maple Grove. Neither is out much out of my way, they are just not the businesses I have come to support and frequent. This would not be financially supportive of all of the amazing business that Minnetonka offers. Haven't business suffered enough through discriminatory forced mandates? Where there is risk, there must also be choice. Businesses should have individual choice as to whether or not they enforce mask use in their business. It should not be left up to a small number of people deciding for everyone what may or may not be best for them. We are over 2 years into this whole mess and so far none of these measures are proving to even put a dent in the crisis, instead it is simply dividing people and hurting local business.

Please look at the statistics and scientific data showing that the current available vaccine is not showing to offer any protection against recent variants and the science and studies of mask use over the last year does not support prevention of spread.

Please do not force people to abandon the business of Minnetonka for a more open and free to choose surrounding city. I have no doubt that reinstating masks will not lessen the caseload of the current variant. It will just continue to separate and discriminate our community. Let the people and the private business owners decide for themselves.

Thank you,

Angie Johnson

**From:** john mcclay  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Please reconsider mandating masks. The face masks have never been shown to be of any benefit to people's health. If I'm wrong, could you please cite me the study that shows differently. If you really care about people's health institute a raw vegan fruit based diet mandate. After a little detoxification, nobody will ever get a cold or flu again.

I wish nothing but peace, love, growth, forgiveness and harmony for all living beings. I hope you will see in your heart to do the right thing. Many blessings,

John

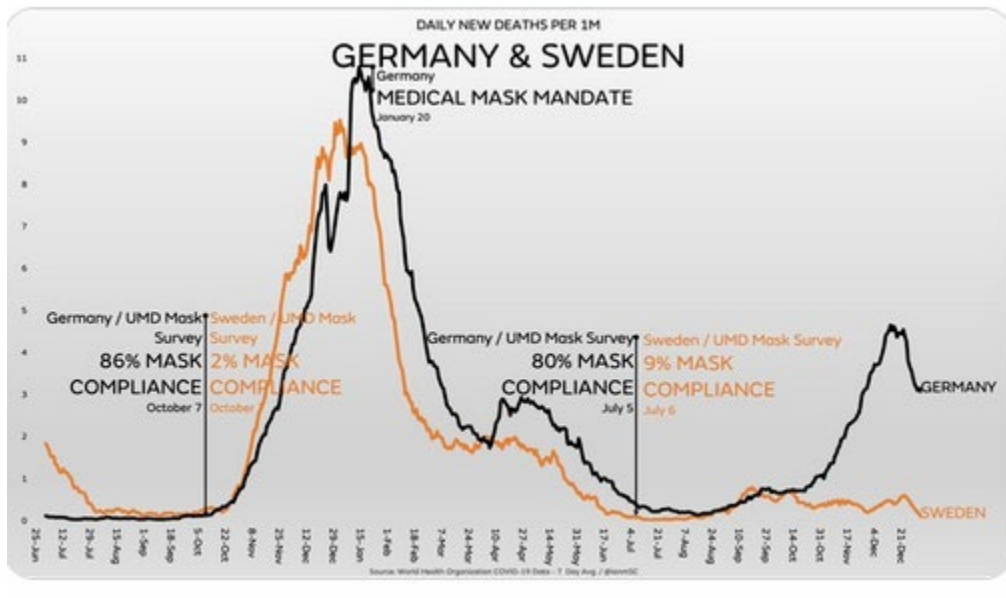
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:14 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Mask Mandate

Dear City Council,

I am writing this e-mail to express my opposition to the proposed mask mandate. Mask are ineffective in preventing the spread of Covid. That is a statistical fact. Everywhere masks have been implemented the results have been no better than in areas where there were none. The only Randomized Controlled Trial regarding masks in a community study was the Danish Mask study. It showed that the difference between the mask wearing group and the control group and Covid transmission was statistically insignificant.

Sweden did not have a country wide mask mandate, or any mask mandate, other than voluntary recommendation for public transport. Schools were never closed, no masks on kids, No lock downs. Low vaccination rates. Germany had numerous lockdowns, medical grade mask mandates, schools closed, masks in schools, and mandatory testing. As the graph below shows Germany did no better actually worse. At this point out of all the countries of Europe Sweden is dead last in Covid cases, Covid deaths, and Covid hospitalizations. Because none of these measures work. And everyone knew these measures don't work, even the WHO

Now the city wants to do a mask mandate, that didn't prevent transmission in 2020, 2021, and won't do it in 2022. Everywhere masks are implemented cases go up not down, every single time. The data from around the world for the last 20 months in incontrovertible.



**From:** Susan Bieniek  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:14 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

As a resident of Minnetonka, due to the increase in covid cases I am in favor of mask wearing requirements in all public places. We have to do what we can to protect vulnerable citizens and reduce the burden on our health care system which impacts everyone.

Thank you.  
 Susan Bieniek  
 Woodbridge trail  
 Minnetonka

**From:** Pam Perrine  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:26 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Say no to the mask mandate

Dear City Council of Minnetonka,  
 I am writing to you in regards to your vote on mask mandates. I implore you to NOT vote for a mask mandate in this fine city. My family shops in Minnetonka at many places such as Ridgedale Mall, Whole Foods, etc. I will no longer be able to patronize these merchants which will hurt the local economy. Thank you for keeping Minnetonka businesses open and thriving by not mandating masks!  
 P. Perrine

**From:** Alia Yaremkiw  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mandates

To Minnetonka City Council

I would like to state that there is no evidence that wearing masks in public prevents the spread of viruses. If this is what you believe then I think it is your duty to prove to the citizens of Minnetonka and Minnesota that masks protect the spread of viruses and provide evidence. Please do not decide such a mandate with no proof. Prominent virologists and scientists have proven this time and time again. Not only does this NOT prevent the spread of viruses but it inhibits the breathing process in which every living thing on earth has the God given right to breath through their nostrils and mouths. By covering up our breathing holes, we are more subject to diseases with respiratory and organs, like the lungs. We have been living with viruses for thousands of years. Is it not time for us to come to our senses and stop living in fear? Everybody needs to come together to eat nutritious food, exercise, take vitamin D, Zinc and other vitamins and help one another rather than discriminating. The time to stop this madness is NOW!. I hope you will make the right decision so we can all move forward to a more positive society. Thank you for your time. ALIA

**From:** Lori Weissman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:40 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Resident in Support of Mask Mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for a temporary mask mandate in the City of MINnetonka until the current high Omicron infection wave recedes. Even though a mandate might not be enforceable by way of punitive measures, I still think it would be valuable in providing public policy guidance and would encourage more citizens to practice community safety measures. The additional individuals who might mask just to abide by the law could make a positive difference, and saving even one life would be worth it!

Thanks for considering,  
Lori Weissman  
4461



**From:** Pete Rogan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Citywide mask mandate - support

Hello!

I'm a 15 year resident of Minnetonka with my wife and 2 daughters.

I am writing today to urge the council to adopt a citywide mask mandate immediately.

The current spike in COVID cases is immense. Recent data show it is still climbing. While many omicron cases are milder, there are such an intense number of them, our hospitals are overwhelmed. And our medical staff is depleted by infections as well.

The responsible public health action at this time is to combat spread with every tool we have. Masking is an excellent, simple and effective tool. Unfortunately, too many people will not voluntarily use masks - they won't respond to simple recommendations. So, a mandate is required at this time.

One other benefit of a mandate would be improving practices at Minnetonka High School. They continue to have just a mask recommendation at the high school, despite hundreds of current cases and thousands of students being potentially exposed each day. In fact, a 4-1 majority of school board members recently voted to table discussion of masking - clearly abdicating their responsibilities at this crucial time.

Please move in unison as a city council to reinstate a city-wide mask mandate. I also urge you to consider requiring proof of vaccination for customers at restaurants and bars, as recently instituted in both Minneapolis and St Paul.

Sincerely,  
Pete Rogan  
4780 Hamilton Rd

**From:** Michelle Misfeldt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Stop the mask mandate

Or we demand to see who's funding your little narrative.

The definition of insanity is doing something that doesn't work over and over. Stop the nonsense or you will see a rising of civil disobedience.

**From:** Kathleen Kaysinger

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:30 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Support for a Minnetonka City-wide Mask Mandate: 14-Jan City Council Meeting Public Comment

Dear Council Members and Mayor,

I am writing in support for an immediate issuance of a citywide mask mandate. Recent dramatic escalation of the number of people contracting COVID, being hospitalized for COVID, and dying from COVID in our nation, our state and in our community requires you act with urgency to enact this mask mandate. We only need to look as far as the Minnetonka school district to see the ravages of this recent surge. It is imperative that you act to protect our Minnetonkans in the same fashion as Hopkins, Golden Valley, St. Paul, Minneapolis, as well as other surrounding cities. This does not infringe on liberty any more than our seat belt laws, and data shows it has an immediate effect to lower infection rates and severity of disease. While it is unfortunately that we must act to protect our community, rather than going on the good faith of our residents, this is too important to not implement.

Thank you,

Mary Kathleen Kaysinger

4754 Winterset Dr.

Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:35 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Vote "NO" on Mask Mandate

To the City Council,

I am kindly requesting the City Council vote "NO" on the proposed Mask Mandate. Masks have been given 20 months to prove completely ineffective on all measures. This is not a surprise as prior to Covid studies conducted on masks in a health care setting regarding the prevention of the spread of Influenza showed that they were ineffective. The even used medical grade masks and found them ineffective. The group that wore mask, cloth and surgical had a higher rate of transmission than the control group.

The City has not authority to require me to wear a mask. If people believe masks protect them, they should wear them. The laws of physics applies to masks. If you believe the material of the mask prevents an airborne aerosols virus from exiting, that same material will prevent that virus from entering. And if you don't believe that you are denying the laws of physics.

Masks are also harmful and below is a Table of mask side effect the NIH published. This is the same NIH that is headed by Dr. Fauci. should the city implement masks, I will ensure to refrain from patronizing any business within it's boundaries

Sincerely  
Christa

# Masks are Ineffective

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Masks-for-all Children for COVID-19 not based on sound data

**#SHOWMETHE SCIENCE**

**Source:** 1. Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy,  
<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>



# MASKING CHILDREN IS HARMFUL INNEFFECTIVE

MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE

## Masks are Experimental for Source Control

CDC is misleading the public and giving them a false sense of security by suggesting masks are valid medical devices for COVID-19. That is why the FDA was forced to use an Emergency Use Authorization – the same process used for the vaccines – to approve masks as medical devices to be used as source control to reduce the spread of COVID-19. And why mask manufacturers must continue to place a disclaimer on their labels that the product does not work for airborne viruses.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/137121/download>

CDC is also violating FDA's experimental medical device policies. Federal law governing the conditions of authorization of unapproved emergency medical products (21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(III)) requires the secretary of HHS to "ensure that individuals to whom the product is administered are informed," among other things, "of the option to accept or refuse administration of the product."

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def\\_id=21-USC-309474065-1242874613&term\\_occur=999&term\\_src=title:21:chapter:9:subchapter:V:part:E:section:360bbb%E2%80%9333](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=21-USC-309474065-1242874613&term_occur=999&term_src=title:21:chapter:9:subchapter:V:part:E:section:360bbb%E2%80%9333)

# MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE

## Masks are Ineffective

While recommending the wearing of masks for health professionals, the World Health Organization acknowledged that there is no evidence that mask wearing prevents the spread of Covid-19 and that the science simply does not support requiring otherwise healthy people to wear face masks all day.

"The CoVID-19 pandemic is about viral transmission. Surgical and cloth masks have repeatedly been shown to offer no benefit in the mitigation of transmission and infection caused by viruses like influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Which is exactly why they have never been recommended for use during the seasonal flu outbreak, epidemics, or previous pandemics. Public health "authorities" flipped, flopped, and later changed their recommendations, the science did not change, nor did new science appear that supported the wearing of masks in public. In fact, the most recent studies and systemic analysis once again confirms that masks are ineffective in preventing the transmission of viruses like CoVID-19."

- Dr. Jim Meehan

- "After subtracting the epidemic and IrNPI effects, we find no clear, significant beneficial effect of mrNPIs on case growth in any country." Assessing mandatory stay-at-home and business closure effects on the spread of COVID-19 study"  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33400268/>
- "The scientific evidence in total also suggests masks (surgical and cloth masks) as currently used are ineffective in reducing transmission (references 1 to 25). The evidence on mask mandates is also clear in that they are ineffective and do not work (references 1 - 5) to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2."  
<https://www.aier.org/article/masking-children-tragic-unscientific-and-damaging/>
- "did not find evidence to support a protective effect of personal protective measures or environmental measures in reducing influenza transmission." :  
[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article)

# MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE: THE SCIENCE

- “At present, there is no direct evidence (from studies on COVID-19 and in healthy people in the community) on the effectiveness of universal masking of healthy people in the community to prevent infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.” World Health Organization (WHO), Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19, Interim Guidance (June 5, 2020) at 6. [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
- “Neither Lockdowns nor Mask Mandates Lead to Reduced COVID Transmission Rates or Deaths” [https://www.aier.org/article/lockdowns-and-mask-mandates-do-not-lead-to-reduced-covid-transmission-rates-or-deaths-new-study-suggests/?fbclid=IwAR30AMux3969e6F9MOI0P\\_aurg3a\\_kCTbnNFVVup7BKOZP9Qjx67KreN788](https://www.aier.org/article/lockdowns-and-mask-mandates-do-not-lead-to-reduced-covid-transmission-rates-or-deaths-new-study-suggests/?fbclid=IwAR30AMux3969e6F9MOI0P_aurg3a_kCTbnNFVVup7BKOZP9Qjx67KreN788)
- “that the data trends indicate that non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) – such as lock downs, closures, travel restrictions, stay-home orders, event bans, quarantines, curfews, and mask mandates – do not seem to affect virus transmission rates overall.” [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w27719/w27719.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w27719/w27719.pdf)
- “In conclusion, there is a limited evidence base to support the use of masks and/or respirators in healthcare or community settings.” The use of masks and respirators to prevent transmission of influenza: a systematic review of the scientific evidence <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/>
- Mask mandates and use are not associated with slower state-level COVID-19 spread during COVID-19 growth surges. Mask mandate and use efficacy in state-level COVID-19 containment <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.18.21257385v1>
- “There is no good evidence that face masks protect the public against infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.” *Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health*: June 2020
- “During the 2009 pandemic of H1N1 influenza (swine flu), encouraging the public to wash their hands reduced the incidence of infection significantly whereas wearing face masks did not. There is no good evidence that face masks protect the public against infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.” <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jpc.14936>



# THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES HURTS CHILDREN

- New England Journal of Medicine- May 2020- Universal Masking in Hospitals in the Covid-19 Era". We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic." <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32237672/>
- "we find no conclusive evidence to support the use of masks for Covid-19 (except N-95 type masks in a hospital setting and when appropriately fitted and utilized). In fact, masking appears to carry substantial risks to the user. And we reiterate that our conclusions are not based on the absence of evidence for ineffectiveness alone, but actual evidence of ineffectiveness.  
Masking: A Careful Review of the Evidence <https://www.aier.org/article/masking-a-careful-review-of-the-evidence/>

## Effectiveness of Adding a Mask Recommendation to Other Public Health Measures to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Danish Mask Wearers STUDY showed:

The first randomized controlled trial of more than 6,000 individuals to assess the effectiveness of surgical face masks against SARS-CoV-2 infection found masks did not statistically significantly reduce the incidence of infection.

- Among mask wearers, 1.8% ended up testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, compared to 2.1% among controls. When they removed the people who did not adhere to proper mask use, the results remained the same — 1.8%, which suggests adherence **makes no significant difference.**
- Among those who reported wearing their face mask “exactly as instructed,” 2% tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 compared to 2.1% of the controls.
- 1.4% tested positive for antibodies at the end of the month-long study compared to 1.8% of controls
- 0.5% in the mask group and 0.6% tested positive for one or more respiratory viruses other than SARS-CoV-2

# MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE: THE SCIENCE

Every other study on masks in the past 20 years showed masks make no significant reduction of spread of respiratory viruses.

Table 7. Description of studies included in the review of face masks

STUDY	STUDY DESIGN	STUDY PERIOD	POPULATION & SETTING	INTERVENTION	OUTCOME & FINDING	QUALITY OF EVIDENCE
Aiello AE, 2010 (20)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Nov 2006 – Mar 2007	1437 university hall residents (USA)	Mask; Mask + Hand hygiene; control	Significant reduction in ILI during weeks 4–6 in mask and hand hygiene group compared to control; <u>No significant reduction in ILI in mask and hand group or mask-only group or control</u>	Moderate
Aiello AE, 2012(23)	Cluster-randomized interventional trial	Nov 2007 – Mar 2008	1178 university hall residents (USA)	Mask; Mask + Hand hygiene; control	<u>No significant reduction in rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza in mask and hand group or mask-only group or control group</u>	Moderate
Barasheed O, 2014 (50)	Non-blinded cluster-randomized trial	Nov 2011 – Nov 2011	164 Australian pilgrims (Saudi Arabia)	Mask; control	<u>No significant difference in laboratory-confirmed influenza in two arms; protective effect against syndromic ILI compared to controls (31% versus 53%, p = 0.04)</u>	Moderate
Cowling BJ, 2008 (26)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Feb 2007 – Sep 2007	198 laboratory-confirmed influenza case and their household contacts	Mask; Hand hygiene; control	<u>No significant reduction in the secondary influenza attack rate in control, mask or hand group</u>	Moderate
Cowling BJ, 2009 (19)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Jan 2008 – Sep 2008	407 laboratory-confirmed influenza case and 794 household members	Mask; Mask + Hand hygiene; control	<u>No significant difference in rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza in hand-only or mask and hand group</u>	Moderate
Larson EL, 2010 (21)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Nov 2006 – Jul 2008	617 households	Mask + Hand hygiene; Hand hygiene; control	<u>No significant reduction in rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza in control, hand, mask or hand group</u>	Moderate
MacIntyre CR, 2009 (48)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Aug 2006 – Oct 2006 & Jun 2007 – Oct 2007	145 laboratory-confirmed influenza case and their adult household contacts	Surgical mask; P2 mask; control	<u>No significant difference in rate of laboratory-confirmed influenza in control, face mask or P2 mask group</u>	Moderate
MacIntyre CR, 2016 (49)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Nov 2013 – Jan 2014	245 ILI index case and 597 household contacts	Mask; control	Clinical respiratory illness, ILI and laboratory-confirmed viral infections were lower in the mask arm compared to control, <u>but results were not statistically significant</u>	Moderate
Simmerman JM, 2011 (22)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Apr 2008 – Aug 2009	465 laboratory-confirmed influenza case and their household contacts	Mask + Hand hygiene; hand hygiene; control	<u>No significant reduction in rate of secondary influenza infection in control, hand, mask or hand group</u>	Moderate
Suess (2012) (24)	Cluster-randomized intervention trial	Nov 2009 – Jan 2010 & Jan 2011 – Apr 2011	84 laboratory-confirmed influenza case and 218 household contacts	Mask; Mask + Hand; control	<u>No significant difference in rate of laboratory-confirmed influenza in control, mask, mask or hand group</u>	Moderate

ILI: influenza-like illness; USA: United States of America.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329439/WHO-WHE-IHM-GIP-2019.1-eng.pdf?ua=1>



# INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

## Evidence for Masks:

To be balanced in providing all information, the best evidence for masks we could find was commissioned by the WHO and published in the Lancet in June 2020. "Physical Distancing, Face Masks, and Eye Protection to Prevent Person-to-Person Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," sounds like high-level scientific evidence. After all, systemic reviews and meta-analyses are typically considered the epitome of evidence based medicine. This systemic review/meta-analysis was entirely comprised of low-level observational studies. For a more comprehensive analysis of the flaws of this study, read this: **WHO Mask Study Seriously Flawed, Swiss Policy Research (Sept. 9, 2020)** [https://swprsr.org/who-mask-study-seriously-flawed/?amp&\\_twitter\\_impression=true&fbclid=IwAR0w3I49opglIOpibDIYnzNOcf461kPvVYNYR-ajhHpuDvnnvdUn4fyvzK8](https://swprsr.org/who-mask-study-seriously-flawed/?amp&_twitter_impression=true&fbclid=IwAR0w3I49opglIOpibDIYnzNOcf461kPvVYNYR-ajhHpuDvnnvdUn4fyvzK8)

Following publication in the Lancet of the WHO-sponsored review, researchers led by University of Toronto epidemiology professor Peter Jueni, have now come forward asking Lancet to retract the study, citing numerous serious methodological flaws such as (but not limited to):

i) 7 studies being unpublished and non-peer-reviewed observational studies

ii) failure to consider the randomized evidence

iii) 25 included studies are about the SARS-1 virus or the MERS coronavirus, both of which have very different transmission characteristics than SARS-CoV-2: they were transmitted almost exclusively by severely ill hospitalized patients and there was no assessment of community transmission; a serious concern in regard to the issues being discussed in this document

iv) of the 4 studies relating to the SARS-CoV-2, 2 were misinterpreted by the authors of the Lancet meta-study, 1 is inconclusive, and 1 focused on the impact of using N95 (FFP2) respirators which is irrelevant insofar as community transmission, especially in regard to asymptomatic people and also did not address the use of medical grade or cloth masks

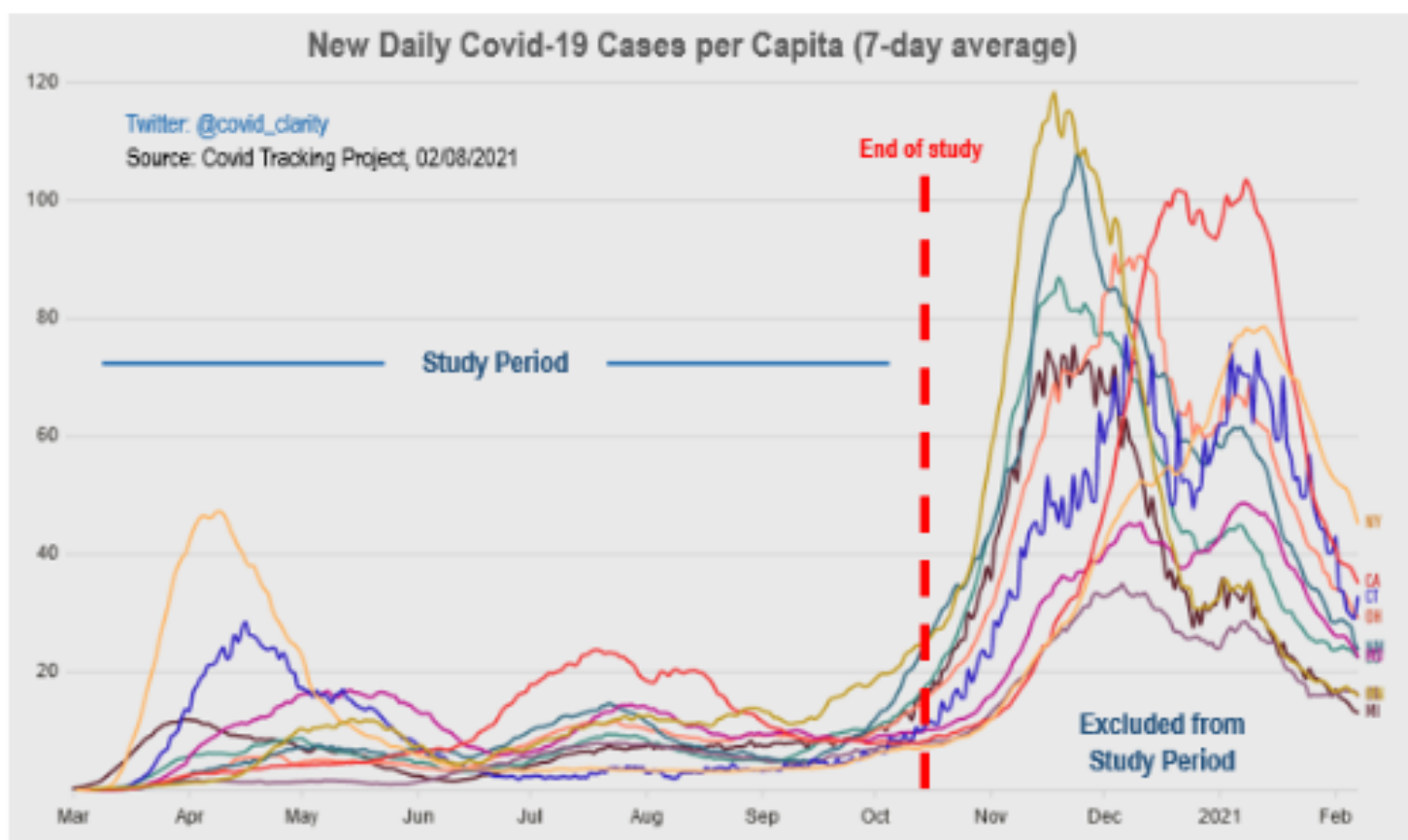
v) this review is being used to guide global face mask policy for the general population whereby one included study was judged to be misclassified (relating to masks in a hospital environment), one showed no benefit of face masks, and one is a poorly designed retrospective study about SARS-1 in Beijing based on telephone interviews. None of the studies refer to SARS-CoV-2.

# INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

## Evidence for Masks:

Decline in COVID-19 Hospitalization Growth Rates Associated with Statewide Mask Mandates — 10 States, March–October 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7006e2.htm>



Notice that the study ended before a spike in cases.

# INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Dr. Anthony Fauci knew that face masks were and are ineffective. He told the public something different than what he said privately. But what changed? There was no new science to change medical opinion, only politics and a narrative.

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 5 Feb 2020 03:48:11 +0000  
**To:** Sylvia Burwell  
**Subject:** RE: A couple of quick questions.

Sylvia:

Masks are really for infected people to prevent them from spreading infection to people who are not infected rather than protecting uninfected people from acquiring infection. The typical mask you buy in the drug store is not really effective in keeping out virus, which is small enough to pass through the material. It might, however, provide some slight benefit in keep out gross droplets if someone coughs or sneezes on you. I do not recommend that you wear a mask, particularly since you are going to a vey low risk location. Your instincts are correct, money is best spent on medical countermeasures such as diagnostics and vaccines.

Safe travels.

Best regards,  
Tony

"This is in line with what MIT researchers concluded in April, as well as what every randomized clinical trial ever done on the efficacy of masks has concluded over the past few decades. Despite the vast majority of scientific studies concluding masks do not prevent the spread of any respiratory infection, Fauci later pivoted on his position, and masks eventually became mandatory in almost every state in the US." <https://www.dailyveracity.com/2021/06/02/newly-released-emails-reveal-dr-fauci-spoke-with-bill-gates-regularly-knew-masks-dont-work-and-was-aware-of-the-likelihood-the-virus-leaked-from-lab/>

# INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES



## Doctors and Scientists on Mandatory Masking

“Masks do not and cannot protect from infection... Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks, and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection.... Since the government enforced the use of masks, many elderly people believed that they were safe while wearing them. Nothing could be further from the truth. Wearing a mask can entail serious health hazards, especially for people with pulmonary disease and cardiac insufficiency...”<sup>1</sup>

—Dr. Karina Reiss, Ph.D.,  
award-winning professor of biology, University of Kiel,  
researcher and co-author of Corona, False Alarm? & Corona Unmasked



“In fact, there is no study to even suggest that it makes any sense for healthy individuals to wear masks in public. One might suspect that the only political reason for enforcing the measure is to foster fear in the population.”<sup>2</sup>

— Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi, MD.,  
former chair of Medical Microbiology at the University of Mainz,  
awarded Order of Merit of Rhineland-Palatinate

“It is a testimony to the power of propaganda, institutional capture, and the desire to socially conform that masking of the general population has successfully been imposed during the COVID-19 era. The harms from this imposition are palpable, and potentially long-term and gargantuan, not the least of which is the psychological training of the public to comply with an absurd measure that has direct personal negative impact. [In my research paper] I review the mounting evidence of the obvious: Universal masking harms people and society, without any detectable benefit.”<sup>3</sup>

— Prof. Denis Rancourt, Ph.D.,  
researcher, Ontario Civil Liberties Association,  
member scientist, Pandemics: Data & Analytics Group (PANDA)



“Masks are utterly useless. There is no evidence base for their effectiveness whatsoever. Paper masks and fabric masks are simply virtue-signalling. They’re not even worn effectively most of the time. It’s utterly ridiculous seeing these unfortunate, uneducated people — I’m not saying that in a pejorative sense — seeing these people walking around like lemmings, obeying without any knowledge base, to put the mask on their face.”<sup>4</sup>

—Dr. Roger Hodkinson, MA, MB, FRCPC, FCAP,  
certified pathologist with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada,  
CEO and medical director of Western Medical Assessments

1-4 Links to source material available at: [MuchAdoAboutCorona.ca/mask-notes](https://MuchAdoAboutCorona.ca/mask-notes)

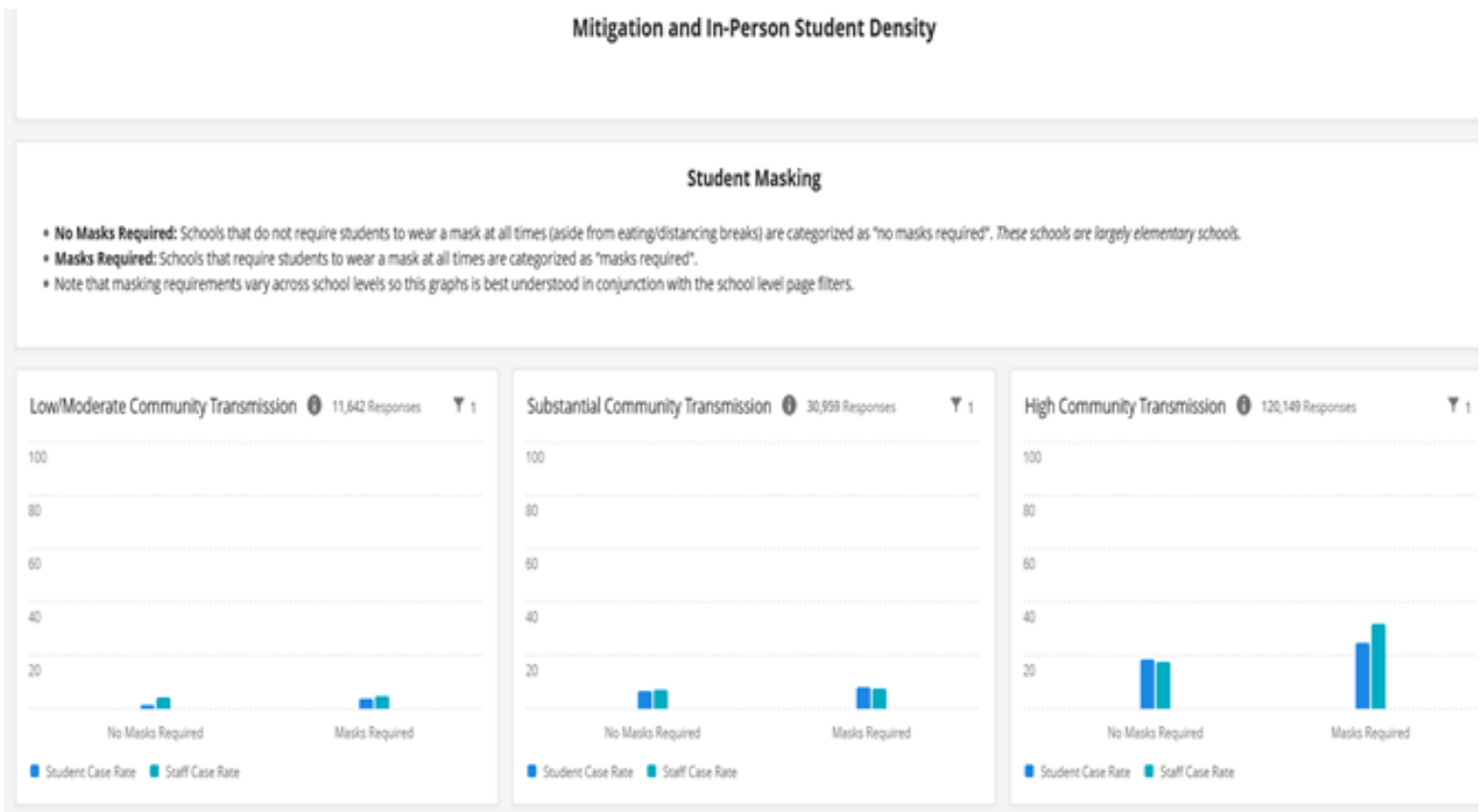


# INEFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A MASK RECOMMENDATION ON CHILDREN

If this is not enough “SCIENCE” to convince you, then let’s look at the graphed data comparing mask mandated states vs. no mask mandate states.

In areas of high community transmission, masked school students saw a case rate (defined here as daily cases per 100,000) 37 percent higher than non-masked school students, or 19 cases per 100,000 in 'no masks required' schools vs 26 in 'masks required' schools. Even worse, staff experienced a case rate 84 percent worse in masked schools, at 19 cases per 100,000 in "no masks required" schools vs 35 in 'masks required' schools.

In areas of low or substantial community transmission, students experienced no difference in case rates while staff numbers in "masks required" schools were slightly worse.



[https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page\\_ffb4dc52-5543-46b2-8126-2b7229fd1b17](https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page_ffb4dc52-5543-46b2-8126-2b7229fd1b17)

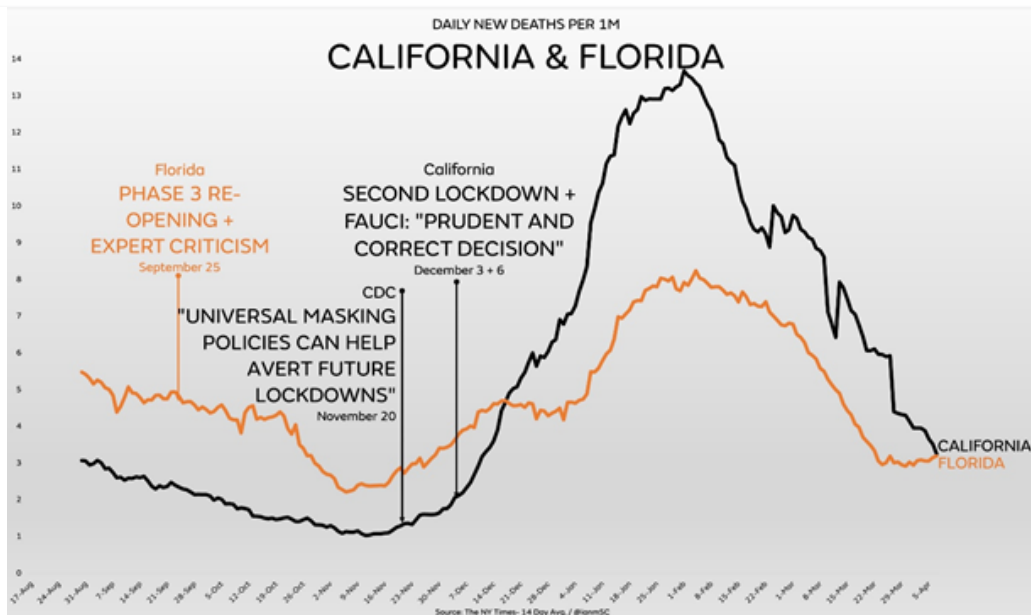
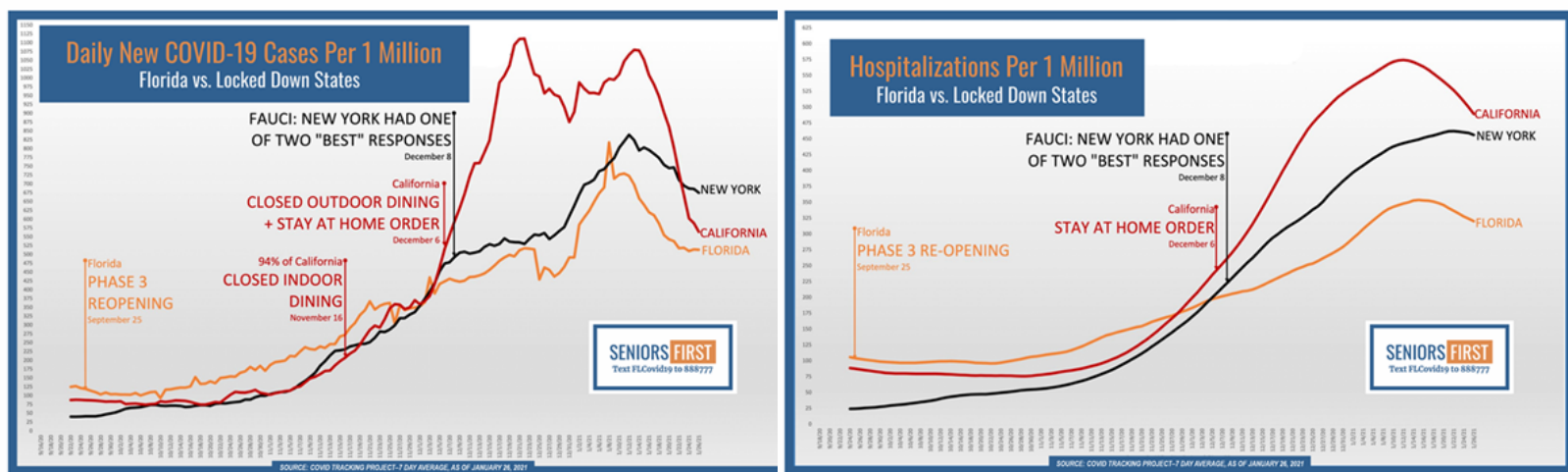


# A YEAR'S WORTH OF DATA GRAPHED: THE MOST COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT MASK MANDATES HAD NO IMPACT ON CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS.

As of March 23, 2021, California had 3,645,796 confirmed cases of Covid-19, representing 9.24% of the overall population. Florida had reported 2,011,211 cases, representing 9.36% of the state's population. In other words, Floridians and Californians got COVID at almost exactly the same rate, even though schools, restaurants, and businesses were open in Florida but aggressively closed in the California.

Media touted over the past year, Mask Mandates and Lockdowns were the perfect model of leadership and responsibility when it came to confronting the COVID pandemic—while No Mask Mandate and Reopening states were allegedly reckless and put millions of lives at risk.

As you can see from the data over the last year, the opposite was true. The evidence shows Mask Mandates had no significant impact on reduction of cases. In fact, the states that lifted restrictions had better outcomes.



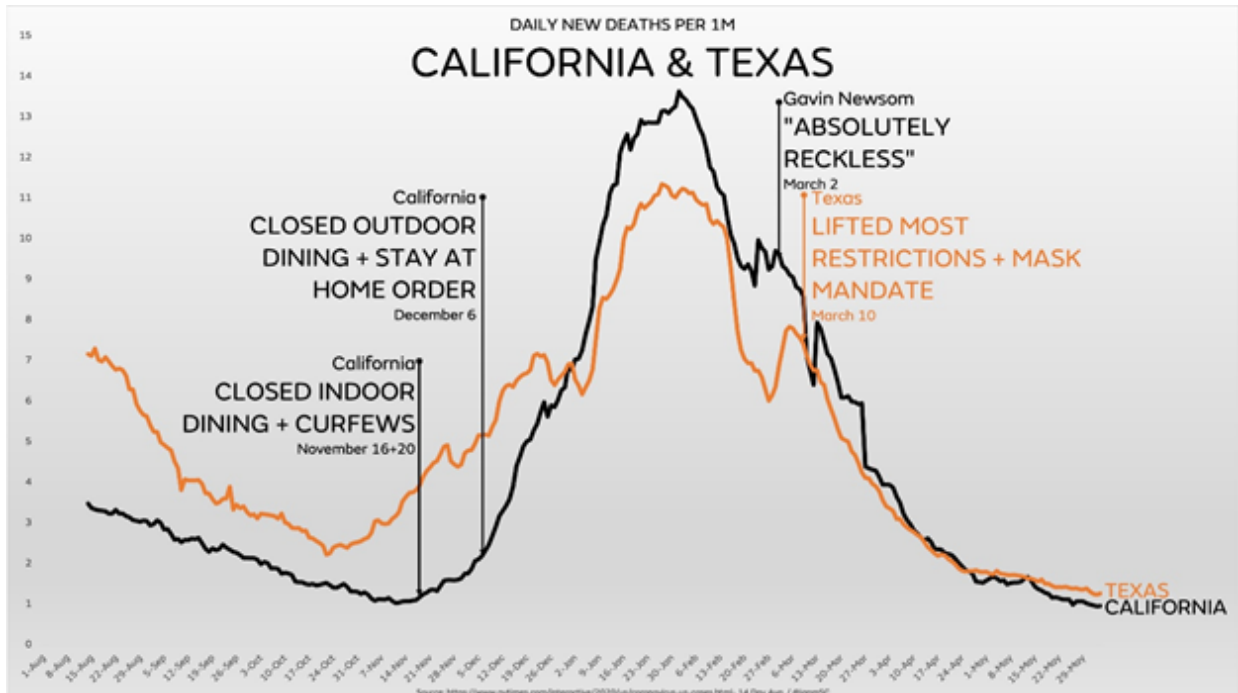
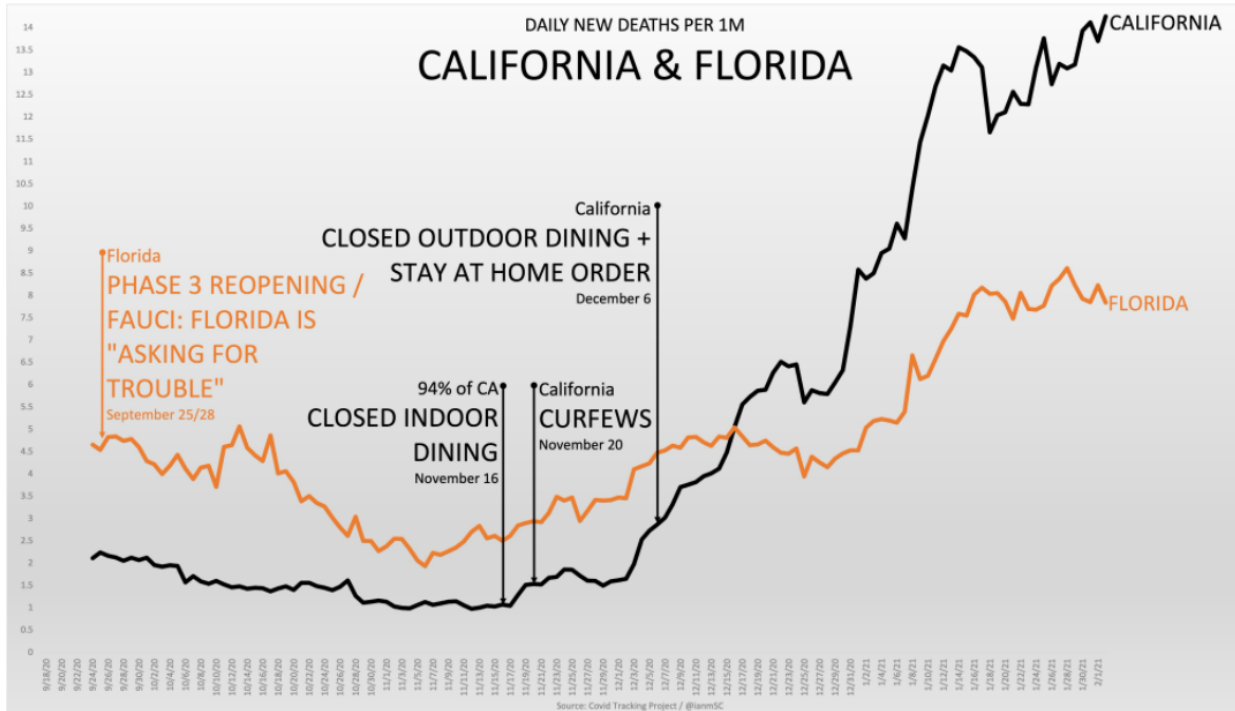
"The mask mandates and lockdowns of varying stringency in place since March 2020 have evidently failed to protect Californians—especially poor Californians—from COVID and have inflicted enormous harm."

Courtesy of Rationalground.com

# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

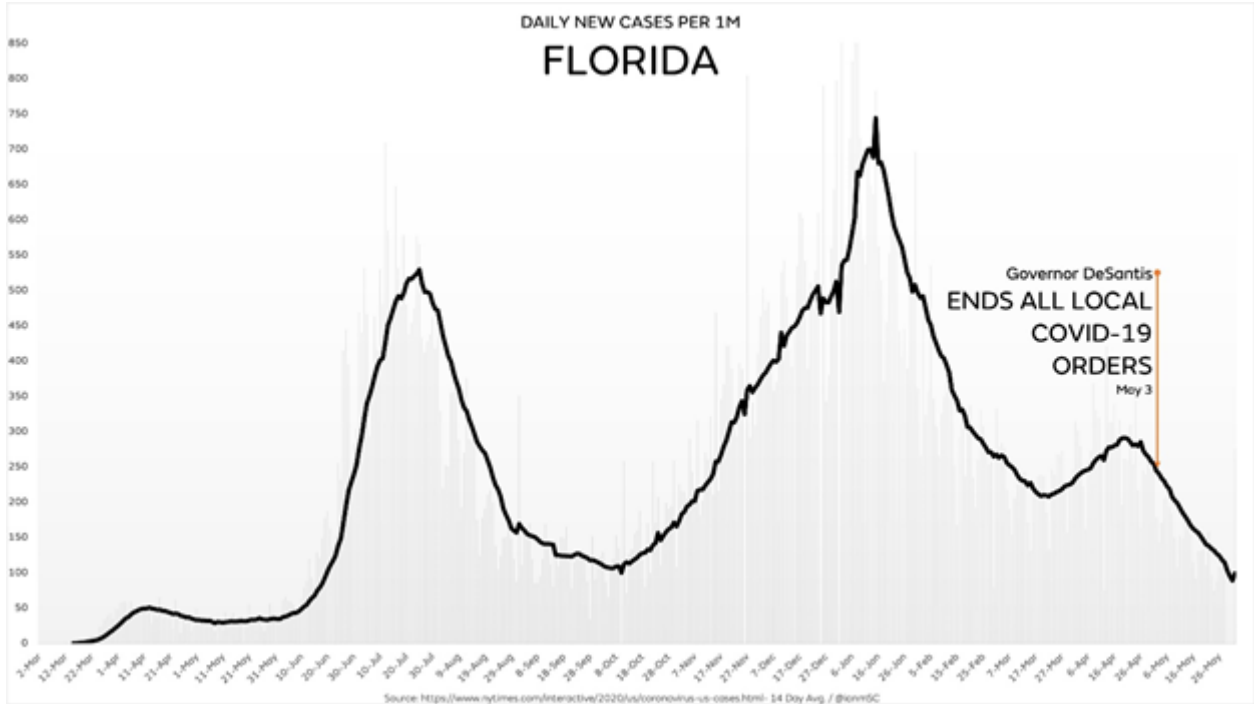
Population studies show that the use of masks either resulted in an increased incidence of COVID-19 or had no impact.

[https://pdmj.org/papers/masks\\_false\\_safety\\_and\\_real\\_dangers\\_part4/](https://pdmj.org/papers/masks_false_safety_and_real_dangers_part4/)

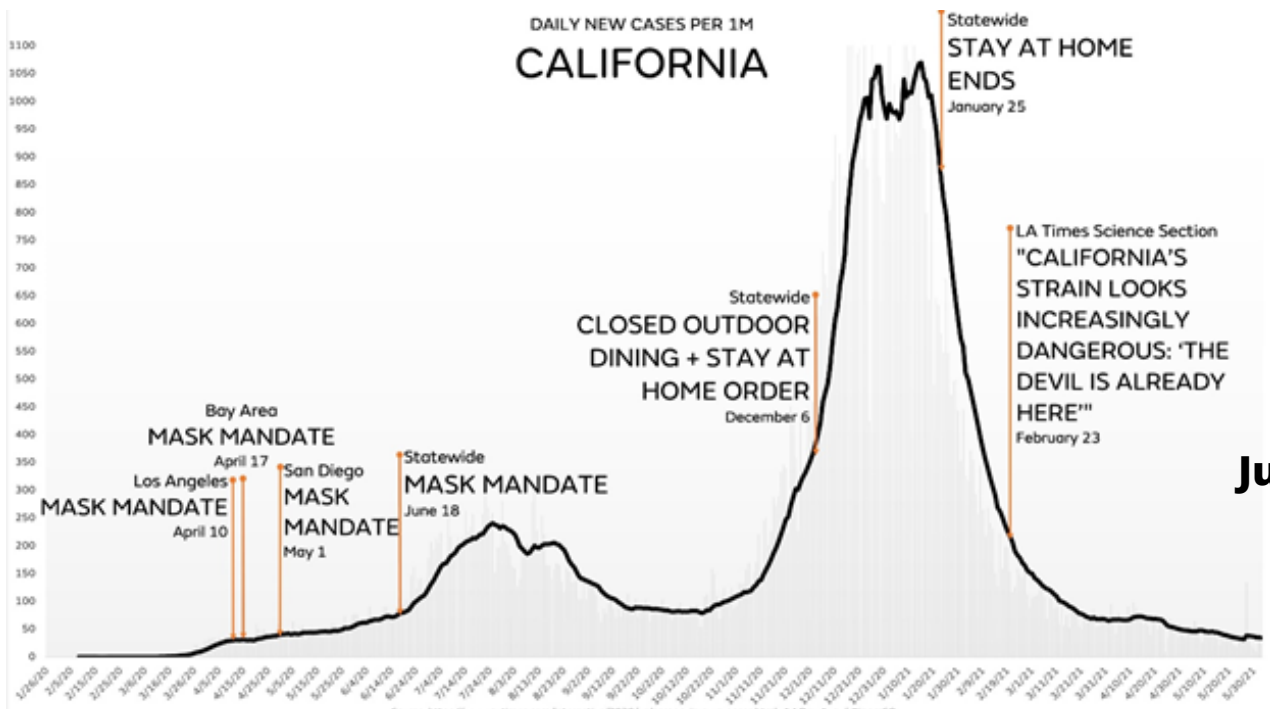


# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

Florida ended all local COVID orders in May, 2021 and received unending political and expert criticism. Cases are down -59% since ending mitigations.

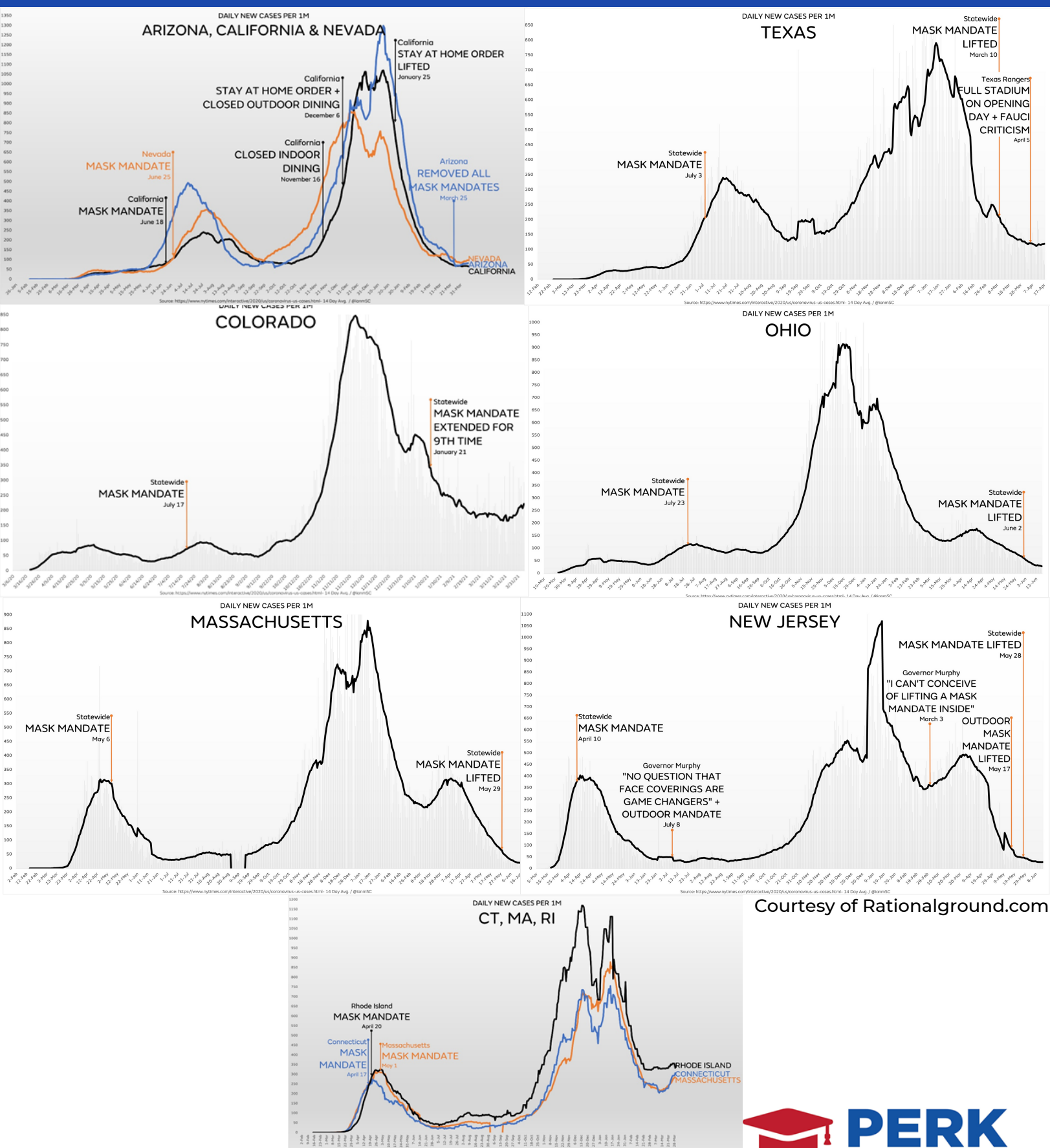


California partially lifts mask mandate for vaccinated only on June 15, 2021.





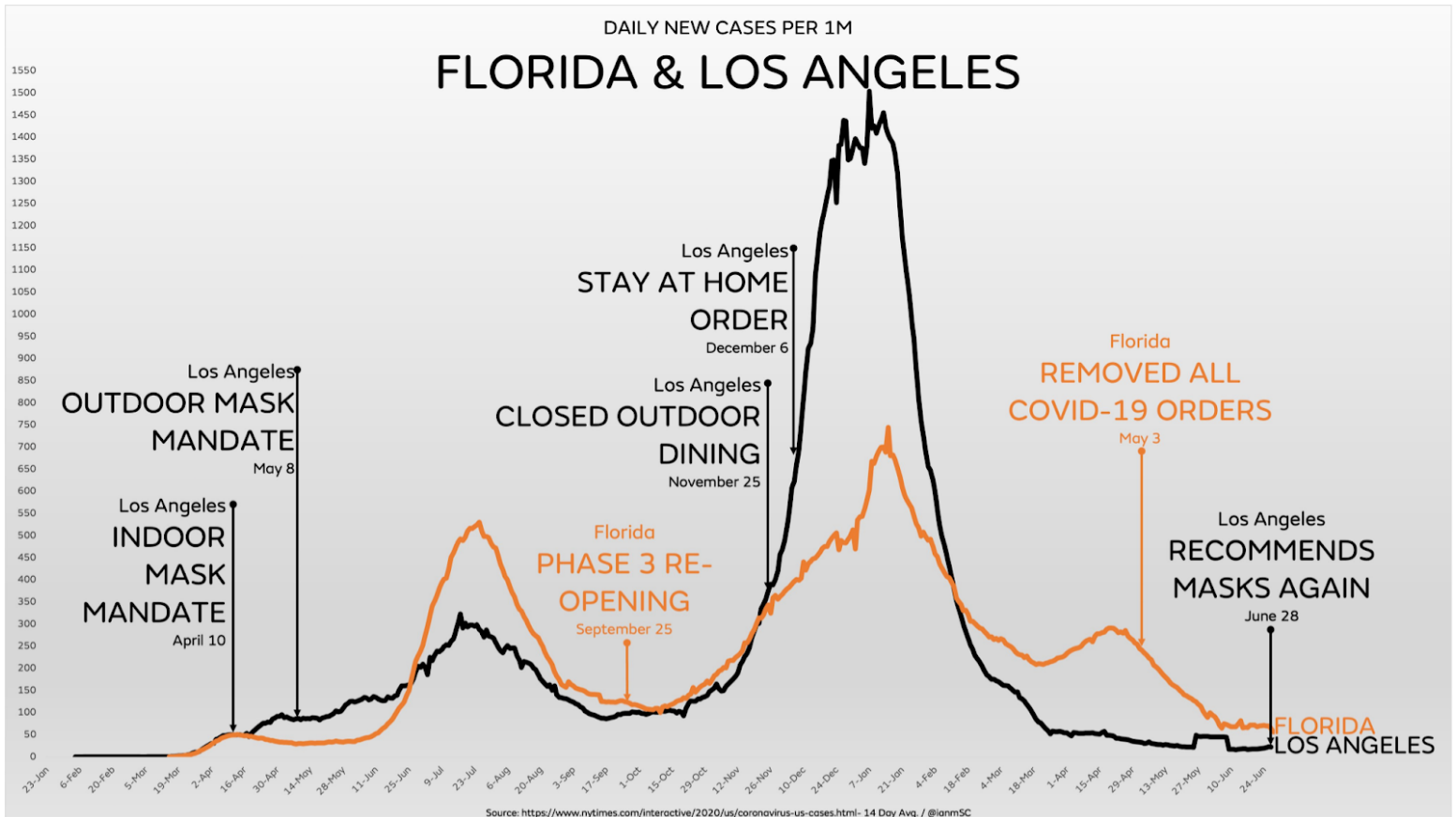
# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.



Courtesy of Rationalground.com

# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

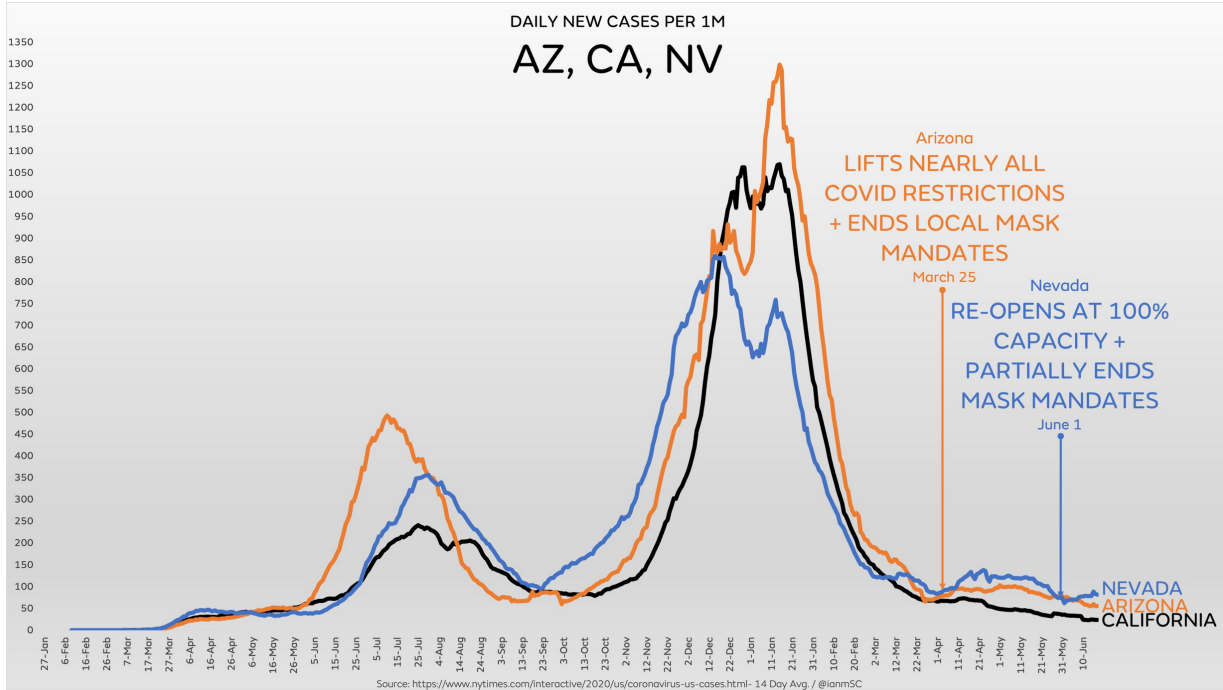
## Which state policy did better?



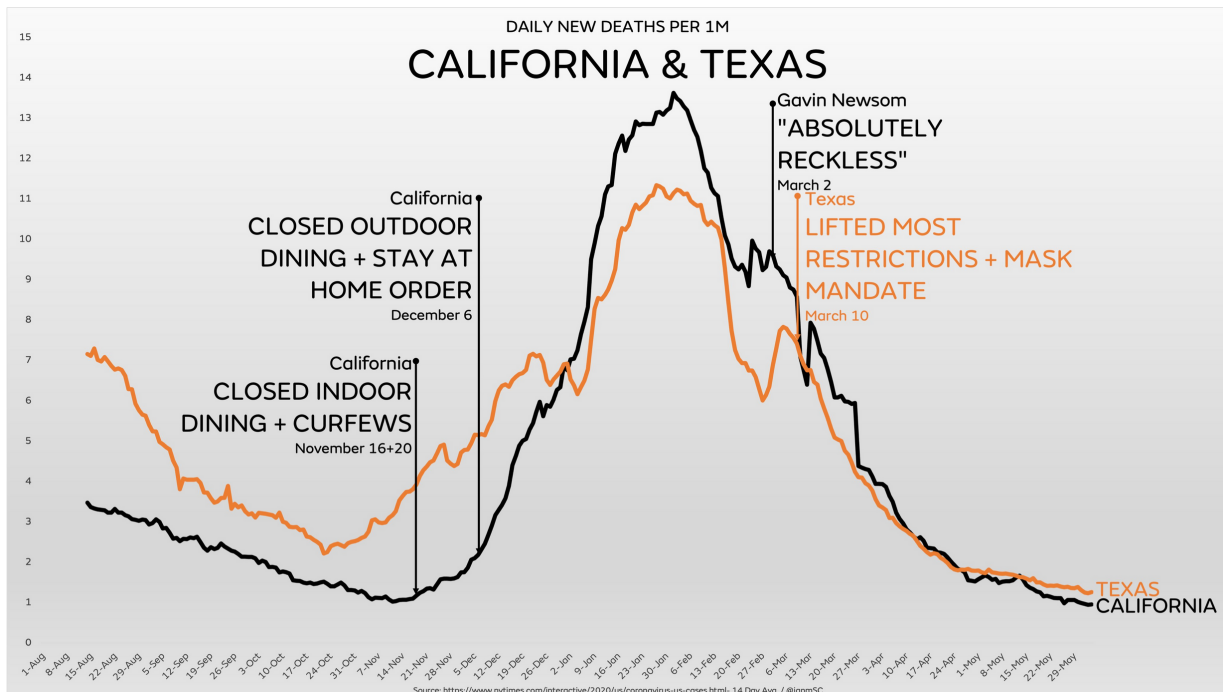
Courtesy of Rationalground.com

# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

There has been virtually no difference in Covid case rates between Arizona, California & Nevada for nearly all of 2021 despite vastly different reopening timelines

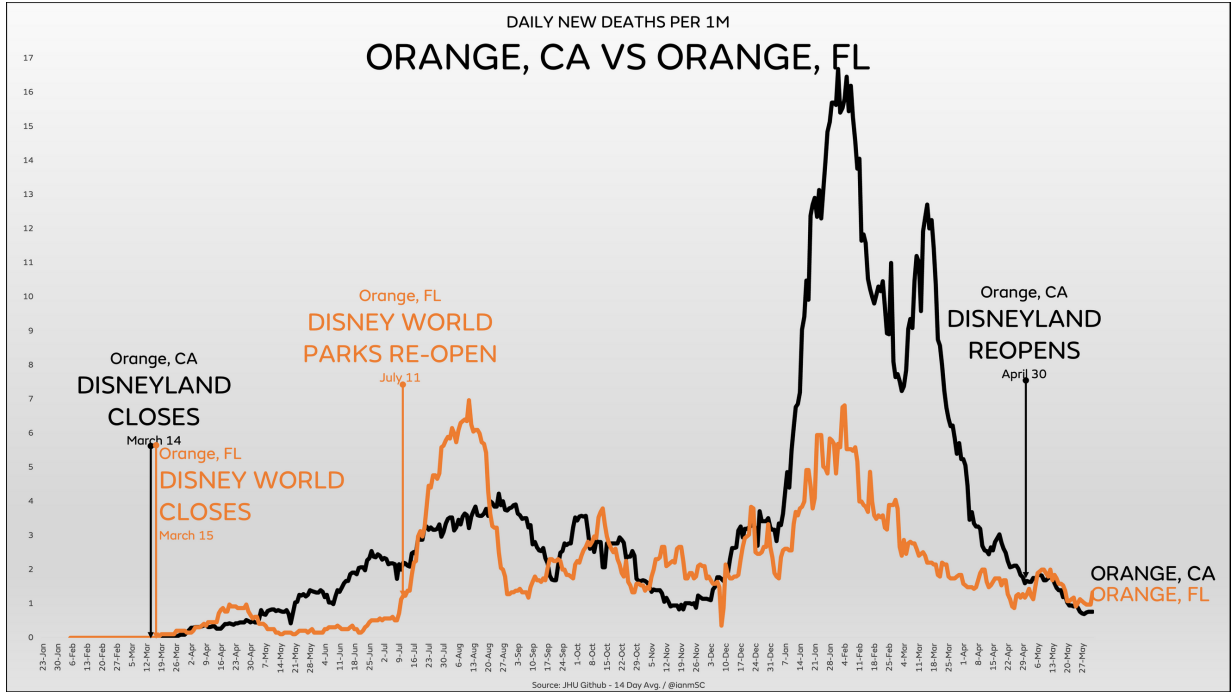


It's a testament to the power of media in shaping public opinion that no one in California seems to care that Newsom was conclusively proven wrong that Texas removing restrictions & mask mandates was remotely "reckless"

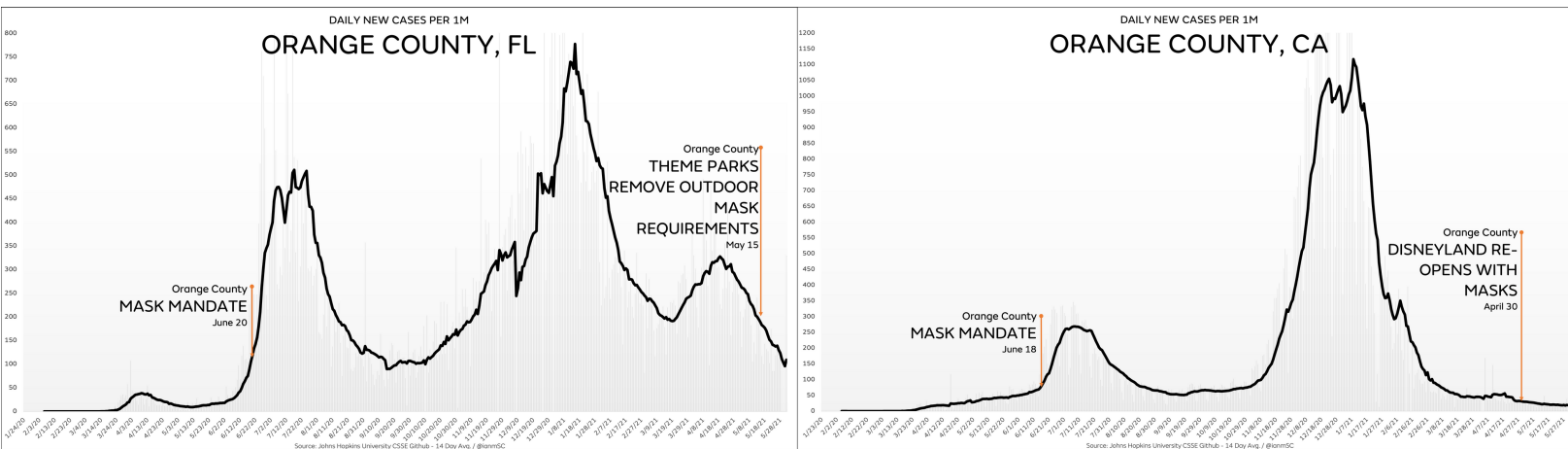


# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

We can see how much of an impact closing and opening Disney theme parks had on COVID-mortality rates:



<https://ianmsc.substack.com/p/follow-the-pseudoscience>



No difference, low case rates all around.

Did Orange County, Florida have more vaccinations? Is that why their numbers have declined or been unaffected by removing masks, or not having a lengthy list of nonsensical requirements for theme parks.

Vaccination rates:

Orange County, FL: 44.4% (at least one dose, as of June 2)

Orange County, CA: 55.5% (at least one dose, as of June 2)

Nope, that's not it either.



# MASK MANDATES AND LOCKDOWNS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REDUCTION OF CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS OR DEATHS.

States with the most restrictive mandates had worse outcomes than open states.  
California vs. Florida being the best example.



The ineffectiveness of face masks in stopping the spread of viral respiratory diseases, including Covid-19, is widely known and acknowledged in the scientific and medical literature and scientific communities. Therefore, it seems that the transition in public health recommendations to promote widespread mask mandates was based on a combination of low-level observational studies, speculative mechanistic studies, fear, and, most of all, POLITICS, NOT SCIENCE.

**Masks do NOT reduce infection rates.**

**Table 1**

Physiological and Psychological Effects of Wearing Facemask and Their Potential Health Consequences.

Physiological Effects	Psychological Effect	Health Consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hypoxemia</li><li>• Hypercapnia</li><li>• Shortness of breath</li><li>• Increase lactate concentration</li><li>• Decline in pH levels</li><li>• Acidosis</li><li>• Toxicity</li><li>• Inflammation</li><li>• Self-contamination</li><li>• Increase in stress hormones level (adrenaline, noradrenaline and cortisol)</li><li>• Increased muscle tension</li><li>• Immunosuppression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activation of “fight or flight” stress response</li><li>• Chronic stress condition</li><li>• Fear</li><li>• Mood disturbances</li><li>• Insomnia</li><li>• Fatigue</li><li>• Compromised cognitive performance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased predisposition for viral and infection illnesses</li><li>• Headaches</li><li>• Anxiety</li><li>• Depression</li><li>• Hypertension</li><li>• Cardiovascular disease</li><li>• Cancer</li><li>• Diabetes</li><li>• Alzheimer disease</li><li>• Exacerbation of existing conditions and diseases</li><li>• Accelerated aging process</li><li>• Health deterioration</li><li>• Premature mortality</li></ul>

**From:** Carolyn Mager

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:53 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** No Mask Mandate

While I do not reside in Minnetonka, I support your local businesses with my money which I will no longer do if you implement a mask mandate. This hurts your economy and the very people you are supposed to be working for and protecting so that all may pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Carolyn Mager

**From:** Erica Hway

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 10:07:53 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Cc:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate - Citizen Letter

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Members of the Council,

Firstly, as a seven-year resident of Minnetonka and long-time resident of the area, I am grateful for your commitment to the well-being of our community, especially considering that you are often placed in difficult positions and need to make tough calls.

I am aware that you have an emergency session to vote on re-instituting a mask mandate at an upcoming meeting. I am not often vocal about my thoughts on City matters, but this topic is important to me given how divided our country and community has become. This pandemic has been a difficult two-year battle so far: some have lost loved ones, and all of us have seen the negative effects of it in some form. In all this time, there have been many unanswered questions about the virus itself and the proper response to it.

Despite many efforts to reduce deaths or cases, there does not seem to be any definitive evidence that mask mandates do anything to help in any meaningful way. Especially at this point, when weighing the decision to coerce such requirements on local businesses and citizens indiscriminately (e.g. not taking into account people's antibody levels or those with asthma who find wearing masks to be difficult) — something that should not be taken lightly, though it has become prevalent in our society — it is important to have significant and conclusive scientific data (at minimum) to justify such measures.

Around the globe, there is little to no evidence that previous mask mandates have made a great impact. Recently, the data shows that areas with mask mandates still have some of the highest case counts in the country, and as I'm sure you're aware, recent data from the CDC shows that masks (specifically cloth masks) are not very effective against the Omicron variant. There also seems to be more evidence that early medicinal treatments and physical distancing have a much greater impact on the effects on the spread of Covid-19 than the inconclusive, little evidence there is that masks will help. It appears that masks may have a small impact mostly when worn by those who are positive and symptomatic. At this point, especially given the divisive nature of the issue within our community and the fact that businesses have been shown to suffer when new restrictions take place, should we really be focusing so strongly on masking when it has not been conclusively proven to be effective?

It would also be good to have some clarification and definition as to what your goal is of implementing this mandate. Is it to reduce cases? Hospitalizations? Deaths? Doctors visits? And, at what point would such a mandate expire? These are important questions to consider, especially since the newest variant seems to be much more mild than the others, and statistically, we will most likely be seeing a decline in cases following the current surge.

Thank you once again for your consideration and service to our community, which I know you care for greatly.

Erica Hway  
16316 Highwood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Karen Mueller  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:59:41 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Asking for a mask mandate

Dear Council Member Calvert,

First of all, I want to offer my congratulations on your win this fall, as I appreciate your work and voted for you once again.

As a longtime Minnetonka resident, I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote yes tomorrow to establish a mask mandate to protect the citizens of our community during the current covid surge. Masks are proven to be an easy and effective way to prevent the spread of the virus as we go about our every day activities. With Minnetonka being home to Ridgedale and other larger shopping venues, it only makes sense to support indoor masking as people come into close proximity with one another. Ridgedale is also a popular place for older adults and others to walk during the winter months, and improved masking will bring more people out to walk and shop with greater confidence in their safety. Enacting this temporary mandate will also keep Minnetonka in step with our neighbors in Hopkins and Golden Valley who have already done so. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure. A "yes" vote from the council will send a strong message to the community that the city cares for our safety.

All the best,  
Karen Mueller

**From:** Deb Swenson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 2:56:31 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Masks

I read your your reasoning and response to why you voted in favor of the mask mandate.

Minnetonka businesses will suffer from this over reach. I will not be going into any business that requires a mask. I will however let them know why and how you voted for this despite knowing it would harm them.

Deb Swenson  
Sent from my iPad



**From:** Jennifer Bar Hoover  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 6:58:41 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** City of Minnetonka Mask Mandate  
Dear Ms. Calvert -

I am a resident of Chanhassen but my children attend Minnetonka Public Schools. In addition, I am a pediatric healthcare provider in the community. I applaud the city of Minnetonka for voting on reinstating the city wide mask mandate this week. I ask that you please NOT provide exemption to Minnetonka High School when passing this mandate. Pediatric cases are at an all time high. Unfortunately, our school district has chosen not to follow the recommendations from the CDC, MDH, or the American Academy of Pediatrics recommending masking for K-12. As a result, cases the past 2 weeks at the high school have skyrocketed and the kids are being transitioned to virtual learning next week. The vast majority of my patients have told me they have no problem wearing a mask, they just don't want to be the only one. High school is hard. High school during a pandemic is harder. We have learned that mental health suffers when kids are in school online. Please help support the mental and physical health of our teens in Minnetonka by mandating mask wearing in the high school.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jennifer Bar Hoover, MS, RN, CPNP

**From:** Mardy Kopischke  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please consider a mask mandate in Minnetonka.

**From:** Deb Swenson  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 10:30:01 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I'm encouraging you to take a look at not only the science of masks, but also consider the effect on small businesses in Minnetonka. I for one will shop elsewhere. But not before I tell them why and the council members that voted for it.

Please vote no to the mask mandate!!

Deb Swenson

**From:** Mandy Rhead  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:20 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Minnetonka mask mandate

It is my understanding that this Friday, the 14th of January, the city council will be voting on whether or not to institute a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I live in Plymouth but do about half of my regular shopping as well as some dining and other business in Minnetonka (i.e. Ridgedale mall, Wells Fargo bank, Verizon, Target, Whole Foods, Panera, Olive Garden, Redstone's, Merle Norman, Baccio's, Noodles&Co, Jo-Ann Etc., Morrie's Minnetonka Subaru, Ulta, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot and Borofka's just to name a few). If you pass a mandate, I will no longer be able to patronize those merchants which hurts the local economy.

Many scientific studies now show the harms of using masks and/or their ineffectiveness: <https://lucas.travel/masksarebad/> So in addition to driving patrons like me away from your city and businesses, causing both the city and its businesses economic harm, and history has already shown us this kind of measure will have no real impact on the spread of this virus. I encourage the council to vote no on any such mask mandate, temporary or otherwise. I will take my business elsewhere if you do as well as actively encourage others to do the same.

Thank you,  
Mandy Rhead  
Plymouth resident, frequent Minnetonka patron

**From:** "S. Proudfoot"  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 9:41:02 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Support mask mandate!**  
My household fully supports mask mandate for the city!  
Dr Suzanne Proudfoot  
1916 Yorkshire Ave S  
Mtka, MN 55305  
9525438298

**From:** Corey Keller  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 8:52:36 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: No more masks! Enough is enough**

These people are ridiculous triple vaxxed, wearing double masks. If that's what they want to do fine, but they can't make others do what they want to do!! Enough is enough

**From:** Jennifer Noble  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 8:14:22 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** no mask mandate in minnetonka please

Please look at the covid deaths in our Minnetonka area before mandating a mask. You will find that yes people are getting covid right now BUT they are not dying from it. We need to worry more about Mental health right now and theft/burglaries in our area.  
Thank you!

Jennifer Noble

**From:** Kirsten Folken  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:53 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Wiersum,

I am a resident of Minnetonka strongly encouraging you to reinstate a city wide mask mandate that also includes our Minnetonka School District, grades K-12.. Based on CDC guidelines, masking is an easy thing we can all do for our neighbors to help mitigate the spread of Covid. We all have the right to feel safe when in a public setting and this should include public schools. The district's "Safe Learning Plan" is failing by not including a masking requirement in all grades, which is why I am asking you to please include schools in your mandate. My daughter attends MHS, and she had only 10 out of 30 students in one of her classes earlier this week, 3 of her 6 teachers out yesterday and the school is moving to e-learning next week because of high Covid numbers and staffing shortages. We all want what is best for our kids and we know they learn better academically and socially in person. Science shows that masking works. Please reinstate the mask mandate for our community, local businesses and their employees, our health professionals and schools. It is a easy thing we can all do for our neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be virtually attending the meeting on Friday and my hope is that the mask mandate passes.

Kirsten Folken  
17824 Powderhorn Drive  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Dan Kral  
**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 2:57:08 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Ms. Calvert,

Congratulations on winning re-election. I am writing to urge you to vote no on the proposed mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. I am a small business owner and am very concerned about starting down this path and where it might end up. There has been enough damage to small businesses. The Citizens of Minnetonka are responsible people. They are wise enough to make their own decisions about personal safety.

Please vote no on the mask mandate.

Thanks for your consideration.

Daniel Kral  
Minnetonka Resident  
3532 Tonkawood Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** David Landt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** In favor of Mask Mandate

In light of our overwhelmed healthcare system and staffing shortages industry wide, we need to slow transmission rates. I believe one very effective way to do that is to mandate mask wearing. I am in favor of the council voting for a mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration,  
David Landt

Resident: 13713 Favorite Lane, Minnetonka, 55305 Lead Pastor: Mills Church, 13215 Minnetonka Drive, 55305

**From:** Mary Pat Blake

**Date:** January 10, 2022 at 11:38:11 AM CST

**To:** Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Minnesota Medical Association Urges Communities "Please Reinstate Mask Mandate"**

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Acting City Manager,

The Minnesota Medical Association issued the following statement on January 6, 2022, and urged other communities to follow Minneapolis and St. Paul's leads by re-instituting mandatory mask use while indoors. Here is the MMA's complete statement and the link to it:

**MMA Statement Supporting Mask Mandates in Minneapolis and St. Paul**  
1/6/2022

The Minnesota Medical Association, on behalf of its 11,000 physician, resident, and medical student members, fully supports the decisions by Minneapolis and St. Paul to re-institute mandatory mask use while indoors. We urge other communities to consider similar actions. Wearing well-fitted masks is a valuable strategy in our ongoing fight to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the highly contagious omicron variant. The best defense against COVID-19 and serious complications remains vaccination and boosters. Well-fitted masks, social distancing, washing your hands, staying home when you're sick, and getting tested if you have symptoms offer additional protection. These are all ways that Minnesotans can practice good health and demonstrate support for the thousands of the state's healthcare workers who continue to selflessly care for patients on the front lines.

<https://www.mnmed.org/about-us/pressroom/2022-Press-Releases/MMA-Statement-Supporting-Mask-Mandates-in-Minneapolis>

We in Minnetonka are all part of the same medical system as Minneapolis and St. Paul. If we need medical care at a hospital, we in Minnetonka are out of luck given the extreme number of Covid patients taking beds and medical resources. There are only a handful of open hospital beds across all the Twin Cities hospitals. Surgeries are being postponed. This is all over the news. Certainly you have seen this, too.

My like-minded friends and I are reducing or stopping our shopping in Minnetonka stores. We don't want to get the highly contagious Omicron.

Please reinstate the indoor mask mandate in Minnetonka, and request that people wear N95 masks as directed by the medical community including Dr. Osterholm at the University of Minnesota, the CDC, and Dr. Fauci. The Omicron variant is everywhere and will be for the next several months.

Reinstating the indoor mask mandate is the only responsible action to take at this time. It would be hard to believe the Mayor, City Council and Acting City Manager know better than the Minnesota Medical Association, Dr. Osterholm and Dr. Fauci regarding the need to mask up indoors in this wave of Covid.

Thank you.

Mary Pat Blake  
Minnetonka resident  
Ward 4

**From:** Michelle Shainess

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 2:51:47 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Support of mask mandate

Hello,

I am writing to you in strong support of the citywide mask mandate you'll be discussing Friday. With a 27.4 percent positivity rate in Hennepin County, an all-time high, wearing a mask is among the best and most effective means we have for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in and beyond our community. We need to support our medical and school communities, as well as those children under five who still cannot be vaccinated. Has a mom of three living in Minnetonka you have my support of a city wide mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks, Shelly

**From:** Alan Sadowsky

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:31 PM

**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hi,

I support a temporary mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka while the Covid numbers continue at elevated levels.

Thank you,  
Alan Sadowsky

**From:** WHITNEY Anderson

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 12:39:13 PM CST

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, rschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask choice please**

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

It has come to my attention that you all will be voting shortly to mandate mask again. We have two kids and live in the Minnetonka school district. We do all of our shopping in Minnetonka. If this mask mandate does come about we will be taking our shopping to all the other local cities nearby. Our family spends thousands per week in the city of Minnetonka. When you make this mandate it doesn't just affect people shopping but gyms, restaurants, etc. The city of Minnetonka has already been damaged enough bc of all the COVID mandates. Let our business owners have a say in this. Let the community have a say in if we want to wear a mask or not. It is not proven that cloth mask work. The Omicron virus is not a huge threat to our community. This is just allowing our community to continue to have this fear.

Our family has already left the Minnetonka school district for a private school that allows mask choice. I have plenty of friends in the Minnetonka school district that are wanting to exit as well. Mandates need to stop and let the community choose for themselves.

So please vote for mask choice.

Thank you for reading my email and listening to me.

Whitney Anderson

**From:** Amy Lindberg

**Date:** January 11, 2022 at 12:08:04 PM CST

**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask mandate - vote no**

Dear Mrs. Calvert,

Please vote no to any proposed city wide mask mandates. Please allow residents the freedom to make the best decisions for their family.

Thank you for representing our citizens,

Amy Lindberg  
4307 Annika Court

**From:** Jenna Sanden  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandates

I am writing to oppose any type of mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. Aside from the fact that a mandate violates personal autonomy numerous studies have shown that masks are not effective at reducing transmission of coronavirus. Even the CDC has admitted this. Notably, Dr. Walensky, the head of the CDC stated that masks were nothing more than facial decorations. The WHO has also stated that there is little evidence to support the effectiveness of masking healthy people.

Furthermore, there are studies showing that masks can be potentially harmful. Side effects range from dizziness, headache, and shortness of breath to hypercarbia, hypoxia, and increased risk of bacterial infection.

Bottom line, we have been down this road before and it did nothing but stoke fear in people and cause division. This pandemic has been going on for nearly 2 years now. People are fed up with the government mandates. Let people choose for themselves how to manage their health decisions. For those who want to continue to mask, they can do so. And if they are so terrified of catching COVID, they can shelter in place or do whatever measures they see fit. But let the rest of us live our lives.

For links to many articles regarding the ineffectiveness and harm of masks please visit <https://maskoffmn.org> and click on their "masks" tab at the top of the page. The evidence is overwhelming and does not favor mask wearing.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Bohn, CRNA, APRN. RN

**From:** Pamela Malley  
**Date:** January 9, 2022 at 9:46:07 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: Mask mandates**

Thank you for anything that you can do to keep people safe. This is a very difficult time for all. I feel particularly sad for people who have to work and are exposed to the virus by people who obviously don't care if they spread it.  
Thanks again,  
Pam



On Jan 7, 2022, at 3:01 PM, Barb Westmoreland [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Council Members,

My daughter is a nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. She has kept me up to date throughout our long pandemic on the facts about each variant, as well as the best precautions for safety for me and my fellow community members.

I'm sure you're aware of the reality of this current surge of the omicron variant: it is much more contagious because it aerosolizes more minutely and remains airborne much longer than previous variants. Omicron symptoms also set in much faster. Abbott and all of our hospitals are at a critical time again: turning away people who are so sick, not only because there are no available beds, but also because the hospital staff are out sick.

Our best offense against omicron is for all members of our community to wear KN95 or N95 masks in public spaces (as well as vaccinations).

I am asking you to protect our community members through this surge of omicron with a mask mandate and a strong message to adapt group meetings and gatherings to virtual space. We've done it before, and it is so needed again.

We have always been expected to mask up in public schools and county buildings. Minneapolis and St Paul have reinstated their mask mandates again temporarily.

Thank you for your leadership at this critical life & death moment in our city.

Barb Westmoreland

4713 Caribou Dr

**From:** Dan Westmoreland

**Date:** January 7, 2022 at 7:12:54 AM CST

**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Protect your constituents**

Deb

We need a mask mandate as of now.

Dan Westmoreland

**From:** Christina Sakai

**Date:** January 7, 2022 at 10:13:05 AM CST

**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaepfi <[bschaepfi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepfi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Pro Mask Mandate

Dear Members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I hope you had a happy and safe new year.

I am writing to ask that you implement a city wide mask mandate, given the spike in cases we are seeing in our community (see below for tracking in Hennepin County by City). The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have announced mask mandates so your precedent has been set and you can mimic theirs.

As the parent of school age kids, I know the importance of masking to keep them in school and me at work. Right now our schools are the only place in the community that require masks, which means that community spread is rampant. If Omnicron is allowed to spread freely with no attempt to stop it, our hospitals and healthcare workers will be more overwhelmed than they already are, as well as likely school disruptions due to high spread and/or staff shortages, such as the case with Minnetonka High School.

Thank you for your consideration, Christina Sakai, Minnetonka Resident

Source of the below data: <https://www.edenprairie.org/community/coronavirus-covid-19>

**From:** Ali Mahady

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:24 PM

**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate discussion

Hello,

Please find the attached letter for my written comments in regards to the upcoming mask mandate discussion.

Thank you,

Ali

January 12, 2022

City of Minnetonka,

I'm writing this letter in regards to the upcoming discussion of a city-wide mask mandate.

Do you find it odd that the PCR test that we relied upon for 2 years has now been pulled by the CDC because not only does it give false-positive results, but it also cannot differentiate between COVID, the flu and the common cold? The flu did not just magically disappear and while the number of COVID positive tests appear to be skyrocketing, there is no valid data confirming that people in fact have COVID vs the flu or a cold. It's also wildly convenient that Omicron has the exact same symptoms as the common cold – so how is anyone to know what the true numbers are and if in fact someone truly has COVID.

As a society, we never masked for the flu or the cold, we stayed home when we were sick, we were encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle, take vitamins, exercise and go on with our lives. Why are these preventative measures never talked about or encouraged? Why do we continue to disrupt our society for a virus that is 99.9x% survivable? Instead, we continue to impose tactics and policies that are completely unproven and produce other health and societal risks.

The CDC recently admitted that homemade and cloth masks do not work against Omicron. Do you expect that the citizens of Minnetonka are to go out and buy N95 and KN95 masks, which are expensive and not intended to be reused? Have you given any consideration to the fact that masks carry bacteria and can cause bacterial pneumonia, like with the 1918 flu where the [CDC](#) and the [NIH](#) both state that the majority of deaths were caused by bacterial pneumonia. Are you aware of a study where a [group of parents in Gainesville, FL submitted six face masks to a lab for analysis in June of 2021](#). The resulting report found that five masks were contaminated with bacteria, parasites, and fungi, including three with dangerous pathogenic and pneumonia-causing bacteria. People do not wear masks appropriately, which makes the wearing of them obsolete and they continue to wear dirty masks, exposing them to the risk of breathing in dangerous pathogens.

The CDC has lied to the American public every step of the way through this 'pandemic', they continue to change their guidance on such a frequent basis that we can't even keep up with it and they refuse to provide any peer reviewed, scientific data to support any of their policies. It's time we wake up to what's really going on here – this is not about a virus, this is not about public health. This is about control and a much bigger agenda and masking is just a visual way to keep the fear alive, to remind people that this extremely 'deadly' virus is still with us and we should all live our lives in fear and isolation.

Please let us be adults and make our own healthcare decisions for ourselves and our families. Let us live as freedom-loving Americans like our Constitution and Bill of Rights were created for us to be. And please, open your eyes to the lies and propaganda that have been fed to us for the past 2 years and let us move on with our lives.

Thank you for your time,

Alexandra Mahady

**From:** Jen Bouchard

**Date:** January 7, 2022 at 3:41:33 AM CST

**To:** Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn  
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**Subject:** Mask mandate for Minnetonka

Good morning,

I am writing you as my council representatives, asking you to approve a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. The Hopkins City Council will be voting on one next week. As the science has shown, what we are experiencing with Covid in schools is directly impacted by community spread. Our student and staff cases are increasing, and (like districts throughout the metro) staffing classrooms and finding subs is a daily challenge. Moreover, our hospital systems are overwhelmed (this should be reason alone to enact the mandate).

The Hopkins School Board has been one of the only local governments in our community to consistently enforce mask mandates in our buildings throughout the pandemic. The board and staff have followed the science and stayed strong in the face of pushback from community members who are against masks. As an individual, I am asking you to join us in taking action to protect our entire community during this crucial time. Please let me know how I can support you.

In community,

Jen Bouchard

Minnetonka resident

Parent of a Hopkins Schools student

Hopkins School Board