

**Addenda**  
**Minnetonka City Council Meeting**  
**Meeting of January 14, 2022**

**ITEM 14D – Consideration of a city-wide face mask mandate**

The attached correspondence was received by staff between Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14 at 12 p.m.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kyle Salage, Elections Specialist  
**DATE:** Jan. 14, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Change Memo for Jan. 14, 2021, City Council Meeting

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**Item 14D – Consideration of a city-wide face mask mandate**

The attached correspondence was received by staff between Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14 at 12 p.m.

**From:** freemonkeymonica  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:09 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Mask Mandate

I am respectfully asking members of the Minnetonka City Council to vote NO on imposing a citywide mask mandate.

Research shows that masks are not effective against stopping the spread of COVID. Furthermore, wearing masks causes actual harm to people, especially to children.

The reality is that a citywide mask mandate will not protect people against the virus and instead will drive people to do their activities/business in other mask-free cities.

Please vote NO on a citywide mask mandate.

Thank you,

Monica Schreiner  
5809 Bellham Ave.

**From:** Kari Luoma  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:16 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To whom it may concern:

Please vote against the proposed mask mandate. There is no proof of decreased transmission with the use of masks. As a person who is unable to tolerate a mask with five children who also are unable, we will no longer be able to support Minnetonka's local economy if this mandate goes into effect. Please, please do not put this unnecessary mandate back into play.

Kindly,  
Kari

**From:** Kari Luoma  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:20 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Studies on masks-they don't work

<https://escipub.com/Articles/IRJPH/IRJPH-2021-08-1005.pdf>  
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30985-3/fulltext?s=09](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30985-3/fulltext?s=09)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395971/>

Kari

**From:** Lynn Rivers

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:20 AM

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

**Subject:** Jan. 14th city council meeting to consider a mask mandate in Minnetonka

*To the Minnetonka City council members,*

*I am sending you this email to say loudly and clearly that I OPPOSE a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka. Below are links to some of the studies on which I base my opinion. Please take the time to review this information. A mask mandate isn't going to make the patrons who frequent city establishments any safer.*

*Thank you.*

*Lynn Rivers*

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 #maskoffmn

<https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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.

<https://1epk.com/3l1hiX6>

**From:** Heim Family

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:28 AM

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

**Subject:** Masking mandate

I have been a (conservative leaning) resident of Minnetonka for 19 years and am currently a mom to two MHS students. I frequently shop in the area and am consistently surprised how many people choose not to protect themselves, their family and our community simply by wearing a facial mask when out and about. Furthermore, I was appalled at the school board's

recent decision to kick the can and completely avoid an important discussion about a MHS mask requirement.

With the skyrocketing number of Covid cases in our community, I encourage the city to implement a short-term mask mandate that includes the schools. Some of our children are afraid to pursue the education they have a right to, knowing that the virus is all around them as step foot in the high school building.

Please help our families, schools, neighborhoods and greater community put this pandemic behind us by voting for a short-term mask mandate.

Sincerely,  
Sara Heim

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:59 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

For heavens sake reject any attempt of our mayor and city council people trying to impose a mask mandate in our city.

It is unnecessary and ridiculous to do this, it has been proven that only the medical grade mask are someone helpful and the rest are not!

What is next, how we dress, in communist red?

Please stop this type of thinking!

Daryl Sather  
9808 Robin Oak Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:05 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Please vote NO NO NO NO! You all must be goofy, masks do not prevent anything!

Daryl Sather  
9808 Robin Oak Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Elizabeth Anderson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates

I am a long time resident. I DO NOT support a mask mandate! Please allow residents to choose for themselves. Masks do nothing to protect anyone!

Elizabeth Anderson

**From:** Michael Salyards  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:39 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

If I could, I'd like to vote no on mask mandates for the city.

Vulnerable people have the absolute right to restrict their own participation in our community and protect themselves during this omicron spike. The spike will pass and then they again have the option to engage at any level they choose.

Non vulnerable, most of the rest of us, also have the same option. Masks have proven to be ineffective unless N95 or KN95 and unless you mandate those, a mask mandate is useless and even if you do mandate those, you risk harming the community even more by jeopardizing the health of business in our area and you risk turning employees into mask police

Please allow those who need extra protection to monitor their own activities individually and allow the rest of us to live as normally as possible and without additional and unnecessary fear or restrictions placed upon us.

Thank you.

Thanks  
Michael Salyards

**From:** Katrina Hilyar  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:00 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate Minnetonka

To whom it concerns:  
Please do not initiate a city wide mask mandate.

If you are not double vaccinated and boosted, just stay home. When I had small children I ordered my groceries during flu season to protect them from viruses way worse than the new ones.

This new cold/ flu that is called all the things, is here FOREVER. COVID is a problem of the unvaccinated, not of the masses.

We are already moving out of this over-governed state and district, but need to finish the school year. We will not spend a dime in Minnetonka if this passes. Do not destroy the businesses that are still trying to make it here.

Are we really trying to be Minneapolis and St Paul????? Why????

Sincerely,  
Katrina Hilyar

**From:** Diane Wolf

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:04 AM

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

**Subject:** Say NO to mask mandates

Masks simply do not work to stop the spread of covid and in fact may be unhealthy to wear as they decrease oxygen by 20% and increase our carbon levels. The only two things cancer needs to proliferate is a low oxygen environment and sugar. With today's standard American diet wearing masks will lead to increased lung and throat cancers.

Further evidence that masks do not work was 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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

If you enforce masks I will no longer be shopping in Minnetonka for anything and will take my business elsewhere. You will hurt your economy, people's trust in you to make good decisions and hurt people's quality of health.

Sincerely,  
Diane Wolf

**From:** westwindhealing

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:07 AM

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

**Subject:** MASKS DON'T WORK

Hello,

It is my understanding that the city council of Minnetonka is planning on voting on whether or not to re-institute a mask mandate. I shop in Minnetonka frequently and this will directly impact the businesses of Minnetonka because masks stop viruses as well as chain link fences stop mosquitoes. Because I know how ridiculous masks are, I don't wear one. Thus, I won't be shopping in Minnetonka if the city does decide to implement this backwards, baseless, oppressive, tyrannical

'mandate', which cannot be enforced, as mandates are not laws anyway. You'll force the businesses to become gatekeepers and door watchers, "rent a cop" security and promote friction between customers and shopkeepers. Don't waste your time, money and resources on something so frivolous. All you'll end up doing is hurting the economy of Minnetonka and further oppressing the morale of your residents and businesses. If you "believe the science", please read the following articles:

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 #maskoffmn

<https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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.

<https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

Thank you for your consideration,

Penny Sue Mueller ©  
All right reserved  
Without prejudice

**From:** Cheryl Howell

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:17 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Please do not put the burden of a mask mandate on the businesses or citizens of Minnetonka. Many studies have shown that masks do not block transmission of Covid.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Howell

Note these studies:

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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. <https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>



**From:** F45 Training Ridgedale  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:21 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** F45 Training Ridgedale  
**Subject:** MASK MANDATE VOTING CONSIDERATIONS

## City council to consider mask mandate

The Minnetonka City Council will [meet Friday Jan. 14 at 3:30 p.m.](#) to consider a citywide mask mandate. The meeting is a continuation of Monday's regularly scheduled council meeting. It comes as the community and region see a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

### **TO THE VOTERS -**

As voting day comes upon you and you are faced with your decision, I encourage you to reflect back on the past two years. Please consider the damage both emotionally and financially to small businesses in your community specifically. Many are gone today, or on the verge of closing. Our economy thrives on small businesses.

We chose Minnetonka as our community for our fitness center because it was inviting and there was a need for our kind of fitness - extremely high quality small group training. It provides so much more than physical fitness. It provides a social and mental outlet, and have you read the research on how this impacts our much needed immune systems?! New members flocked to our studio in the 6 months leading up to the Covid shutdown's of 2020. We were building a community, not a gym.

Enacting a mask mandate will be extremely detrimental to our small group fitness facility. Masks have ALWAYS been optional. We are hanging on by a thread, and literally reinvested every penny we have from our future retirement into remaining open and providing an outlet for mental, physical and social health for our community of members who choose 45 minutes of daily exercise to help build their immune systems in a time in history where it's more important than ever.

Literally, our life savings have been invested since 2019 into this small business fitness franchise. We were open six months and then the first shut down closed us for three months. This killed our initial growth and momentum. We lost half our members (i.e. income) during this closure with very little relief from the government for fitness centers. Then re-opening from June to November, 2020 with the 15% to 25% capacity also provided little opportunities for growth with the restrictions. Another closure from 11/20 to 12/19, 2020 and then re-opening with a mask mandate (five days before Christmas) and our memberships dipped even lower than with the first reopening in June 2020. The first five months of 2021 created significant membership decline (i.e. translating to income) with the imposed mask mandate.

We have very strict Covid standards in place. Our community is respectful of one another and even a slight case of sniffles, our members refrain from the work out. Our members appreciate, respect and honor our policies. Masks have been and are always optional. We have yet to open to full capacity so that we are able to remain socially distanced at all times. Our cleaning protocols are extremely strict. We have an effective contact tracing process if there is a Covid case reported by a member.

Most importantly, we provide significant immune support to our members along with some sanity and stress release that one receives from the endorphin kick after a healthy work out. This is so important in these trying times.

Gyms and health clubs were the forgotten industry throughout this entire pandemic. It's so unfortunate that we were forgotten by Congress. Although there is a bill floating out there\*, it has not gained much traction and millions have suffered because of it. Please do not add insult by mandating this mask mandate. Let masks remain optional. The fitness industry is an endangered species right now all because of what has happened in the last two years. Help us remain relevant and to do our part in keeping America healthy as we go through these challenging times.

Thank you.

\*Introduced in House (02/05/2021) [Source: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/890?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22gyms+act%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1>]

Gym Mitigation and Survival Act of 2021 or the GYMS Act of 2021

This bill establishes a grant program to provide economic support to eligible fitness facilities in response to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic. Specifically, the bill authorizes the Small Business Administration to make initial and supplemental grants to privately owned fitness facilities that primarily provide health or fitness services and that do not offer golf, hunting, sailing, or riding facilities. The total amount of grant funds for a recipient may not exceed \$25 million, and the recipient must use these funds for payroll costs, rent or mortgage obligations, and other ordinary and necessary business expenses.

**BECCI POWERS-JOHNSON**  
OWNER/OPERATING MANAGER



F45 Training Ridgedale  
12953 Ridgedale Drive  
Minnetonka, Minnesota, 55305

**From:** Mary H. Schuh  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:23 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please no mask mandate, let people choose

Dear Government of Minnetonka,  
Please do not impose a mask mandate in your city—let people choose if they feel they need a mask or not.

If you pass a mandate, I probably will not visit Ridgedale mall and other shops around Minnetonka.

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>  
Just some people feel safer wearing a mask, while some people feel safer without.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Mary H. Schuh

**From:** Jackie Eberlein  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:26 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Losing business

Minnetonka, I am highly disappointed in you.

I regularly shop in Minnetonka, as I live in St. Louis Park. I will not step foot in your city limits if you mandate masks and/or vaccines. I am not alone, my family will not either.

How you can mandate something that doesn't even work, 2 years after this debacle started. You are just hurting your economy.

Especially now that Minneapolis and St. Paul have required vaccines, I would see a first ring suburbs business rise. Well, it won't for you because people will steer clear and go to St. Louis Park, Plymouth, Golden Valley....

I encourage you to think about how this will negatively impact your business and city revenue for something that clearly doesn't work.

Shame on you Minnetonka and all of the sheep trying to encourage this.

This study concluded: "We did not observe association between mask mandates or use and reduced COVID-19 spread in US states." <https://ctt.ec/6PtI+>

Jackie Palm

**From:** Brian Howell  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:36 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please do NOT subject us to yet ANOTHER mask mandate

Dear Sirs or Madam;

I know this is now coming before the City, and I implore you to not join the herds of lemmings marching along with our two core cities, as this would make absolutely no sense.

There is now a preponderance of evidence regarding the fact that the vast majority of masks are essentially completely worthless, and one only needs to contact 3M or the other high end N-95

manufacturers to look at their data. Furthermore, anywhere I have traveled to over the past 22 months (including 19 flights and 42 States), has had me observing that a huge majority of folks aren't wearing masks that are ever properly fitted, placed on their face, and especially you don't even want to start counting how many times people are constantly touching, adjusting, or simply pulling them down so they can be heard when speaking.

I've just returned from an 18 day day driving trip to Florida and back which was absolutely wonderful as we traveled through so many southern States who have long ago dropped all their silly mask mandates, and fortunately we hardly saw a mask anywhere (until of course we ended up back here in the Twin Cities).

Additionally, while Omicron is most definitely much more contagious, the preponderance of evidence shows it is much less impactful, especially to a person's lungs, so I remain hopeful that we move into an endemic stage with this nearly two year hiatus from experiencing personal freedom. Hopefully you will closely analyze the data to come to the same conclusion.

While I have enjoyed living in Minnetonka for 38 years now, and while home has most of my usual shopping and dining taking place within our great city, if you pass this silly mandate please know that I will immediately stop shopping or dining anywhere within our city until you would re-think, and drop any mask requirement as I have many great options outside of our city limits.

Thanks,

Brian Howell  
3608 Orchard Way  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Jennifer Ruud  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:39 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed mask mandate

Good morning,

I am writing to ask you to please vote NO against the mask mandate proposal for the city of Minnetonka. There are multiple credible studies that show that masks do not help reduce the spread of the virus.

I shop at Ridgedale, and at Trader Joe's and Lands' End and appreciate many of the great retail outlets that Minnetonka boasts. If the mask mandate goes into effect, I will no longer shop in Minnetonka's retail stores. I hope that enough people will vote with their pocketbooks against this mandate, should it go into effect, that the city will realize it's not worth keeping in place.

Below are the conclusions of a variety of studies about the ineffectiveness of masks.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Jennifer Ruud  
Anoka, MN

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 #maskoffmn

<https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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.

<https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

**From:** Ayla Bolstad

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:45 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

I write to stand for freedom and implore you to uphold it for this country when you vote on the mask mandate on January 14th.

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 #maskoffmn <https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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>

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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. <https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

In Love and Freedom,

AB

**From:** Deb Swenson

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:05 PM

**To:** Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Mask mandate

I am asking you to reverse your vote, and vote no to this mask mandate. The mask mandate will hurt many Minnetonka businesses. I myself will not go into any store that requires a mask. But I will first go in and tell them why and that you voted for this. I will be dropping off all the names of the council members that voted this in.  
Deb S

**From:** Kirsten Kierski  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:21 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Good morning,

I am not a resident of Minnetonka but I do work in Minnetonka. I am asking you to please reinstate a citywide mask mandate. I work with several people that are not vaccinated and will not voluntarily wear masks. We have had several outbreaks of Covid and I am very concerned for my safety. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kirsten

**From:** Steven & Lynn  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:38 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Bradley Schaeppi  
**Cc:** Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Rebecca Schack; Kissy Coakley;  
[calvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:calvert@minnetonkamn.gov)  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

**Please!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Vote NO to mask mandate.  
Instead require vax cards at public meetings.  
We are so tired of masking. Most are triple vaccinated and IF they catch something, it will only be a winter cold.  
Leave us alone. No Big Brother 'tude**

**Thanks,  
Steve & Lynn Wolf  
14194 Glen Lake Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345**

**From:** freemonkeymonica  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:25 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Please Do NOT Vote For Mask Mandates

Dear Mr. Schaeppi,

Please do NOT vote to impose a mask mandate in Minnetonka. Masks are not effective against the COVID. Please allow individual residents and visitors to Minnetonka to make their own decisions regarding the wearing of masks.

Thank you,

Monica Schreiner  
5809 Bellham Ave.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Dan Keefe  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:56 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates - Masks and Children

Dear Minnetonka City Council Members and Mayor Wiersum,

Thank you for taking the time to study and consider a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. My wife Cathy and I are proud to own the Primrose School of Minnetonka. We have been fortunate to operate a high-quality school that has cared for and educated thousands of local Minnetonka children at their earliest ages.

We are requesting you consider the negative impacts that a mask mandate may have on a child's ability to develop and learn. At our school we instruct young children ages 0-5 in academic, emotional, character and body development. All of these developmental aspects of a child require clear communication between teachers and children and from child to child. There are numerous studies regarding masking and children and negative outcomes such as this article references:

(<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10247315/Face-masks-harm-childrens-development-Study-blames-significantly-reduced-development.html>)

As part of the essential workforce we have been working with children and teachers every day during the pandemic and are aware of the extremely low incidence of severe illness in the younger population, with severe outcomes that are similar or less than RSV, strep throat, flu, etc. We are also aware that most cases of covid start at home. Additional measures are unlikely to reduce severe illness in a younger population already lacking severe illness.

Lastly, we have also been advised of the recent reduction of quarantine requirements from both the CDC (Center for Disease Control on 1/5/22) and MDH (Minnesota Department of Health on 1/10/22) due to the reduced severity of the current covid strain. MDH just this week eliminated the requirement for quarantining classrooms at licensed childcare centers such as ours.

We request that you consider the negative developmental impact of masking children, and should you determine a mandate is necessary that you exclude children, their teachers and caregivers, and provide children with the most normal and optimal learning environment.

Thank you for your consideration,



**Dan Keefe**  
Franchise Owner  
Primrose School of Minnetonka  
*The Leader in Educational Child Care®*

**From:** d z  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:01 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

The CDC just issued new guidelines saying only N95 or like masks are effective. Cloth masks are basically useless and provide a false sense of security which means they are worse than no mask.

**From:** Chelsie Sayler  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:04 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** NO Mast Mandate

Good morning:

As a MN resident that works in Minnetonka and shops in Minnetonka I would like to express my deep opposition for a mask mandate in Minnetonka. There is not enough evidence that actually proves that masks work. As a matter of fact, plenty of studies have recently come out stating cloth masks don't work and only N95/KN95 masks will actually prevent the spread of COVID-19. If a mask mandate were to be put into place, I will definitely choose to do my shopping/entertainment elsewhere.

Thank you for your time,

Chelsie Sayler

**From:** Ricardo Catarrinho  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:23 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mandates



Hello, I believe that as human beings we have the god given right to be free and make our own choices. Freedom.

Please do not take this right away by passing vaccination and mask mandates which inhibits us from living our lives normally while making our own choices.

Please do not pass mask and vaccination mandates.

Thank you for your time, sincerely Ricardo.

**From:** Marc Trimble

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:27 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Dear Trusted Servants

"Service to others."

You are a **trusted servant**.

Trusted servants operate within the spirit of service while avoiding the egoic temptations of power and prestige. Humility is essential.

As a matter of principle, Trusted servants don't *mandate* anything. They merely ask constituents what they want or don't want and abide by the constituent's collective conscience. Trusted servants themselves are not the "deciders". They simply execute the will of the people.

I'm a NO on mask mandates.

Thanks for listening. Have a great day.

--

Marc Trimble

**From:** "Mr.&Mrs.Gomes"

**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 12:14:16 AM CST

**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Friday's mask vote

Dear Councilwoman Wilburn,

I am writing to you in regards of the possibility of a mask mandate for our town of Minnetonka. I am a resident and a mother who is adamantly opposed to this mandate. I ask that you vote against the mandate and let every member of our town continue to have the freedom to choose to mask or to choose to breath freely, smile at others, greet their neighbors and to facially express kindness to children in a crazy and scary world.

Why am I asking this of you?

You see my husband and I after much research decided that Minnetonka would be the best place to raise our young family. Minnetonka has the best schools, nice neighborhoods, big back yards, beautiful trees, great playgrounds and lots of nature/bike trails, low crime and a great reputation. My husband and I bought here 7 years ago and have fully invested ourselves into meeting our neighbors, making new friends, improving our home, meeting our church community, volunteering at our elementary school, volunteering in local mothers programs, attending all the wonderful community events, amongst other things. We planned to be here forever. Then the lockdowns happend.

For the past two years we have felt suffocated. When my young child began crying about having to be on a computer screen all school day, for distance learning , we left Minnetonka schools. We knew people that got to go to school in person and not mask. We thought we would return to our neighborhood school later but then masks were required so we were not welcome. We did what was best for our children and found an excellent alternative.

I used to attend all the children's story times at the our local library. The librarians all knew my children by name! Story time has been gone this entire time. We can't even go to the library due to the mask policy and we love the library as a family. We now drive out to Carver County where all are welcome and they have story time multiple times a week for the children.

As a mother, I cannot stand by and have my children live amongst constant fear. Masks scare them. They have told me that they cannot tell who people we know are, when their faces are covered. My toddler pulls it off my face and cries when I have worn them. My parenting goal is to give my children as normal of a childhood as possible through these crazy times.

With all that has gone in on Minnesota and Minnetonka, we no longer feel welcome and we no longer believe this is a good place to raise a family. We sadly are strongly considering moving away.

If this mask mandate passes, we will do all of our shopping and dining in other towns that continue on in the freedoms of citizens choosing for themselves.

I say all of this with the greatest respect and hope that you consider how much I value my children seeing me smile, talk, laugh and greet others as we are out and about in our community.

Thank you,

Lauren Gomes

**From:** Robert Farnsworth

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:38 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

As you know, or as you should know mask mandate do not work nor any of these intervention policies that you're now authoritarian style governance is introducing to a supposed free society. I want you to know that there will be repercussions some kind of Nuremberg style trials in the future when all comes out and the we were just following orders line didn't work with them either, air is not yours to be able to dispense for our children, we are a free people and it's not up to you what my kid where's on their own body mind your own business and keep your grubby fingers off our kids

Best Regards,

Robert Farnsworth

**From:** Karen Mueller

**Date:** January 12, 2022 at 10:01:55 PM CST

**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Asking for a mask mandate**

Dear Council Member Wilburn,

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on your election to the council this fall. I appreciate your work and was happy to vote for you.

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:** Sheila Donnelly  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:55 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I am writing regarding the upcoming city council meeting, and discussions regarding mask mandates. I have children who attend school in Minnetonka, and I understand parents are planning to demand mask mandates be implemented in schools.

I am asking that mask mandates are NOT required anywhere in Minnetonka, but especially in schools. If a family wants their child to wear a mask at school, wear a mask. If someone else doesn't, then don't wear a mask. If someone feels better about wearing a mask for their own health concerns, I am all for them wearing a mask. I am beyond sick of hearing parents bully other parents. Do what is best for you and your family – you have no idea what other families are going through and have no right to insist they parent your way.

Basically, it's long over-due that we simply return to normal. I see parents in an uproar over the Covid dashboard numbers for school. It's January in Minnesota. If we were to look at cold/flu numbers for the same group five years ago would it be that different? Or do we not even have those numbers for that time because people understood students get sick in the winter and everyone just lived their life. The mental toll this is taking on everyone is far more dangerous than an illness that for students in this age group have a nearly 100% recovery rate. People driving to the city council meeting have a higher likelihood of being injured in an accident than the students do of serious damage from whatever variant is being called out today in order to scare the public unnecessarily.

**From:** Randy Gilbert  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:57 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Opposed

Mr. Mayor and Council,

We live in some very trying and ever changing times. Our citizens are becoming increasingly angry, confused and frustrated by all the happenings, especially related to COVID.

While I think it is safe to state that most individuals understand and may have even felt the effects of COVID, they are beginning to question the "SCIENCE" that is driving some of the COVID related mandates.

Recent history is proving that even individual who are masked and properly vaccinated are still contracting COVID.

I respectfully ask that the city of Minnetonka does not pass a new mask mandate, but rather let this be an individual's and business decision to decide what is best.

--

Thank you

Randy Gilbert

**From:** Laura Ronbeck  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:10 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks mandate

I fully support a mask mandate for Minnetonka. The more we can do to slow the spread of the virus the sooner we will get to the other side of this pandemic.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Laura Ronbeck  
13801 Kinsel Rd.

**From:** Autumn Kaye  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Say NO to Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed citywide mask mandate in Minnetonka. It should be an individual's choice whether or not to wear a mask. This is especially true now that we have the vaccine (including boosters).

If you vote yes to a mask mandate, I will no longer patronize businesses in Minnetonka. My friends and family will also not patronize businesses in your city. I have confirmed this with them.

Please take this comment into consideration when casting your vote.

Thank You,

Autumn Kaye

**From:** Ellie Kretz (she/hers)

**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 5:05 PM

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

**Subject:** Support for mask mandate in Minnetonka

Dear Esteemed members of the Minnetonka City Council,

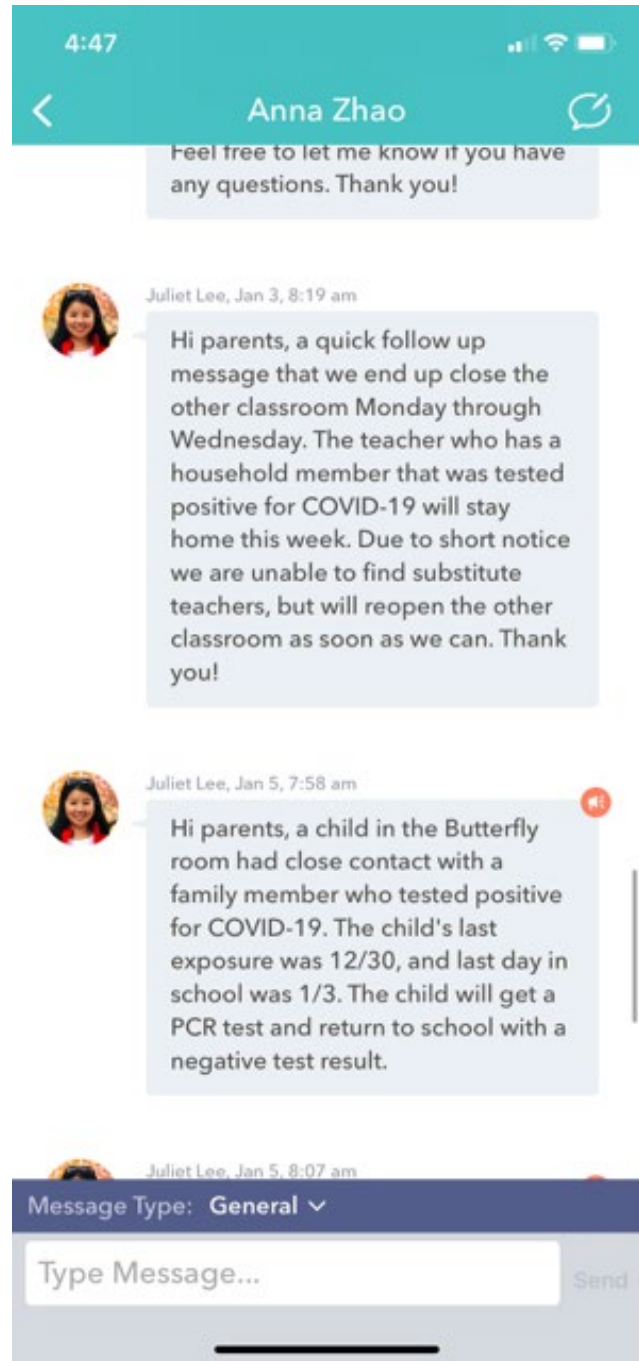
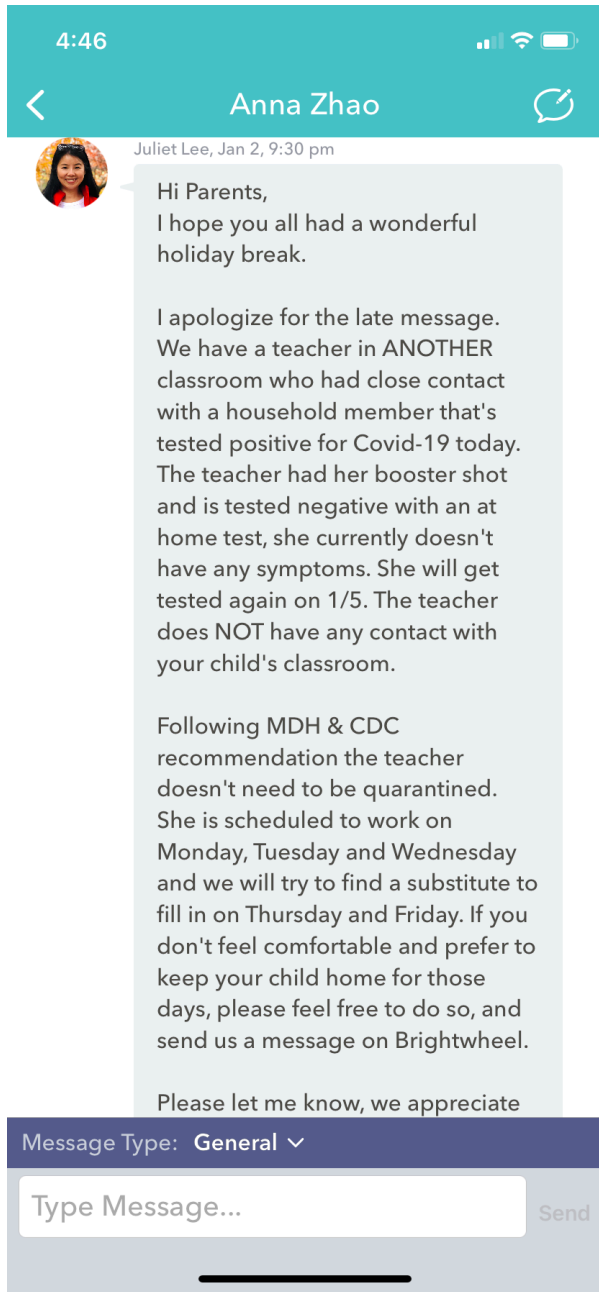
I write this email as a resident of Hopkins, but as someone who has a four year old attending pre-k/daycare in Minnetonka. We chose this daycare because the teachers are vaccinated and everyone masks. I'm writing to ask for you to re-implement your mask mandate in Minnetonka because of the rising cases in our community. This is impacting our schools, teachers and healthcare workers in unimaginable ways. In addition, it's impacting those of us trying to retain jobs and balance the constant closures. Below are our notifications from January 2 until yesterday. I actually can't keep track of the cases, but now daycare is closed for a week. All of the cases have been community spread, not spread within the school. I'm able to manage this due to having the privilege of paid time off and a spouse with the same. However, many are not able to take this much time off or work from home. In addition, my child and many of our children are too young to be vaccinated yet, so we rely on our community leaders to set an example and protect our youngest residents. Please be leaders here and do what you know is right.

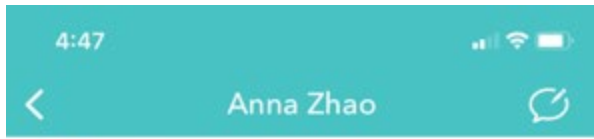
Thank you for your consideration of a mask mandate. I was so happy when you implemented one previously and so sad when you revoked it. I have asked Hopkins City Council to implement a mandate as well.

Ellie Kretz

Hopkins Resident

Parent at Sleeping Tigers





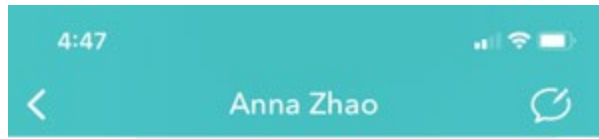
Juliet Lee, Jan 5, 8:07 am

Hi parents, we have a 2nd teacher who has a household member tested positive for COVID-19. The teacher is fully vaccinated, symptom free, and is tested negative with a home test, the teacher's last day in school was yesterday. She will stay home the rest of the week, and get tested again after 5 days, will return to work if she remains symptom free and has a negative test result.



Juliet Lee, Jan 7, 2:44 pm

Hi parents, we have a teacher in ANOTHER classroom (not in your child's classroom) has tested positive for COVID-19, the classroom is closed early today and both teachers were sent home. The teacher had contact with the Butterfly Room on Monday, Jan 3rd. Me and Phoebe are substituting in the classrooms this week and we are also exposed to the teacher who is COVID-19 positive. More updates will send out soon.



Juliet Lee, Jan 7, 6:21 pm

Hi parents, a follow up message from earlier. We have a teacher and a child in ANOTHER classroom (not in butterfly room) have tested positive for COVID-19. The teacher had contact with butterfly room children on Monday. I recommend all families give your child a home test if you have one on hand, and please report any positive case. A teacher in the butterfly room has a child attend ANOTHER classroom, the child needs to be quarantined due the positive exposure, that means the teacher in the butterfly room will have to stay home next week. Both me and Phoebe are exposed the to teacher who is COVID positive, we are working on staffing for next week and will keep you posted. Please check your Brightwheel messages and emails over the weekend. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!



Juliet Lee, Yesterday, 12:28 pm







Juliet Lee, Yesterday, 12:28 pm

Update:

We had another child in a 2nd classroom (not in butterfly room) has tested positive for Covid-19, all the children who attended school last week and two teachers were exposed to the positive case.

In the butterfly room a child has a household member just tested positive for COVID-19.

The child who had close contact with COVID-19 during winter break was in the butterfly room on Monday, later the child tested positive but doesn't have any symptoms. The child had tested positive once before in the end of November, this could be a result of continue testing positive from the last infection.

The teacher who tested positive on Friday from another classroom, had close contact with the butterfly room on Monday.

room on Monday.



Juliet Lee, Yesterday, 1:47 pm

Hi Parents, Sleepy Tigers is CLOSED from Jan 10th to Jan 14th due to COVID-19 positive exposure. Jan 17th is Martin Luther King day, school is also closed. We will see everyone on Tuesday, Jan 18th.

All children and teachers need to get tested 5 days after the exposure (on Wednesday Jan 12th) and need a negative PCR test result to return to school. Please send your negative PCR test result to info@sleepytigers.com, if your child is vaccinated, please also send a copy of the vaccination card. The teachers and children who tested positive do not need to get tested again, 10 days quarantine will be efficient.

A email with details was sent to you, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding and support!

**From:** judy  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:26 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed mask mandate

I have been keeping up with all of the mask information from the CDC. Their information seems to be an ever changing opinion from week to week rather than solid reliable scientific fact. I understand today's CDC position is that simple cloth or paper masks offer no protection; the only masks that may be effective are N95. These are not readily available here. In addition to the lack of any proven value of masking, I am concerned for the negative effect it may have on our local businesses. It is not difficult for Minnetonkans to drive to an adjoining suburb to spend their money. I believe this is a wrong choice for our community and encourage you to vote NO on the mask mandate.

**From:** Jennifer Bar Hoover  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:59 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** City of Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Dear Mr. Kirk,

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:** Candace Rust  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:27 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy

Coakley

**Subject:** Please say no to masks!!

Thanks for all you do on the council and being mayor. 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:** DAVE BARCZAK

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:15 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear City of Minnetonka elected officials and staff,

I respectfully request the Minnetonka City Council not establish a mandatory mask requirement.

Please know I am not a mask hater. I do practice mask usage and often wear a mask when in buildings and maintaining a safe distance is not possible, but believe this is an individual decision.

I appreciate the City of Minnetonka staff and elected officials interest in facilitating public health. Facilitating is the key word. I do not expect the City Council to make decisions for me on how to maintain my health or introduce restrictions on how I dress. I welcome the City providing complete information I can use to make a personal decision. Complete information by my definition should include Covid-19 test rates, infection rates of the vaccinated, infection rates of the unvaccinated, recovery rates of the vaccinated, recovery rates of the unvaccinated, as well as death rates of vaccinated and unvaccinated. Publishing infection and death rates alone appears to me as scare tactics.

Additionally, I believe public health policy requires coordination of mask policy at a regional or a State level to be effective. Residents of Minnetonka work, attend school and socialize with people outside the City of Minnetonka boundaries on a daily basis. If data exists that supports effectiveness of a mask mandate when implemented on an

individual suburban city basis, I ask the City Council share the information well in advance of a meeting to discuss mask mandate.

Last, please know I do support organizers of large (25 people or more) or densely populated gatherings (e.g. concerts, churches, auditoriums), where six feet of separation between individuals is not possible, continue to be granted the freedom to establish and publish a proof of vaccination or mask requirement to protect attendees and employees. Again, I believe effectiveness requires participation by all cities in a regional area or at a State level.

Thank you for serving the residents of Minnetonka.

With respect,

Dave Barczak  
12800 Pioneer Road

**From:** Jackie Olafson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:48 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Fw: Mask mandate

[Commissioner Kirk](#)

My husband and I have lived in Minnetonka for 48 years. I urge you not to vote for mandating masks that have been proven to be ineffective.

Uphold our freedom.

Please do not turn Minnetonka into Minneapolis.  
It's a slippery slope.

Listen to those you are commissioned to serve.

On the economics side businesses will suffer.  
We will shop in suburbs where there is respect for freedom.

With respect  
Jackie Olafson

**From:** Jaime Kastner  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley; Bradley Schaeppi; Rebecca Schack; Kimberly Wilburn; Deborah Calvert;

Brad Wiersum; Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote

## **TO THE VOTERS -**

As voting day comes upon you and you are faced with your decision, I encourage you to reflect back on the past two years. Please consider the damage both emotionally and financially to small businesses in your community specifically. Many are gone today, or on the verge of closing. Our economy thrives on small businesses.

We chose Minnetonka as our community for our fitness center because it was inviting and there was a need for our kind of fitness - extremely high quality small group training. It provides so much more than physical fitness. It provides a social and mental outlet, and have you read the research on how this impacts our much needed immune systems?! New members flocked to our studio in the 6 months leading up to the Covid shutdown's of 2020. We were building a community, not a gym.

Enacting a mask mandate will be extremely detrimental to our small group fitness facility. Masks have ALWAYS been optional. We are hanging on by a thread, and literally reinvested every penny we have from our future retirement into remaining open and providing an outlet for mental, physical and social health for our community of members who choose 45 minutes of daily exercise to help build their immune systems in a time in history where it's more important than ever.

Literally, our life savings have been invested since 2019 into this small business fitness franchise. We were open six months and then the first shut down closed us for three months. This killed our initial growth and momentum. We lost half our members (I.e. income) during this closure with very little relief from the government for fitness centers. Then re-opening from June to November, 2020 with the 15% to 25% capacity also provided little opportunities for growth with the restrictions. Another closure from 11/20 to 12/19, 2020 and then re-opening with a mask mandate (five days before Christmas) and our memberships dipped even lower than with the first reopening in June 2020. The first five months of 2021 created significant membership decline (I.e. translating to income) with the imposed mask mandate.

We have very strict Covid standards in place. Our community is respectful of one another and even a slight case of sniffles, our members refrain from the work out. Our members appreciate, respect and honor our policies. Masks have been and are always optional. We have yet to open to full capacity so that we are able to remain socially distanced at all times. Our cleaning protocols are extremely strict. We have an effective contact tracing process if there is a Covid case reported by a member.

Most importantly, we provide significant immune support to our members along with some sanity and stress release that one receives from the endorphin kick after a healthy work out. This is so important in these trying times.

Gyms and health clubs were the forgotten industry throughout this entire pandemic. It's so unfortunate that we were forgotten by Congress. Although there is a bill floating out there\*, it has not gained much traction and millions have suffered because of it. Please do not add insult by mandating this mask mandate. Let masks remain optional. The fitness industry is an endangered species right now all because of what has happened in the last two years. Help us remain relevant and to do our part in keeping America healthy as we go through these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration.

\*Introduced in House (02/05/2021) [Source: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/890?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22gyms+act%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1>]

Gym Mitigation and Survival Act of 2021 or the GYMS Act of 2021

This bill establishes a grant program to provide economic support to eligible fitness facilities in response to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic. Specifically, the bill authorizes the Small Business Administration to make initial and supplemental grants to privately owned fitness facilities that primarily provide health or fitness services and that do not offer golf, hunting, sailing, or riding facilities. The total amount of grant funds for a recipient may not exceed \$25 million, and the recipient must use these funds for payroll costs, rent or mortgage obligations, and other ordinary and necessary business expenses.

JAIME KASTNER



12953 Ridgedale Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Mark Schoenfelder

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:33 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

As a Minnetonka business owner for the past 20 years, I urge you not to institute a mask mandate.

It only hurts the citizens and businesses of Minnetonka. We lost millions and had to let over 200 people go the summer of 2020. We can't do this again.

The last mask mandate didn't stop the spread.

Omicron is more transmittable, which means a mask mandate will be even less effective.

A mask mandate only pretends to make a difference, unless N95's are mandated, cloth masks provide zero protection.

Allow Minnetonka businesses the freedom to determine their own rules and safety precautions.

Minnetonka does not have the staff to enforce a mandate, so the only enforcement would be random and the result of Karen's calling 911 to report someone for not wearing a mask. Do we really want to waste resources on this?



**Mark Schoenfelder**  
*CEO*  
Schoenfelder Renovations

**From:** Andrea West  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:49 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hi Mr. Schaeppi,

I'm writing to let you know that this mask mandate will hurt Minnetonka businesses and services because people will take their business elsewhere. We know that more and more evidence/data has come out to show that the masks will not work against a virus so small but yet we keep doing the same things over and over again. That is the definition of insanity.

Minneapolis and St. Paul are ghost towns and businesses are not making it, we DO NOT want Minnetonka to resemble these struggling businesses. Please, please don't turn Minnetonka into dead cities and business zones. Their businesses haven't been able to survive and our businesses won't be able to survive it either, people will shop elsewhere if forced or they will shop online.

As much as I love to shop locally in my own city for much of what my family needs, I will be forced to shop in other cities that do not implement government mandates over its citizens. I am one of those that have a very hard time breathing in a mask and have had many panic attacks in stores and had to leave my cart full of stuff, often following a migraine headache. As with all things in life from food, medication, workouts, diets, etc, One Size Does Not Fit All!

I hope that you will vote NO on this Mask Mandate for our city, it should be a CHOICE of each individual and this will kill our city's rather than protect it.

Best of Health,  
Andrea West

**From:** Kristine Falk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:08 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Councilman Schaeppi,

My husband and I have been residents in the 3rd ward for 32 years. Please do not vote for a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I noticed Hopkins mask mandate includes workout facilities. My greatest sanity comes from working out at a fitness center. It is simply not feasible for me/people to work out with a mask. Times are restricted enough, we need a place to release and strengthen ourselves. Require proof of vaccine if the city wants to mandate something.

Thank you,  
Kris Falk

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Vote NO it is stupid!!!

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 9:27:36 AM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask Mandate**  
Vote no!!!

**From:** Sherri Anderla  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 9:58:10 AM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask Mandate**

Hello Kimberly,

As a resident of Minnetonka, I request that you institute a mandatory mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka including schools. Other cities and schools are doing so. The evidence demonstrates a need for it and the benefit of doing so. This pandemic has already cost us so much. I will have to do my shopping and socializing in another city if it is not safe to do so here. It is also appalling that our schools have not taken action to protect our teachers and students by implementing a mask mandate at the high school so please include schools in the mask mandate. My family is at high risk with the pandemic and, while we are vaccinated and boosted, this does not diminish our high risk. I will remember your actions on this matter at the next election.

Thank you in advance for putting health and safety first for everyone.

Sherri Anderla

**From:** Linda & Michael Halley  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 4:32 PM



**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Council Member Kirk ,

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:** linda goecke  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To: Brian Kirk  
From: Mrs. Linda Goecke

I am a resident of Ward 1. I just listened to/watched last night's (Jan 10) Council meeting.

I'm a person who is vaxxed and boosted, but still very concerned about the omicron variant, Since this variant became so bad, I always wear my mask and find it **very** hard to understand those people who won't wear masks or get vaccinated.

However, I agree with Mayor Wiersum on the issue of mask mandates. **I don't think they can be enforced** -- and as the Police Chief said, it could create problems for them. Plus, if there are exceptions, then some people are going to be angry and pointing out other places that should have exceptions.

Perhaps the Council's best step forward when you meet this Friday is a resolution like that of Edina, strongly urging residents to wear masks in public places I liked Deb Calvert's statement about "life, liberty...." and she wanted people to have life. If it could be framed like that -- If you don't have life, you're not going to have liberty.

I am just wondering if Edina or other suburbs have made signage for various locations stating their position -- or if that is left up to individual businesses and organizations. Obviously, the situation is so dire at this point that some venues (like the Guthrie and Artistry Theater in Bloomington) have had to cancel productions, etc.

Thanks for all your work.  
Linda Goecke

**From:** Nicole Pierskalla  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:11 AM  
**To:** Mike Funk; Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca

Schack; Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** NO MASK MANDATE

Hello!!

Please NO mask mandate! This affects mental health more than you know for all! This affects small businesses too! Let people make the choice for themselves if they want to cover their faces! It is a matter of choice...We are adults here, Are we not? I know I can make educated choices and know the risks!!!

I am so very done with this insanity!

My daughters were at MHS Highschool...both are at home learning...they can't learn with masks!!

It is unhealthy and there is no proof they even help fight Covid or Omicron!! Stop the Mask Mandate! It is unconstitutional and simply government control!

My girls are not going back to MHS! We are done with the roller coaster!!!

Stop the Mask Mandate!!

NO More Masks!!!!

Nicole Pierskalla

**From:** BillandSue Brody

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:03 AM

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

**Subject:** city council meeting Friday

Regarding the proposed city mask wearing mandate.

Please do not pass a mandate to wear a mask.

Let us make our own choices about mask wearing.

Bill and Sue Brodh

12901 Shady Dale Road

Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** Amanda Shults

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:06 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am writing as a citizen who shops regularly for groceries, clothing and household items as well as dinning in Minnetonka. I oppose a mask mandate. I will no longer patronize those merchants in the city of Minnetonka and will take my business elsewhere to a nearby city which will only hurt the local economy if a mandate were to go into effect. I urge you to think twice and not further divide communities like MIInneapolis and St. Paul have done and continue to do.

Amanda

**Submission Date:** 01/13/2022 11:36

**Name**

Peter Thomas

**Full Address**

3936 Willmatt Hill  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
Hennepin

**Comment**

The last thing we need is another mandate. So many of my friends and acquaintances—who are fully vaccinated and boosted, and who wear a KN95 mask when out of the house—have gotten the omicron variant. A mandate will not change the unfortunate reality that within the next month, everyone in Minnetonka will be infected with omicron.

**From:** Donna Menzies

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:33 AM

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

**Subject:** Masks are not effective against Covid

It's funny how often "the science" has to catch up with common sense and it would appear that after months of being told that wearing a mask was necessary to save humanity from the ravages of a virus with a 99-plus percent survival rate, they're finally admitting that the cloth masks we've been putting over our faces haven't exactly been effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

According to [CBS7 in New York](#), a recently released study by researchers in a number of universities including Yale found that masks of a certain grade do very little to stop the spread: A study released in November by researchers at Yale University, Stanford University and others found that villages in Bangladesh where surgical masks were worn had 11 percent fewer cases of COVID than in villages where no masks were worn. In villages that wore cloth masks, infections were reduced by only 5%.

While the surgical mask may be better, it still has only an 11 percent success rate in terms of stopping the spread, which isn't really much of a success rate at all. Research showed that the only mask that delivered real results are the N95 masks:

Meaning that a lot of the mask-wearing we're doing is mostly theater and the only real protection comes in the form of N95 masks which aren't exactly required to be worn. While it's true that 11 percent is better than zero, it's definitely in the "extremely low" range of effectiveness, effectively making it a facial decoration.

That "facial decoration" descriptor was used by CNN's "medical expert" Leana Wen, one of the left's loudest COVID alarmists just last month.

Masks should be a personal choice but up to now, many people have treated masks as some sort of an integral part of stopping the spread of the virus. If they required effective masking such as the N95 mask then perhaps it would make a bit more sense, but these types of masks were very hard to come by from the very beginning of the pandemic. At that point, masking became more of a practice in compliance and safety theater.

Much of the population could see this just through basic observation. It's nice that "the science" is finally catching up.

Adults should be allowed to make their own decisions. I won't be putting on a mask. I will stop shopping or going to restaurants in any city that requires a facial decoration, including my own. Fortunately, St. Cloud isn't very far from here and their Mayor has the good sense to allow citizens to make their own decision about how to keep themselves safe. I choose vitamins, exercise, and healthy eating. A dirty mask with the possibility of causing lunch infections in 30 years, isn't on my list. One of the worst things for a person's health is living with fear. Masks create an atmosphere of fear. I won't participate in the charade and I won't spend my money in a city that thinks they have the power to force me to.

As a side note, I have a sister with Chron's disease. She gets a flu shot every year because without it, she would die if she were to get the flu. She is absolutely outraged that cities shut down businesses last year and forced people to wear masks to "keep her safe". She said, "it's no one's responsibility to keep me safe, except me." She chooses to have her groceries delivered during flu season. Interestingly, she lives alone but manages to find the services she needs in order to manage her own health. Adults aren't children. The virus has a 99 percent recovery rate. The overreaction would be laughable if it weren't for all the harm that the governments (city, state and federal) has done.

I ask that you respect the citizens of Minnetonka and stop pretending to be medical experts. Instead of following New York and California (both failures in how they have handled Covid) I'd like to suggest you follow Florida, a state with extremely good results and a free society to boot.

Thank you.

Donna Menzies

**From:** Charles Stauber

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:16 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Mandate meet

I am writing you today to urge no further mandates as a fully vaxxed citizen enough is enough we are tired of tyrants. And we will not comply. Thank you for your time have a great day.

**From:** Ann Pearson

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:28 AM

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

**Subject:** NO mask mandates!

To the Mtka City Council:

I am writing to you to express my deep irritation over this mask mandate discussion.

It is absolutely ridiculous! We are grown adults in the United States of America. We get to choose how we live our lives, not the city!

Masks do NOT work!

A mask mandate will continue to hurt small businesses, and it will affect the mental health of many.

I would hope common sense prevails during the meeting.

Sincerely,  
Ann Pearson  
Cardinal Rd., Mtna 55345

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:39 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello, the science proves that any mask, even N95 masks don't / can't work against the Covid virus. The N95 means it will stop 95 % down to 3 microns. The virus is over 1000 times smaller than that! So, no mask mandate, it doesn't follow the science.

**From:** Peter Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment for: Minnetonka City Council Meeting - Friday, Jan. 14

The last thing we need is another mandate. So many of my friends and acquaintances—who are fully vaccinated and boosted, and who wear a KN95 mask when out of the house—have gotten the omicron variant. A mandate will not change the unfortunate reality that within the next month, everyone in Minnetonka will be infected with omicron.

**From:** freemonkeymonica  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:28 AM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley  
**Subject:** Please Do NOT Vote For Mask Mandate

Dear Ms. Coakley,

Please do NOT vote to impose a mask mandate in Minnetonka. Masks are not effective against the COVID. Please allow individual residents and visitors to Minnetonka to make their own decisions regarding the wearing of masks.

Thank you,

Monica Schreiner  
5809 Bellham Ave.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Bolt Moore  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate

Omicron is mild.  
Herd immunity will mean we are done sooner with all of this.  
The rest of the world has far fewer deaths than the USA. Even Africa much lower death rate.  
CDC and NIH have been wrong on almost every decision and guidance.

No Mask Mandate.

**From:** Louise Hokenson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate, Please!

I request that the council members vote in favor of a mask mandate for Minnetonka to protect all of its citizens, workers and visitors. The many people who have been fully vaccinated, boosted and wear masks can no longer keep the rest of the community safe by themselves . For those who have chosen (for whatever reason) not to avail themselves of the available layers of protections, it's time for them to step up and, at minimum, wear a mask. I'm tired of playing shopping "roulette" by picking the checkout line with a masked clerk only to have unmasked customers crowd in line behind me. Businesses and other establishments with public contact face a much bigger risk of losing customers if they do not require employees and customers to wear face masks. Continuing the status quo is not a sustainable option given the high rate of community spread of COVID.

I understand a mask mandate will not be popular with everyone. Please consider the health and safety of our community as your most important priority when you make your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Louise Hokenson  
4267 Churchill Circle  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
Minnetonka Ward 3

**From:** Bob L  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:57 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Why now? If you were going to do something like this it should have been done weeks ago. We are now hearing that because

Omicron has been spreading so fast we could see cases start to drop in a couple weeks. As far as it being a protection, it's those who have refused vaccinations who are the major cause of our hospital crisis and a mask mandate is going to do nothing to change their minds and risk of infection.

Bob Lommel

**From:** Philip Carroll  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:57 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

[REDACTED]

I am strongly against the mask mandate

**From:** P. Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Jan 14 City Council Meeting - Mask Mandate

Just say no to another mask mandate. The evidence shows that masks do not work to prevent the omicron variant.

**From:** Elliot Carroll  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I am opposed to wearing masks and having a mandate

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 9:23:08 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mast Mandate

Vote NO they do not work

**From:** Olivia Anderson-Blythe  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hi there, I'd like to make a comment before your meeting about a mask mandate. I am a 22 year old constituent of Minnetonka.

I do not believe that the reinstatement of the mask mandate will effectively address the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The CDC says that whether you are wearing a mask or not and have been exposed, you still must quarantine. Furthermore, the previous mask mandates have not prevented the spread of the virus. Unfortunately, the City of Minnetonka alone cannot help stop the spread of the virus. This proposal seems to be a show of virtue.

Moreover, it is clear that requiring masks will not keep Minnetonka students in person.

Thanks for your time,  
Olivia Anderson-Blythe

**From:** sally wahlberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To you all,

Please do not issue a mask mandate. It is a decision each individual should be able to make based on their own research, and opinion. During this time of division and doubt; there is proof for both sides of the discussion, it would be wise to let people act according to what they hold as true. Let's try to unite behind the freedom to choice. It is not a time to underestimate that all still hold the health of their neighbors as valuable. Both ideals should be represented, and respected.

Thank you,  
Sally Wahlberg

**From:** Kari Lorence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:16 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate? No!



I m writing to urge you to vote no against a mask mandate for Minnetonka in the meeting tomorrow. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents to make their own decisions concerning their health.  
If this mandate passes, understand that my family and I will be going outside of Minnetonka to conduct our everyday business and shopping.

Sincerely,  
Kari Lorence

**From:** Ina Tabakova  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** NO TO MASK MANDATE!!!!

Please do not reinforce the mask mandate!!!!

**From:** Sandra Brandvold  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Discussion

Jan 13, 2022 12:30pm

Dear City Council:

I am writing to oppose any implementation of a mask mandate.

Masks do not stop the spread of corona virus. If they did, we would no longer be discussing covid as the masks would have eliminated it.

Masks were worn during the Spanish Flu epidemic. They did not stop the spread.

The list below has 47 links to fact-based scientific studies that show the ineffectiveness of wearing masks.

The list below also contains 32 links to fact-based scientific studies that show side effects and health implications.

I challenge City Council to find the same number of studies that show effectiveness. You will not find them.

If a person wants to wear a mask, let them. If a person does not, allow that choice.

As City Council members, if you choose to implement a mask mandate, you are ignoring science and following propaganda.

Why you would choose to follow propaganda is between you and your conscience.

It is time to stop implementing mandates that violate our Constitutional Republic and our personal medical choice.

Make the right decision - no mask mandate.

Respectfully,

Sandra Brandvold  
16103 Temple Ln  
Minnetonka

**From:** Chris Stone

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:32 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Potential Mask Mandate

To the City Council of Minnetonka,

Please do not add a mask mandate to our city. Our small businesses, especially restaurants/taprooms/bars, cannot afford for people not to frequent. In looking at the Mpls/St Paul mandate, expectations are it could have a negative effect on the businesses and we might lose many that are already teetering. If you review the WHO and CDC, the science has not proved that cloth masks or masks in general are stopping the spread. In fact, it is becoming more like the flu and should be regarded as such. Most people are already doing their part with not going out if they have underlying conditions.

We are seeing a surge with the Omicron, however hospitalizations and death are done as the vaccine is working. Using the time to push for people to get vaccinated and work with local retailers to improve the supply chain to get more test kits, Nyquil and other cold medicines readily available would be a greater use of time and resources.

Monitoring and watching are the keys.

Thank you!

**From:** Gail Anderson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am a 30-year resident of Minnetonka. Please institute a mask mandate until the numbers of people in the hospitals come way down.

Thank you.

--

Gail Anderson  
3942 Willmatt Hill  
55305

**From:** Richard Reynolds  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** MASK MANDATE - PLEASE AND RESPECTFULLY NO!

On behalf of my Minnetonka family, I hereby respectfully request that you not adopt a Mask Mandate for Minnetonka.

Warm regards,

Richard Reynolds  
President/CEO  
AREA Commercial Real Estate Advisors  
844-888-AREA – global 24/7



[www.AREA-cre.com](http://www.AREA-cre.com)

**From:** Michelle Wahlen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:29 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I recognize the people on our City Council truly want the best for our residents, so please due your required due diligence 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 you need to seek out all available information. 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. I beg you to do your due diligence and take the time to at least see the links to these studies are to the Lancet, the NIH, the NE Journal of Medicine, etc. Even though our public health officials (compromised by their investments in big Pharma) love to tell you masks work - 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. STOP CREATING DIVISION IN OUR COMMUNITY. 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:** Jan Moore  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:57 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Absolutely no mask mandate!!!

**From:** Lisa Ehmke  
**Date:** Thu, Jan 13, 2022 at 11:57 AM  
**Subject:** Input on Mask Mandate  
**To:** <[publiccommment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccommment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

Thank you for reading this email regarding the discussion on a mask mandate in Minnetonka. As a Human Resource Coordinator for a small business in Minnetonka, I couldn't think of a more useless remedy. The second link below is evidence of such. All a mask mandate will do is cause anger and frustration for 100% of the population and there is absolutely zero way to enforce it. Most people in our office have actually had the virus recently and the rest of them are vaccinated. Are you saying that the vaccine doesn't work? If so, let's stop pressuring people to get it and refrain from "pitting" one group against another. That's just evil. Especially when VAERS data indicates the vaccine in and of itself does more harm than good according to the Conclusion in this link below:

More reports of deaths following COVID-19 vaccines than from all other vaccines combined all prior years. Where there is risk, there must be choice! <https://1epk.com/3K7bTzp>

If you are attempting to contain a virus that is over 99% survivable, that goes against the science of herd immunity. Let's offer proper therapeutics to everyone in a risk category that tests positive and let it run its course. When I am out and about at least 50% of people I encounter are already wearing a mask. Mandating is unnecessary and harmful, especially to

children. Don't get me started there, the data is already clear on that. Regardless, see the study below for actual mask science.

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. <https://1epk.com/3l1hiX6>

In conclusion, why not behave differently on this as opposed to following others. Do something to support the businesses and families in Minnetonka. By not having a mask mandate, I venture to guess you will have increased business activity at shops and restaurants and other businesses currently located in Minneapolis and St Paul, will now consider Minnetonka as the place to be. Let the tax dollars follow your decisions.

**Lisa J Ehmke**

**From:** Tara Pitkin

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:57 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate - DO NOT MANDATE

We have kids in a Minnetonka elementary school, we shop & dine in Minnetonka frequently and our kids play Minnetonka community sports. We are on the verge of spending our hard earned money elsewhere & pulling our kids from Minnetonka schools. These mandates and political divisiveness have gone too far. We have had VERY strict mitigation strategies in place at the elementary schools (masks, long quarantines, social distancing, no parents allowed in, no field trips, etc) for the entire school year. Our school has had the highest case number of all of the other schools until this week. Our elementary schools all have the mask mandates and currently have a combined case total higher than our high school (which has no mandate in place). Clearly the mitigation strategies that have been put in place are not working. They never have. In both of my kids' classes nearly every child had covid PRIOR to omicron. Now the rest are just finishing up with it. There are many studies that indicate masks do not work. We see that clearly at the elementary level all fall & early winter. People are not getting covid because there are not mask or vax mandates in place. They are getting covid for a variety of reasons (decreased immune systems from extended masking & quarantines, comorbidities, we live in MN & it is cold/flu season). The death/hospital tolls aren't skyrocketing due to omicron. Mandating masks is not going to solve the issue. The majority of people are only getting flu or cold-like symptoms. I'm not sure if everyone has forgotten, but that is NORMAL for this time of year. Especially when you live in MN. Our businesses (especially small) have been struggling for nearly 2 years. This mandate will ensure that they close for good or move to other communities that will support them.

Please take politics out of this decision you are about to make on Friday. This isn't political, this is common sense. Mask mandates are not needed.

**From:** bobby supreme  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:08 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello City of Minnetonka,

I would like to voice my opinion on the issue of a mask mandate, this is an issue of not only freedom but of science as well. You are preventing individuals to choose to wear a mask or not to, you are choosing to prevent businesses to mandate masks or not to leading to a likely slowdown in the economy because more people will choose to shop online than in the stores the city should be supporting. This is a science issue as well because masks have been proven time and time again to not be effective in preventing covid from spreading.

I hope you make the right decision

A student at Minnetonka  
**From:** Kirsten Lindstrom  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello city of Minnetonka,

Please do not pass the city wide mask mandate. It has been proven that masks do not stop the spread of covid-19. Wearing a mask or getting a vaccine should be a personal choice. The vaccine does not stop people from getting or spreading the virus, it merely could help the person who gets the shot if they contract covid-19, not anyone else. The vaccine should be a personal choice because with it comes risk. There have been more deaths and reactions to this vaccine than any other vaccine in history. Where there is risk, there needs to be choice.

I normally shop in Minnetonka but I will no longer be able to support these merchants if this mandate passes. I will take my money elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kirsten Barlow

**From:** Bryan Badzin  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:14 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No more mask mandates

I know the council is under pressure to instate a mask mandate, but I'm asking you not to do it for several reasons:

1. You're putting our businesses in a horrible position. If they insist customers put them on due to the mandate, those customers that don't want to, and there are a lot of people like that, will simple go to other establishments and/or cities that don't.
2. Businesses can require masks if they want without a mandate. Those that don't want to are doing so for a reason. Why punish them?
3. Who's actually going to enforce this? Our police force is already under-staffed and can't handle all the issues in the city as is. Do you really want to add something so controversial to the enormous list of things they already have to deal with?

Let's do what they did in Edina and other cities and strongly encourage them. It's a good compromise.

**From:** Sarah Landt

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:25 PM

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

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate

My name is Sarah Landt and I am a resident of Minnetonka, a preschool teacher and director of children who are too young to be vaccinated, and a parent of children ages 14-20. I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in favor of a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. My family has been wearing masks anywhere we go outside of our home and it would drastically help keep everyone safe if this was required of all people in our community. All 6 of us in our family are fully vaccinated and boosted, yet we continue to wear masks in all public places to protect ourselves and those around us. I ask that you vote in favor of a mask mandate for all of Minnetonka.

Thank you,  
Sarah Landt

**From:** Kirsten Johnson

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:38 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I will not shop at, dine at or support any business in Minnetonka if you pass this mandate. Follow the science. Masks are useless.

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 #maskoffmn <https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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/3fkE1u0>

[Full announcement here](#)

**From:** Ben Johnson

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:40 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwersum@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>

**Subject:** Mask mandate comment

Public Servants,

I just heard this afternoon of an emergency mask mandate meeting for Friday (tomorrow).

Please let Minneapolis and St Paul do their thing and do not be a follower of their policies. My family chooses Minnetonka over M/SP for a variety of reasons including policing and not overreaching in all sorts of ways. Minneapolis and St Paul continue to make poor decisions that hurt their small business owners and in turn their citizens.

Please mandate that ANYONE can wear a mask if they would like to wear a mask! Inside or outside their home, car, public space, or small business. Businesses can ask for and refuse to serve people if they request a mask to be worn and the person does not wear a mask. Freedom and personal responsibility are the things we need more of today in our country.

Side note:

It has been reported the last day or two that positive Covid tests are already declining on the East Coast and it will probably be the case within the next 2 weeks here in MN.

Thank you.

Ben Johnson

Gaywood Drive, Minnetonka

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:57 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I support a short term mask mandate and I will wear my mask. I am still masking about 50% wherever I go.

**From:** caanestad

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:38 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask / Vaccine Mandate VOTE NO!

Hello Minnetonka City Council.

Please do force us to live with a Mask/ Vaccine mandate.

There is so much conflicting information out there surrounding COVID 19 , it would be adding more frustration to citizens, restaurants, bars and gyms. Personal freedom is so important. Why do we want small business to suffer again. Please vote NO to these mandates.

Thank you,

Chris Aanestad

4255 Oak Drive Lane

Minnetonka, MN 55343

PS, This address is what most of the Council thinks of as Hopkins anyway.

**From:** Sammi Gervais

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:32 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate Comments

I am writing to express my strongest support for a city-wide mask mandate. Slowing the spread within our community through mandated masking will allow local businesses to stay open, reduce the load placed in our health care staff, and give students and teachers the best possible chance to stay in-person as much as possible. A meta-analysis of masking in communities around the world suggests that masking, alongside other public health messaging like hand washing, reduced the rate of Covid-19 cases by as much as 53%.

(<https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj-2021-068302>)

And a natural study on the implementation of mask mandates in the United States found a significant reduction in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

(<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0252315>)

Given the Minnetonka School Board's inaction on universal masking, I am also urging the City Council to include Minnetonka Public Schools in this mandate as well. As you debate, teachers at the High School and Middle Schools are scrambling to prepare to end the semester via distance learning. The school leadership turned a blind eye to the mounting numbers, and dismissed data showing that the majority of teachers wanted the protection of masks in the classroom.

I understand that masking has become a political topic, but listening to scientists and medical professionals is the only way forward as we push through this wave. We are back to flattening the curve nearly two years later, and the City Council has the power to save lives.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Samantha Gervais  
Shaker Heights neighborhood resident

**From:** Donna Roisen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:53 PM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley  
**Subject:** Mask mandatr

Hello Ms Coakley

I respectfully would ask that you say no to a mask mandate in Minnetonka. there has been so much information coming to light on the damage to children when masks are required:

Depression  
Reduced IQ  
Suicide  
Inability to learn

The majority of people in minnetonka have been vaccinated. they are protected

Please respect people's right to choose. If they are more comfortable, wear a mask. If they dont want to wear a mask, that should be the individuals decision

I appreciate your consideration

Kind regards

Donna Roisen  
Minnetonka

**From:** Ed Hedblom  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:38 AM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote

Hi Kissy - my name is Ed Hedblom and I live on FairHills Road W in Ward 4 - I support the mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. It is a sensible measure to reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID. With a positivity rate of approaching 20% and continued challenges with our health care systems and supply chains, etc. Masking is a simple measure that will help keep our citizens safe and our business open.

Thanks for your service and support!

Ed

**From:** Heidi Calhoun-Lopez

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:15 PM

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

**Cc:** Heidi Ann Calhoun-Lopez Esq.

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate - Please Vote Yes

Good afternoon - I am writing to request that you pass a mask mandate at the meeting tomorrow.

I am a concerned Minnetonka resident with two kids in Minnetonka Public Schools, and I believe in science. And the overwhelming conclusion of scientific research is that masking is effective when layered with other mitigation steps in reducing the spread of COVID. I hope and trust that the driver in your decision be the safety and well-being of your residents (and residents of neighboring communities who visit Minnetonka). I recognize the many challenges created with a mask mandate - one of them being enforcement. But as the mayor of Golden Valley recently said in supporting a mask mandate for that community, mask mandates "may not be perfect" but it is best for "all of us to go forward in this direction." (<https://www.startribune.com/golden-valley-hopkins-pass-mask-mandates/600135117/>)

I would also ask that you consider having the mask mandate apply to Minnetonka Public Schools (those which sit in your district), with no carve out exception for them. Unfortunately, our Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Peterson, has proven either unwilling or incapable of understanding the science behind what is going on (he recently referred to COVID as a "bacteria" and touted the air filtration systems in our public schools as the reason he believes "COVID is not being spread in our schools.") For our district leader to make such unfounded and unscientific statements is truly concerning. I would very much like to voice my opinions at a Minnetonka School Board meeting, but I am not comfortable attending those meetings in person any longer given COVID numbers and the lack of mask requirement at our meetings (as you know, the district service center, where School Board meetings are held, sits within the boundary of Minnetonka).

I am turning to you humbly for help, as are so many citizens. I hope that the health and safety of the community will be at the forefront when you make your decision tomorrow. I am confident that if it is, you will vote in favor of a city-wide mask mandate.

Respectfully,

Heidi Calhoun-Lopez, J.D.

(Minnetonka resident, and mom of two kids in the Minnetonka Public Schools)

**From:** Kelsi Johnson

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:47 PM

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

**Subject:** Please allow mask mandate optional for high intensity fitness facilities (or exempt fitness from mandate if mask required elsewhere)

As voting day comes upon you and you are faced with your decision, I encourage you to reflect back on the past two years. Please consider the damage both emotionally and financially to small businesses in your community specifically. Many are gone today, or on the verge of closing. Our economy thrives on small businesses.

We chose Minnetonka as our community for our fitness center because it was inviting and there was a need for our kind of fitness - extremely high quality small group training. It provides so much more than physical fitness. It provides a social and mental outlet, and have you read the research on how this impacts our much needed immune systems?! New members flocked to our studio in the 6 months leading up to the Covid shutdown's of 2020. We were building a community, not a gym.

Enacting a mask mandate will be extremely detrimental to our small group fitness facility. Masks have ALWAYS been optional. We are hanging on by a thread, and literally reinvested every penny we have from our future retirement into remaining open and providing an outlet for mental, physical and social health for our community of members who choose 45 minutes of daily exercise to help build their immune systems in a time in history where it's more important than ever.

Literally, our life savings have been invested since 2019 into this small business fitness franchise. We were open six months and then the first shut down closed us for three months. This killed our initial growth and momentum. We lost half our members (I.e. income) during this closure with very little relief from the government for fitness centers. Then re-opening from June to November, 2020 with the 15% to 25% capacity also provided little opportunities for growth with the restrictions. Another closure from 11/20 to 12/19, 2020 and then re-opening with a mask mandate (five days before Christmas) and our memberships dipped even lower than with the first reopening in June 2020. The first five months of 2021 created significant membership decline (I.e. translating to income) with the imposed mask mandate.

We have very strict Covid standards in place. Our community is respectful of one another and even a slight case of sniffles, our members refrain from the work out. Our members appreciate, respect and honor our policies. Masks have been and are always optional. We have yet to open to full capacity so that we are able to remain socially distanced at all times. Our cleaning protocols are extremely strict. We have an effective contact tracing process if there is a Covid case reported by a member.

Most importantly, we provide significant immune support to our members along with some sanity and stress release that one receives from the endorphin kick after a healthy work out. This is so important in these trying times.

Gyms and health clubs were the forgotten industry throughout this entire pandemic. It's so unfortunate that we were forgotten by Congress. Although there is a bill floating out there\*, it has not gained much traction and millions have suffered because of it. Please do not add insult by mandating this mask mandate. Let masks remain optional. The fitness industry is an endangered species right now all because of what has happened in the last two years. Help us remain relevant and to do our part in keeping America healthy as we go through these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelsi

**From:** Mark Francis

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:48 PM

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

**Subject:** No Mandate

Please vote No on any mask mandates in Minnetonka. After two years of the pandemic people are informed, they know the risks and should make their own choices concerning their protection.

Mark Francis

**From:** Anne Tremel

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:56 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello!

I'd like to suggest that the mask mandate be reinstated in Minnetonka. It's a small effort that could protect our residents from COVID and could help businesses stay open. If nothing else, I feel the City should mandate mask wearing in city owned facilities like the Williston Fitness Center and City Hall.

Thanks for letting me share my opinion.

Anne Tremel

--

Anne Tremel

**From:** Matthew Motley

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:08 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate - I'll make purchases elsewhere

Hello,

I urge the council to vote no on a mask mandate.

I make extra effort to support Minnetonka based business to support the city's economy. Enacting a mandate of ineffective face coverings will cause me to do the opposite. I'm perfectly okay driving a few extra miles to put my money towards cities that use common sense. Again vote no on the mandate.

Matthew Motley

**From:** Ron Hubert  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:22 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Minnetonka City government, as I write this note I have just read that the US Supreme Court has struck down President Biden's vaccine mandate for businesses. This hopefully leads you all the understand that a mask mandate should be treated likewise. All the latest studies are saying that the mask worn by the majority of people do not stop the spread of the latest strain of the Covid virus, the particles are way to small. Also there are not enough medical grade mask for the population and would be like getting an at home test, they do not exist. Please allow us to make this decision for ourselves. If you feel the need to wear a mask then do so, do not force others to do it. It is bad mentally for our children, teen and even adults. It is humiliating and draconian and it just drives people to go to places that do not implement absurd policies. Is this what you want for our businesses, people leaving and taking their business to the next town so they can avoid mask or people to just disregard a policy and go into places without a mask. Please do not implement a mask mandate, do not give power to people who think they can shame people into wearing a mask or getting a vaccine, it is wrong on every level. I hope you can let people decide for themselves, other suburbs have, join them, no mask mandate.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Ron Hubert

**From:** Russell, Lyn C  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** comments for city council meeting January 14th

Hello,

I thank you for the text notification regarding this council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to express my opinions/concerns,

I feel it is everyone's right and responsibility to protect themselves with the Virus (which I believe will continue to mutate.... Scientifically this virus has a cycle of repeating every 4 months). Are we forever going to wear masks that are not N-95 masks? N-95 masks are one of the few masks that truly protect you from contracting the Virus?

We as adults/young people as well.

Must take responsibility for our own self care. 6 feet apart, washing our hands for 20 seconds, coughing into our sleeve, staying home if we are sick. **We have that responsibility to protect ourselves, loved ones and each other.** If someone is not vaccinated DON'T spend time in person with them.

I being a **Business Owner in Minnetonka and Citizen of Minnetonka**. My office has satellites in various cities Bloomington, Woodbury, Maple Grove, Minneapolis and Saint Paul. **I and my office partners would find it necessary to conduct business in the locations without a mask mandate.** If Minnetonka chooses to go that direction, We will not continue to have meetings with clients in Minnetonka we will have them elsewhere.

I personally will also choose to work from one of the other locations without a mask mandate.

I/we currently.... being a responsible business owners, will ask clients if they have been vaccinated, if they would prefer we wear a mask and follow what they are comfortable with.

Myself, spouse and children have all been vaccinated 3 out of 7 have received the booster and the others are scheduled. So I believe there is value in vaccines as well as common sense to keep us safe from this and other Virus/Diseases.

**I think this mask mandate or no mask mandate should be a State mask mandate.**

**Not a city by city choice,**

**I like others will simply go to other locations for work, pleasure, groceries, recreation, shopping ect.... This mandate from the City of Minnetonka will detour me from any business in Minnetonka. If however, there is a State mandate obviously that option would not be a viable one.**

**I believe The City of Minnetonka will lose revenue from various sources.**

**People will simply choose to go somewhere else, and maybe find it a better location permanently.**

**Thank you for all of your time and your consideration,**

**My Best-  
Lyn**



**From:** Susan Martinson

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:32 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Proposed Mask Mandate

Dear City Council

I am a resident of Minnetonka at 10441 Greenbrier Road.

I have recently read on the WCCO website that Minnetonka is considering a mask mandate.

I am strongly opposed to this mandate.

The recent spike in positive tests for COVID-19 is the result of increased testing after the holidays. The CDC has already stated that the PCR tests can not tell the difference between a cold, flu, Covid-19 or identify any variant. [The CDC has ordered the tests to be changed](#), but they have not yet been changed. Still, these tests have been sent home with school children and employees. The media and high profile politicians have been urging increased testing.

The majority of people have above 99% recovery from COVID-19. The CDC has recently reported that severe cases have been people with **multiple** comorbidities meaning several underlying health factors.

The omicron variant that is said to be currently circulating is reported to be very contagious but mild. The symptoms bear much resemblance to the common cold. It seems senseless to react so strongly.

The benefits of masking have yet to be verified in any replicable peer-reviewed study, the detriments yet to be thoroughly explored. Common sense can see that masks are driving fear, creating division, creating medical waste with little plan for disposal, obstructing breathing, trapping bacteria near the mouth and nose, impeding children's ability to see and discern facial cues, and hiding the faces of members of community. The CDC has recently stated that the virus is an airborne virus, so it is dubious that even the N95 mask is going to impede transmission.

I have heard it said that mask mandates will help to keep businesses open. Businesses can make their own decisions on how to attract customers and retain employees. I know that I choose not to patronize any business that mandates masks. I would choose to drive to nearby Edina rather than submit to a mask mandate.

I hope that the council will strongly reconsider this rash action.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Martinson

**From:** Samantha Pfeifer  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No mask Mandate.

You will destroy your businesses. At some point we have to move on from covid. And call it what is, flu and cold.

Samantha Pfeifer

**From:** Julie Kazmierkoski  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Please vote NO to the mask mandate in Minnetonka

Good afternoon Mr. Schaeppi,

I am asking that you vote NO to the Minnetonka mask mandate that will be going before the city council this Friday. I am an Eden Prairie resident, however we live in the Minnetonka School District, so are right on the border of EP and Mtka.

If you require masks in the city limits, I will take my dollars to the cities of Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Wayzata ... anywhere OTHER than Minnetonka. I feel bad having to do this, as there are many small businesses that are great and that I enjoy frequenting, and who would appreciate my purchases. But I cannot in good faith support this mandate. And I won't.

Masks haven't worked so far to stop or slow the spread, and they won't work now.

I still see people wearing masks in the community, and if they feel they **want** to wear a mask, that is their right and no one is telling them not to! But for someone to tell me that I HAVE to (when I know better), then I will do what I have to do and take my dollars elsewhere.

I will happily return to shopping and purchasing in Minnetonka when I am able to do so with my smile showing.

Thank you for your time.  
Respectfully,  
*Julie Kazmierkoski*

**From:** Kalee Bakken  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please vote “no mask mandate”.

Thanks From,  
Current Residents of Minnetonka

**From:** Samantha Williams  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Strongly against Mask mandate

If you pass a mask mandate, I will be 100 sure to take my business elsewhere. The actual science isn't ever settled, only the media propaganda storyline is settle. You will only hurt small business, restaurants and more. Masks are not effective at all.

How about the city council focus on supporting the local businesses and rebuilding the community instead implementing mandates that have already led to significant economic and supply chain destruction and disruptions?

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

<https://escipub.com/Articles/IRJPH/IRJPH-2021-08-1005.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2SWQAAqwkSeFhyXLlavyVRB9Lh3XI91ojUdt96AfJ2ysnAtmvdlasOb8s>

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

[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971220324504?fbclid=IwAR1neeFwFg3m\\_HkyHsIXp7EHhkHbH\\_OAbvef4Vj-J1eoP9N2kAjeDRk4Q9U#bib0005](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971220324504?fbclid=IwAR1neeFwFg3m_HkyHsIXp7EHhkHbH_OAbvef4Vj-J1eoP9N2kAjeDRk4Q9U#bib0005)

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://www.thelancet.com/action/consumeSharedSessionAction?I2KBRCK=1&JSESSIONID=aaaJSAta2W4j89oeIm5x&MAID=Ax84kO0k4ZWNjr88ObZndA%3D%3D&SERVER=WZ6m yaEXBLGCStFnotvlaQ%3D%3D&ORIGIN=6263576&RD=RD&exp=uRK%252BE4fOp3SC6owZUvReOw%253D%253D&rtc=0>

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

<https://archive.vn/cBH4G>

This study released in Sept. 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.

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395971/?fbclid=IwAR29\\_sblUsIDsYaobUqiTAY4q17zBNyD7qiZqmZHAcrRjnv8ZcNoZ6Hxw3k#!po=1.00000](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395971/?fbclid=IwAR29_sblUsIDsYaobUqiTAY4q17zBNyD7qiZqmZHAcrRjnv8ZcNoZ6Hxw3k#!po=1.00000)

**From:** thomas wahlberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To Whom it may Concern,

There should be freedom of choice regarding this mask mandate. Every individual should be able to make their own educated decision and have the freedom to do so. There are medical people sharing proof on both sides of this discussion. Let each citizen of Minnetonka decide for themselves. Thank you for your consideration regarding my opinion.

Thomas Wahlberg

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:51 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** m,ask mandate

Council Members,

We both strongly recommend a mask mandate (preferably N95 or equivalent). It is our practice to wear masks at all merchants and events.

The ignorance, disbelief, and pushback on the entire pandemic is disheartening.  
The Hendricksons, Minnetonka

**From:** Melanie McGie  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Dan McGie  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

To the Minnetonka city council,

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Please use common sense in your decision over mandating masks be worn in Minnetonka. It's a virus. It's an airborne virus of particles smaller

than the fibers of a mask. Think twice about following anything the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul think is a good idea. They are hurting businesses that already have been through enough. Do you want that for the businesses of Minnetonka?

It should be a choice to wear a mask or not. Leave it to the individual to make their own choice and a business owner to make their own choice.

Thank you,  
Melanie McGie  
14820 Lloyds Drive  
Minnetonka

**From:** Sarah  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandates

Please follow the research that is out there. Masks are not going to protect you well from getting viruses. At best, the research shows a 10 percent benefit. Mask were never designed to be virus protection devices. We would be better off if the community worked at securing more tests and helping health care facilities get better information And access to therapeutics. Covid is now with us. How long are you going to require people do something that is not proven to be an effective way to deal with covid? There is plenty of information on therapeutics coming out of top research institutes like Stanford, Yale, and Harvard plus many health care experts that have now had two years to deal with And are successfully treating Covid. Maybe we should start by listening to them instead of doing a bunch of activities that are just that- a bunch of activities. Enough is enough! Please stop forcing people to cover their faces and restrict their oxygen intake.

**From:** Bill, Sylvia Newfield  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** mask mandate

I'm against any mandates had enough we need to learn to live with this

Bill Newfield

**From:** Emily Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate Meeting

Hello Mr. Mayor & all City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to vote AGAINST a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. I have been a resident of Minnetonka my entire life. This school year, my husband and I pulled our 4 children from the Minnetonka school district due to their masking requirements. We refuse to mask our children or ourselves.

If you do pass a mandate, we will no longer be visiting business, restaurants, etc where there are mandates. If this means we need to go to another city such as Chanhassen or elsewhere to shop, eat, etc., we will. We do not support anyone telling or thinking they can mandate what another human believes is right for their own body. You are only going to hurt businesses and our community if a mandate is approved. Eventually, people will get used to shopping elsewhere and businesses in Minnetonka will not just suffer for the period you enact a mandate, but long term. Let people chose what is right for their own body. People can still chose to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable being in public with a mask on, while others can chose to not wear one. Let everyone make their own decision. Please don't mandate masks for our city and run the risk of hurting businesses and our community.

Emily Paul  
Minnetonka Resident

**From:** Lil Lindsey  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:19 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate

I often shop and dine in Minnetonka and I will avoid your businesses if you install a mask mandate.

There are countless studies showing masks don't work and people who want to wear a mask can continue to do so.

Don't enact a mandate!

Lil Lindsey

**From:** Dumisani Thomsen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I am a resident of Plymouth, MN and I am a frequent customer of several businesses in Minnetonka on a weekly basis.

I understand that the city council will be voting tomorrow January 14 on a mask mandate measure.

I strongly oppose any new mask mandates and general government regulations surrounding COVID. If a mask mandate goes through I will not be taking my business to Minnetonka.

I urge you to look into some of the following scientific studies below for further information that shows that masks do little, if anything to stop the spread of the virus. Please let citizens make their own decisions regarding what is best for themselves and their families. People are free to wear masks, face shields and respirators as well as take other precautions if they would like. I would like that same freedom of choice to remain intact for those of us who chose not to wear masks.

Please see studies below:

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 #maskoffmn <https://1epk.com/3fkEONm>

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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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. <https://1epk.com/311hiX6>

Thank you,

Dumisani Thomsen

**From:** Jen Bryce

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:11 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandates

I am fully vaccinated, I sometimes wear a mask in public or around vulnerable family members. I strongly object to any mandates. So does my husband, who is nearly 80 years old. Neither of us think the young, or anybody, should be forced to mask against their will, unless in a medical setting.

So far, the CDC and our government have had to walk back so many claims. If you wear a mask, you won't get or pass on the virus, if you have the vaccine, you won't get COVID-19, etc. All proclaimed with great conviction. All wrong. Now it appears that the vaccine may lessen symptoms if you do get the full series of shots. Great. Nevertheless, I'm not protected by the masks, and neither is anybody else. Therefore, masks should be a personal choice.

There are areas in our country, and other countries such as Sweden, that show no difference in hospitalizations and death rates, with no mandates at all.

Many who choose not to mask have already had the virus. Others have conditions which make it difficult to wear. It's unhealthy in its own right. Even the CDC admits cloth masks, indeed most all masks, are useless. Masks are dehumanizing for many. They are horrible for kids, who have miniscule risk.

Natural immunity from prior infection appears to be more robust than the vaccines. Other countries have studied it. Ours has not. Why? The data does not in any way support mask mandates, especially with the Omicron variant.

This entire issue is politicized. Full debate is not allowed. This is so very wrong. We SHOULD NOT step on anybody's personal autonomy. Government response to Covid has already gone well beyond constitutional limits.

I understand there are those that are strongly pro-mask. Great. I support their right to wear them anytime they want. I respect that choice, but it should be a choice.

NO MANDATES. We will take ALL of our daily business out of Minnetonka and shop elsewhere. We will notify each of our regular stores, where we spend a great deal of money, exactly why.

If this is voted in, we will remember who voted for it, and make sure everybody else knows, too, especially at election time.

Be brave. Follow 'the science'. Say NO to mask mandates.

Jennifer Bryce

**From:** Catherine

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:20 PM

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

**Subject:** RE: Mask Mandate Vote on 1.14.22

Hello City of Minnetonka Officials,

I am sending an email to voice my oppositions to the possible mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. I live in a neighboring city and do come into Minnetonka to patronize local



businesses. I highly disagree with this decision and you will find that many of your business owner bringing in revenue ( taxes) for your city will find a drop in business, and they will suffer. Minnesotans have had enough of this charade of covid! I will avoid Minnetonka if a mask mandate is imposed. This is unconstitutional and imposed segregation.

Thank you.  
Catherine Elliott

**From:** DAN J MCGIE

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:28 PM

**To:** Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Melanie McGie <mmcgie@comcast.net>

**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate Consideration

Hello--

Anger and frustration are the two words that come to mind when I think of the current environment when it comes to the pandemic. We're nearly two years into this constant state of "urgency" to try and control a virus that is uncontrollable. Asking the citizens of Minnetonka to further restrict their activities by mandating masks that by most accounts are not very effective will be adding to the already high levels of anger and frustration of our citizens.

Do the right thing and vote no to the mask mandate in Minnetonka.

Respectfully submitted

Dan McGie  
14820 Lloyds Drive  
Minnetonka MN 55345

**From:** Terese Ciaccio

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:31 PM

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

**Subject:** Please Vote No-Mask Mandate

Hello Minnetonka City Council,

Hope you are all well. I am not a resident of Minnetonka however most of my time is spent in your city shopping at Ridgedale, grocery shopping at Lunds/ Beyerlys and dining at multiple restaurants.

If you implement a Mask Mandate myself, family members and several friends will not continue to be a customer at these locations. This will hurt your local economy.

Please consider to vote no to the Mask Mandate.  
Thank you,  
Terese Ciaccio

**From:** Caitlin Hillen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask opposition

Hello,  
I am a Minnetonka resident and I oppose the mask mandate.  
Thank you for listening,  
Caitlin Hillen

**From:** Carissa Beers  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hello City Council,  
My husband, 17 month old daughter and I have been residents of Minnetonka for about a year and a half. I grew up in SLP so I know the area quite well. We love our community and our neighborhood. Upon moving in we immediately felt welcomed and felt a strong sense of community!

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote against a mask mandate for our beautiful suburb. Please trust that Minnetonka citizens can make decisions for themselves. If we feel sick or unwell, we can choose to stay home. If we feel well we can go about our lives masked or unmasked. But please let that be our personal decision. My daughter has never once in her life gone out in public without seeing masks on faces and her speech development is suffering. If you only take one thing into consideration when casting your vote, please let it be our children. Our children are suffering higher rates of mental health problems and suicide rates amongst our youth have skyrocketed. If this mandate is to be put into place our local businesses will surely suffer more than they already have in the past two years. My family will choose to visit other cities that do not require masks and where we can freely live and make our own decisions. Please choose to vote against this mandate and let us get back to living life freely.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Carissa Beers

**From:** Chad LaRoche  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:52 PM

**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask Choice for Minnetonka

Hello Rebecca!

I wanted you to hear from a parent of a High school Senior at Minnetonka High School. Olivia LaRoche is the Senior Captain of the Girls Hockey team and will be soon be a '22 grad of Tonka. She is a National Honor Society and 4.0 student who is off to Sacred Heart University in CT next fall. She has worked her tail off to make her dream of playing D1 college hockey come true.

Liv has spent the last 20 months in fear of her government and school board who continue to make masking a priority at MHS. It's a sham. The masks are not the problem. The virus spreads and you or I cannot control it. Stop trying.

Please help Olivia have a normal Senior year at Minnetonka by keeping the city of Minnetonka mask-choice. Please vote your conscience and use common sense by voting to leave government out of simple choices like masking. If this passes your city council, the High school will have to mask too. The middle schools and elementary schools have way more positive Covid cases than the high school and they've been masked!! So this isn't going to change anything. Viruses spread and mutate and people get sick. 99.6% of everyone will be just fine.

All of these are good choices but they're not requirements:

- Wash your hands
- Eat well
- Sleep well
- Take your vitamins
- Boost your immune system with exercise
- Drink water
- Wear a mask
- Get a shot
- Get a booster
- Stay home when sick

The above are choices, vote to keep it this way. Olivia thanks you for your vote - go Rebecca!!

Chad LaRoche

**From:** Mary Pat Blake  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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-Minneapo>

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:** Andrea West  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:37 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate will Hurt Minnetonka

Hi Ms. Schack,

I'm writing to let you know that this mask mandate will hurt Minnetonka businesses and services because people will take their business elsewhere. We know that more and more evidence/data has come out to show that the masks will not work against a virus so small but yet we keep doing the same things over and over again. That is the definition of insanity. Natural Immunity is the only way through this.

We DO NOT want Minnetonka to be reminiscent of Minneapolis and St. Paul struggling businesses. Please, please don't turn Minnetonka into dead cities and business zones like Minneapolis and St. Paul. Their businesses haven't been able to survive and our businesses won't be able to survive it either.

As much I love to shop locally in my own city for much of what my family needs, I will be forced to shop in other cities do not implement government mandates over it's citizens. I am one of those that have a very hard time breathing in them and have had several panic attacks in stores and had to leave my cart full of stuff, often following a migraine headache. As with all things in life from food, medication, workouts, diets, etc, One Size Does Not Fit All!

I hope that you will vote NO on these Mask Mandate for our city, it should be a CHOICE of each individual and this will kill our city's progress rather than protect it.

Best of Health,  
Andrea West

**From:** Laurie Stoltenberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:46 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Opposing mask mandate

Hi Rebecca,

Thank you for your leadership of our city.

I am opposed to a mandatory mask mandate in Minnetonka. There are reports of cities (and countries) with mask mandates that are having Covid surges, so it seems to be questionable as to whether they are actually effective in slowing the spread of the virus. With other cities close by, it's easy for people to choose to shop & eat in other communities that do not require masks. As a small business owner in Minnetonka for 5 years (not currently, but 1999 – 2004, Sweet Beads located on Minnetonka Blvd at

101) I understand how hard it is on a good day for businesses to compete and succeed – to put a burden like this seems unnecessary and unfair.

Please stand against this requirement and provide a choice for Minnetonka residents and others who would choose to visit, enjoy and spend \$ here.

Thank you!

Laurie Stoltenberg

**From:** Serena  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:35 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** No mandate

Dear Rebecca

I am very concerned what the proposed mask mandate will do to local businesses. As if the last couple years have not stressed them enough, a mandate, that they need to police themselves, daily, customers who will go elsewhere to shop. Please support our local businesses. They are hardly surviving.

Vote no to the mask mandate.

Serena Harad

**From:** Nic Romero  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:52 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates

We are opposed to mask mandates. Please do not handcuff businesses with this ineffective requirement.

We don't live in Minnetonka but are heavily involved in a Church and support local businesses there.

Again, do not require masks that have proven ineffective at best in regards to preventing the spread of Covid 19.

**From:** Gregjen Winegarden  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:39 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Upcoming Meeting

Hello!

First - thank you for all you do for the city of Minnetonka. Especially with the world today, I appreciate it is a lot.

Regarding the mask mandate potentially going in place, I wanted to express my concern. I am vaccinated and really want this to end as much as anyone else. However, a mask mandate is going to destroy our businesses. Especially those still trying to recover from the shut downs last year. A lot of patrons will go to surrounding cities instead of supporting Minnetonka if the mandate gets put in place.

There are masks in the elementary schools and currently my daughters 1st grade class is experiencing a breakout from within the classroom. If masks were working at stopping this, we wouldn't be on the verge of shutting her room down. It isn't community spread outside of school, it is in her classroom where masks are mandatory.

Please vote no to the mandate. The current variant is peaking. By the time things even get j to place, it will have already run its course.

Thanks for your time,  
Jen Winegarden

**From:** Jay Witta  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:49 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Cc:** Jay Witta  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO

And end this insanity mask and COVID mandate craziness.

2 years of pushing the same thing over and over again expecting different results is the truest form of insanity!

Time to get on with LIFE and let this virus with a 99.4% survival Rate do its natural deal.

Thank you for your time!

Lifelong resident and MTKA HS Class of 1987!

**From:** Kristina Sheridan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:27 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Please vote NO to a new mask manadate

Good Morning Rebecca:

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the re-instatement of the mask mandate that will be discussed on Friday. As a Minnetonka homeowner and taxpayer, I am vehemently opposed to any reinstatement of this outdated measure. The CDC has acknowledged that masks can do little to stop the spread of COVID 19 and the Omicron variant. Imposing this requirement on businesses and individuals will only force residents to continue to participate in an unwanted ritual that provides no medical value and will harm businesses in the community. If individuals find value in doing so, they should feel free to mask themselves, but please do not push this fear mongering onto the rest of the community. I urge you to vote no.

Thank you,

Kristina

**From:** Mike Jennings  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Options

Good afternoon City Council,  
As the owner of two restaurants in Minnetonka, I wanted you to know that we have ALL of our employees wearing masks at work.

I should mention that in the last 12 days, our business has been dismal. All of the multiple restaurant operators in the western suburbs that I have spoken to have indicated that their business is down from 40 to 60%, which means we are once again losing money. Our current situation is just barely better than when the pandemic started in March/April of 2020.

We feel that, even though the CDC told us 7 weeks ago that it would take anywhere from two to four weeks to determine how bad this new variant is, the CDC has since been quiet about the impact on the hospitalization rate and the death rate. It's probably more to do with trying to continue to scare people into getting vaccinated.

The problem is that the general public does not know how bad this particular virus is...or isn't, but they are presuming that it's too dangerous to be dining at restaurants, thus the monumental drop in sales we are experiencing.

A mask ordinance would more likely than not, bring some comfort to many, many people, thus they might be willing to dine at restaurants. Unfortunately, not having a mask ordinance only makes people more weary of dining at restaurants.

All said, I support the decision that the council ultimately decides to go with, but I am leaning towards thinking that a mask ordinance could help make the general public want to begin dining out once again, plus it might make things safer. Maybe just requiring masks for employees would be a good start.

As for requiring proof of vaccination, there are only 12 cities in the US that require proof of vaccination. At this time, I believe that ordinances in Mpls and St. Paul are not necessary and will do more harm than good for businesses. Please do not require vaccination cards. That would be devastating.



In any case, according to Dr. Fauci, does say that the Covid numbers will peak before the end of the month and begin to drop towards normal. Maybe a 30 mask requirement would be a good start, with the option of expending it later.

Mike Jennings  
Scoreboard Barf and Grill  
and Jimmy's Kitchen and Bar

**From:** ed herzog  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Face mask

I write to advocate that the city follow the lead of other Minnesota cities and enact a mask mandate effective as soon as possible. The logic is to help reduce spread of the virus and to remind all of the continuing challenge of the pandemic.

Ed Herzog  
Westgate Road Minnetonka, Mn 55345

**From:** Karen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** COVID mask regulation

I think that because of the transmissibility of omicron that government offices should be closed to the public until the worst of this over.

Karen Scheltema  
10551 Greenbrier Rd  
Apt 333  
Minnetonka

**From:** Charles Stauber K  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:15 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mandate meeting

Urging you to decline any further mandates, we have had enough with tyrants and will not comply as a fully vaxxed citizen enough! Thank you have a great day.

**From:** Kari Lorence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:13 PM

**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate? No!

I am writing to urge you to vote no on a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka in tomorrow's meeting. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents to make their own decisions regarding their health. If this mandate passes, understand that my family and I will be doing our everyday business and shopping outside of Minnetonka.  
Sincerely,  
Kari Lorence

**From:** Serena  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 1:11:16 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: No mandate!**  
Hi Deb

Thank you for your leadership and being a reasonable voice. I am writing to ask that you vote no to the minnetonka mask mandate.

How will you enforce the mandate? When will it end? How will you manage those that are exempt for various reasons and what additional stigma will be imposed on those who cannot comply? I feel that Minnetonka business owners have already suffered enough the last two years. The burden of the mandate will fall entirely on them.

I am thankful that omicron is not the killer we once thought Covid to be. Good luck in your decision making.

Serena Harad

**From:** Tara Pitkin  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:34 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate - DO NOT MANDATE

Good afternoon Rebecca!

I'm writing to you today about the upcoming vote on mask mandates. I am very concerned about what a mask mandate is going to do to our already struggling business community.

We have kids in a Minnetonka elementary school, we shop & dine in Minnetonka frequently and our kids play Minnetonka community sports. While we live in Victoria, we spend the majority of time & money in Minnetonka. We are so disappointed in the way cities have been caving to those screaming at and belittling those that don't agree on such extreme measures. That goes for several on the Minnetonka school board and city council. We are on the verge of spending our hard earned money elsewhere & pulling our kids from Minnetonka schools that

we open enroll to and have loved prior to the pandemic. These mandates and political divisiveness have gone too far.

We have had VERY strict mitigation strategies in place at the elementary schools (masks, long quarantines, social distancing, no parents allowed in, no field trips, kids eating in classrooms, classrooms singled out for no reason to e-learn as an experiment and the list goes on) for the entire school year. Our school has had the highest case number of all of the other schools for most of the school year and has a high vax rate as well. Our elementary schools all have the mask mandates and currently have a combined case total higher than our high school (which has no mandate in place). Clearly the mitigation strategies that have been put in place are not working. They never have. In my kids' classes nearly every child had covid this school year PRIOR to omicron. Now the rest are just finishing up with it. There are many studies that indicate masks do not work. We see that clearly at the elementary level all fall & early winter. People are not getting covid because there are not mask or vax mandates in place. They are getting covid for a variety of reasons (decreased immune systems from extended masking & quarantines, comorbidities, we live in MN & it is cold/flu season). The death/hospital tolls aren't skyrocketing due to omicron, but due to the impossible mandates. Mandating masks is not going to solve the issue. The vast majority of people are only getting flu or cold-like symptoms. I'm not sure if everyone has forgotten, but that is NORMAL for this time of year. Especially when you live in MN.

Our businesses (especially small) have been struggling for nearly 2 years. Our kids & families are struggling. This mandate will ensure that they close for good, move to other communities that will support them and parents pulling their kids from schools that were once highly rated in the nation.

Please consider voting no on the mask mandate tomorrow.

Thank you.

Tara Pitkin

**From:** Bryan Badzin  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:44 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello Rebecca,

I know the council is under pressure to instate a mask mandate, but I wanted to write to ask you not to do it for several reasons:

1. You'd be putting our businesses in a horrible position. If they insist customers put them on due to the mandate, those customers that don't want to, and there are a lot of people like that, will simple go to other establishments and/or cities that don't.
2. Businesses can require masks if they want without a mandate. Those that don't want to are doing so for a reason. Why punish them?
3. People can wear a mask if they want to. I know they say my mask protects you and your mask protects me, but most of the masks people wear do very little. Maybe you recommend that people that are scared wear N95 (Not KN) masks which will protect them better that two people wearing cloth masks?
4. Who's actually going to enforce this? As you know, our police force is already under-staffed and can't handle all the issues in the city as is. Do we really want to add something so controversial to the enormous list of things they already have to deal with?

Let's do what they did in Edina and other cities and strongly encourage them. It's a good compromise.

Thank you.  
Bryan

**From:** Julie Kazmierkoski  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** PLEASE Do NOT Mask Minnetonka Businesses!

Good afternoon, Ms. Schack,

I wanted to let you know that I am requesting that you vote NO to the Minnetonka mask mandate that will be going before the city council this Friday. I am an Eden Prairie resident, however we live in the Minnetonka School District, so are right on the border of EP and Mtka.

If you require masks in the city limits, I will take my dollars to the cities of Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Wayzata ... anywhere OTHER than Minnetonka. I feel bad having to do this, as there are many small businesses that are great and that I enjoy frequenting, and who would appreciate my purchases. But I cannot in good faith support this mandate. And I won't.

Masks haven't worked so far and they won't work now.

I still see people wearing masks in the community, and if they feel they want to wear a mask, no one is telling them not to. But for someone to tell me that I HAVE to (when I know better), then I will do what I have to do and take my dollars elsewhere.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

*Julie Kazmierkoski*

**From:** Bob Ertz

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:04 PM

**To:** Rebecca Schack

**Subject:** Mask Mandate vote on Jan. 14

Hello Rebecca,

With regard to the Minnetonka City Council meeting tomorrow (Jan 14<sup>th</sup>) on a vote to whether or not implement a mask mandate. We are **against** such a mandate, and most people we know living in Minnetonka would voice against a mandate. If passed we will limit our time and dollars spent in Minnetonka, regardless that we have lived in Minnetonka for 35 years and love the city...

Thank you and kind regards

**From:** Ron Tam Hubert

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:25 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate discussion

To the Mayor and the council,

I respectfully request that you let Minnetonka citizens make their own health care decisions.

It is very simple - those of us who want to wear a mask can. Those who do not should also have that right.

When you start to think you can impose rules and restrictions regarding our "person", to what ends will you stop?

And if you allow such a poor mandate in our beautiful community, how will you know when you should rescind it. Could we trust you to make decisions down the road? Will businesses still be in Minnetonka?

I voted for you, Mr. Mayor and Council, to run this city in an efficient manner. I do not believe your job is to be the mask police. You have many more important issues that you should be using your time on...shall we talk crime?

Stop playing with our lives, our businesses and our freedom. Right now we all have choices.

Please do not take those rights away.

Respectfully,

Tam Hubert

**From:** Jackie Johnson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please do not pass a citywide mask mandate. Masks do not work, we been trying this for two years and people are still getting sick! Please use your skills and abilities to work on getting people healthy! Exercise, eating healthy foods and being outside breathing in the fresh air without a mask. What a concept! People will get sick and people will get better and some people will never get the virus and some might die..... this has been happening in the human race since we were created! Trust the science!!! Thank you Jackie Johnson

**From:** AMY MOORE  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,  
As a Minnetonka resident and a registered nurse, I fully support the city mask mandate.  
Thank you.  
Amy Moore

**From:** Mike & Sue Winship  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:23 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hi,  
After reading the different cities response to the mask mandate, I think Edina has the right idea. I would not want to have employees required to enforce a mandate and a business owner who is against masking ignore the requirement.  
I think if it is well publicized and signage for businesses to copy, that people with an ounce of common sense will use a mask.  
Michael Winship  
4819 Spring Circle  
Minnetonka

**From:** Kirsten Kierski  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:21 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Good morning,

I am not a resident of Minnetonka but I do work in Minnetonka. I am asking you to please reinstate a citywide mask mandate. I work with several people that are not vaccinated and will not voluntarily wear masks. We have had several outbreaks of Covid and I am very concerned for my safety. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kirsten

**From:** Molly Ekstrand  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates, In favor I guess

Greetings to the City Council and City Staff, Extreme gratitude for your service and leadership through this pandemic.

There are no easy or right decisions. There seem to be only tough decisions in which no one will be satisfied. I wanted to weigh-in on the proposed mask mandate. I'm a pharmacist by training, now in a non-traditional role. I believe in public health and prevention of disease whenever possible. I'm not in favor of government mandates, but short term (< 1 month), I believe a mask mandate is the best course of action to just blunt the spread. I would even suggest that any motion proposing a mask mandate have a date of expiration or re-examination to renew.

Omicron is rampant and even mild infections are affecting business, commerce, and livelihood in our community. I won't even focus on the severe strain on our health care system and the amazing health care providers that are burned out. We are realizing that healthcare resources are finite. Businesses with frontline people are exposed at a much higher rate than those of us that can work at home. How many people stream through a grocery store each day? Omicron is proving that it breaks through vaccines and people can be infected with covid more than once. Positive cases require quarantine, no matter how mild the symptoms, and are causing severe staffing shortages, reductions in business hours, limitations of services, even some closures. If we want to retain our business climate in Minnetonka, we should help by wearing a mask. My kids, despite being well, are now subject to e-learning again due to teacher, staff, and student absences. Maybe if they were wearing masks the absences would be blunted and more manageable? I know we can't rely on private businesses to enforce this, and recognize this burden on them.

This should be short term and monitored for the quick drop in the Omicron wave as witnessed by other cities around the world. There is research in other countries suggesting this severely infectious variant may push us into the ENDemic phase sooner. Come on, we can do this for just a bit longer...

Again, thank you for your service and leadership.

**Molly Ekstrand**  
**15508 Highwood Drive**

**From:** Andrea West  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 1:17:01 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hi Ms. Calvert,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and for your time and effort into this matter.

I'm writing to let you know that this mask mandate will hurt Minnetonka businesses because people will take their business elsewhere. Everyday we know more and more evidence/data coming out to show that the masks are not working against a virus so small but yet we keep doing the same things over and over again. That is the definition of insanity. At some point we have to admit that masking isn't working and the virus is going to have to work itself through our communities by natural immunity. I am not doctor but maybe since it's a virus through the nasal passage, maybe our city leaders could start advising people to go home and do a nasal salt rinse after being in public in case they were exposed so the viral particles don't take root in one's nasal passage. Activity promote preventative wellness by telling people to take immune boosting vitamin supplements. Everyone needs to be taking them so that if and when they encounter Covid, their body is ready to fight it off with less complications. Strong bodies are more unlikely to be hospitalized.

With that said, we DO NOT want Minnetonka to be reminiscent of Minneapolis and St. Paul's struggling businesses. Please, please don't turn Minnetonka into a ghost town of empty businesses that haven't been able to survive like the downtowns. As much as I love to shop locally in my own city for much of what my family needs, I may be forced to shop in other cities that do not implement government mandates over it's citizens. I am one of those that have a very hard time breathing in them and have had several panic attacks in stores and had to leave my cart full of stuff, often following a migraine headache. As with all things in life from food, medication, workouts, diets, etc, One Size Does Not Fit All!

I hope that you will vote NO on these Mask Mandate for our city, it should be a CHOICE of each individual. This mask mandate will not stop the virus but will kill our city's progress rather than protect it. Thank you for your time.



Best of Health,  
Andrea West

**From:** jeffrey larkin  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 3:03:41 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council meeting January 14.

Deb, congratulations on your re-election. Looking through the rank choice voting information and reading about the candidates there was a link to historical information. My grandfather, George Larkin was on the city council in 1920, and a few other years in the 1920's , and my great-uncle, Dan Larkin (his brother) was the sheriff a few years in the 1920's. The family farm was where Target is located, at Ridgedale, until grandpa George sold it to Dayton-Hudson corp. after WWII. His brother, Dan, had farm about where Breadsmith is located on Plymouth Road.

Tomorrow I understand that wearing facemarks indoors, in public, is coming up for discussion. I am a retired physician and strongly support masking as an important public health measure at this time. My wife of 46 years, also grew up in Minnetonka, and feels the same way.

Thank you for your consideration, and help us protect each other.

Jeffrey and Katherine Larkin  
4441 Briarwood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN. 553433

**From:** Kat Mason  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 3:55:43 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please  
Dear Ms Calvert,

Please do not implement a mask mandate.

Whether we agree with it or not, it really hurts our businesses.

I rarely hear any comments about the masking issue in businesses anymore, but implementing a new mandate will certainly create all sorts of new issues that puts us in the middle.

Please spare us and let us make the decision for our own businesses.

Thank you  
Kathryn Mason  
**From:** Stacy Sheldon-Wilkinson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:42 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate: City of Minnetonka

Dear Minnetonka City Council Members,

We have been loyal, grateful patrons at numerous businesses in the city of Minnetonka for 50 years and have family members who work and reside in this city. We are extremely disappointed that you are considering implementing a mask mandate. If implemented, we will be taking our business to other cities that allow people the freedom to make choices for themselves.

America was formed on the basis of liberty. To see that you are debating the possibility of taking away the freedom of choice from the citizens of Minnetonka is a slippery slope to walk. This action would demonstrate the slow creep of overreaching *elected* government into our everyday lives.

Allow the citizens of Minnetonka to be empowered to make the best decision for their own personal health themselves. Isn't that what this great country was founded on? ***"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."***

Medical tyranny and mandates that don't recognize the individual's right to choose are wrong. Thank you for your consideration and careful deliberation regarding personal liberties and respect for the citizens who have elected you.

Sincerely,  
The Wilkinsons

**From:** Wendy Pekarek

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:43 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate in Minnetonka

To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of Minnetonka for over 15 years.

As a tax paying citizen of the city and a registered nurse I do not believe that you should limit our freedoms with a city wide mask mandate.

Wearing masks for long periods of time lead to increased bacteria buildup inside the mask and therefore we are breathing decreased air quality which can lead to more illness.

I think if persons are feeling ill they should stay at home and be certain to cover their mouth and nose when they sneeze. If they have to work while they're feeling under the weather they should wear a mask in that case.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Wendy Pekarek  
5419 Holiday Road

Minnetonka MN  
55345

**From:** Pam G

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:44 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** NO to Mask Mandate

Hello,

My name is Pam Murphy and I am a Minnetonka resident and taxpayer. I would like to voice my OPPOSITION to ANY and ALL mask mandates that may be brought forward in the City Council meeting. The data does not support masking.

Citizen residents have a right to decide how to best take care of themselves and their health. That is not the job of the City Council.

This is a resounding NO to ANY/ALL MASK MANDATES for Minnetonka.

Respectfully,

Pam Murphy  
15211 Excelsior Blvd.  
Minnetonka

**From:** Rachel Stone

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:45 PM

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

**Subject:** NO MASK MANDATE IN MINNETONKA

NO MASK MANDATE IN MINNETONKA!!!!!!!!!!

**From:** Marti McMahan

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:47 PM

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

**Subject:** DO NOT MANDATE CITYWIDE MASKS!!!

Hello,

PLEASE **do NOT mandate citywide mask wearing**. We have had enough of this garbage. We want our freedom to make our own health decisions.

I was a victim of mask wearing and developed bronchitis from wearing them. They are NOT healthy.

Thank you for listening to us constituents.

Sincerely,

*Marti*

Rev. Marti McMahan  
4520 Laramie Trail  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Vicki Rabenberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:00 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Regarding mask mandate voting

Greetings,

I am writing to encourage opposition, a “no” vote, for the mask mandate policy in the city of Minnetonka. While I am not a resident, I do frequent the businesses, including Ridgedale. If this mandate is passed, I will be taking my business elsewhere.

Independent, peer reviewed, studies have not shown that masking is effective in preventing the spread of COVID, or any of its variants. Even the blue and white medical masks say directly on the packaging that they do not prevent the spread of COVID.

However, masking does significantly increase the amount of carbon dioxide a person breathes, which inherently decrease oxygen saturation. This all can lead to increased risk of fainting due to decreased oxygen intake. It also increases risk of facial/skin infections, and pulmonary issues.

I urge a “no” vote for the mask mandate.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rabenberg

**From:** jeffrey larkin  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:09 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask use in public spaces

I am a long time resident. My grandfather, George Larkin lead the city council in 1920 and other years. His brother, Dan Larkin was sheriff in the 1920s. My uncle, Frank Larkin, was active in the city in the 1950s. Target at Ridgedale is sitting on grandpa George's farm. His brother Dan, had a farm located where Breadsmith is. Jeffrey or Jeffry Way is named after me. I grew up on Essex Road. Larkin Drive and Larkin Circle are also areas of our family farm. I am a retired physician. I have two brothers who are also physicians. We have been a blue collar family, and a service family. My wife went to Minnetonka High School and her parents were teachers. I am a Wayzata HS grad 1971. I'm going through this exercise to make it clear that my family and my wife's family have been service based. We have been interested in health and education in the community for over 100 years.

We advise the city council to take action to protect the community by mandating a simple mask mandate.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Larkin, MD  
Katherine ( Bechtle) Larkin  
4441 Briarwood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Marge Hoffa  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:34 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

The pandemic has only gotten worse with this latest variant. We need to do all possible to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Wearing a mask will help minimize the spread. We strongly support a mask mandate for a minimum of 30 days.

Thank you,  
Steve and Marge Hoffa

**From:** Rachael Motley Myers  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:34 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Greetings,  
We live in Minnetrista and frequently shop in Minnetonka. I am contacting you today to voice my opposition to a city-wide mask mandate in Minnetonka. If this does go into effect, we will refrain from shopping at local businesses in Minnetonka until the mandate is lifted.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** Gerald Nystuen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** We believe that person's entering public buildings in the City of Minnetonka should wear masks except when eating or drinking. Arlene & Jerry Nystuen

**From:** Martin Lindquist  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I favor a mask mandate until the covid case rate goes down.

Martin Lindquist

**From:** Rolf Olson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** mask mandate

Given that breakthrough cases of the Covid strain are happening with alarming frequency and that a significant number of people remain unvaccinated, I feel that the time has come for a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka. I also support requiring proof of vaccination at bars, restaurants, and other public gathering places.

Rolf Olson  
5624 Holiday Road  
Minnetonka

**From:** Pam Lindquist  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masking opinion - in favor of it

I'm in favor of a masking mandate for businesses and indoors! Please pass the mandate!

Pam Lindquist

**From:** Holly Phares  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Wear Masks

Voting "Yes" to "Wear Masks".

**From:** Kristi Peterson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:54 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Upcoming mask vote

Hello

I am writing to ask you to vote NO to a proposed mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka. The science is clear they are ineffective in preventing the spread of respiratory viruses (Covid). Further you will create a nightmare for your businesses trying to enforce. People are done. Citizens won't comply and I think of my 16 year old daughter being in the position of having to be the one to enforce. It doesn't make me comfortable as a parent that she would be put in that position that could turn heated and confrontational.

Further neighboring communities will not have a mandate and therefore business will be deterred from our community to others.

We cannot play God. Covid is here, it's not going away magically because someone wears a mask. Been there done that. It's an individuals liberty and freedom to choose.

I encourage you to pray and think carefully on this vote and the detrimental effects of a yes vote.

Sincerely  
K Peterson

**From:** Liza Jacobson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:57 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please vote yes for mask mandate

Hello -

It's so unfortunate that many people in our community choose not to get vaccinated for covid because "they don't want the government telling them what to do." Sadly, their poor choices affect everyone else. If requiring masks be worn indoors in public spaces helps curb the spread of covid, I am in favor of it and urge the council to vote for it tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Liza Jacobson

**From:** Dis McDevitt  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandates

Please consider people's and businesses rights before you over step your authority on forced mask mandates. People and businesses should have the choice of how they conduct themselves

Also the masks have been proven over and over to not be effective in stopping the spread of any virus outside of sterile environments. Instead encourage people who are ill or in a high risk group to avoid crowded areas until this surge has ended

Thank you

**From:** Nicholas Murphy <nickmurphy3041@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:34 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To all it may concern,

My name is Nicholas Murphy and I am a Minnetonka resident and taxpayer. I would like to voice my OPPOSITION to ANY and ALL mask mandates that may be brought forward in the City Council meeting. The data does not support masking. We have been through this and it had no effect on flattening any curve or reducing the spread of Covid. In fact, data shows areas with mask mandates tend to have higher Covid numbers and slower recovery.

Stop coming up with rules for others to follow. Adults can take care of themselves and parents are capable of taking care of their own children. There is no reason to treat the public as if they don't know how to manage their own lives. Restricting businesses and encouraging prejudice with mask mandates does not reflect the will of the people. Citizen residents have a right to decide how to best take care of themselves and their health. That is not the job of the City Council or any governing body.

This is a resounding NO to ANY/ALL MASK MANDATES for Minnetonka.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Murphy  
15211 Excelsior Blvd.  
Minnetonka

**From:** Danielle

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:55 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I support a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka.



Thank You,  
Danielle Lindquist

**From:** Danielle  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I support a mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka.

Thank You,  
Danielle Lindquist

**From:** Steve Thomson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:19 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Indoor Masks

Please do not burden us with mandatory indoor masks in all indoor businesses.  
Most Minnetonka residents have been fully vaccinated and are very tired of wearing masks.  
I think it is now clear that vaccinated people do not get seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.  
The unvaccinated may still choose to wear masks but don't require it for all of us.

Steven Thomson  
16117 Kensington Ct.

**From:** M F  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Re: Vote NO on mask mandate

Bradley,

Please consider reading this article and discussing it with your City Council colleagues on Friday.

Thank you,  
Michael Franklin  
5819 Oakview Circle  
Minnetonka, MN

<https://brownstone.org/articles/is-masking-kids-at-school-working/>

**From:** Kat Mason  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:57 PM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Please no mandate.

Dear Ms Schweppes,

Please do not implement a mask mandate.

Whether we agree with it or not, it really hurts our businesses.

I rarely hear any comments about the masking issue in businesses anymore, but implementing a new mandate will certainly create all sorts of new issues that puts us in the middle.

Please spare us and let us make the decision for our own businesses.

Thank you  
Kathryn Mason

**From:** Brittney Johnson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn; Kissy Coakley; Bradley Schaeppi; Brad Wiersum  
**Subject:** Please vote no for a mask mandate

Hello,

I've heard that tomorrow you will be voting on a potential mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. Please vote No. we've learned over the past couple of years that mask mandates are not the answer. They make it so challenging and stressful for employees and business owners, and they create division amongst residents that we do not need. Please leave the decision making up to the individuals. Wearing a face mask should always be a personal choice.

Thank you for your time,  
Brittney Johnson

**From:** Amanda Cummins  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Meeting 1/14/22

To whom it may concern,

I would like to very much add a response to this effort. I have been with my place of employment for many years. 23 to be exact. I have grown up in this area and am blessed to now be raising two beautiful boys with my husband I know how fortunate I am to be a part of such an amazing community. With that being said I respect the efforts of trying to do what is right. I also know that what is right can vary from every individual. What you

are asking by implementing something that YOU simply can not enforce and then expecting tired, frustrated, confused individuals to comply and then placing that burden on tired, frustrated overworked individuals to ENFORCE is incredibly heart breaking and defeating.

As someone just trying to do their best and perform their job that has already suffered immensely should not be responsible to enforce this. Put this in effect and then place city paid police or security to enforce it.

Not the mom waiting tables or the high schooler hosting or the dad working over nights at Cub or the small business owner trying to survive. In light of all the very publicized crimes that are happening in the area I certainly wouldn't feel comfortable enforcing something n a stranger would you?

There's nothing we can do.....it's up to the individual. Sorry but that's the truth. Don't do this to us.

Sincerely,

A hard working, tired, frustrated and member of the community.

**From:** Daniel Pratt

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:15 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing today to express my hope that Minnetonka does not impose a mandatory mask mandate. I personally know that small businesses will greatly suffer from such a mandate. The Minnetonka small businesses that I frequent are such a valued part of my daily routine and provide such a welcoming, safe and healthy community. It is one of the reasons I enjoy living in this beautiful area.

Thank you for considering my request.

Elizabeth Pratt

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:20 PM

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

**Cc:** 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>

**Subject:** Covid mask proposal

Hi I am emailing you in response to your proposed mask mandates and the inconsistencies in your proposal.

1. It was reported today that the supreme court's just ruled against requiring people in large companies to be vaccinated or have Required Covid test in large companies because these mandates are unconstitutional. Even in these unprecedented times the government does not get to mandate what its citizens do.

2. Secondly scientifically they have proved that cloth masks do not work therefore you requiring a cloth mask seems like an uneducated proposal if you're following the science.

3. Another inconsistency is when you're walking to your table in a restaurant you have to mask up but as soon as you sit down you can take your mask off? Help me to understand this concept when you're sitting you don't get Covid but when you're standing or walking you can spread it?

4. If the vaccination works then requiring a mask seems uncalled for

Thank you

Jenny McKinney • Account Manager  
Core Distribution Inc./ Xtend+Climb

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:22 PM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear Council Members,

I'm a frustrated citizen, saddened by the ongoing posture of fear and overreaction shrouded in a veil of "science" that has now come back around in the City of Minnetonka. I do not agree with a mask mandate in the city. It has become clear that the "science" does not support the mass use of masks to protect people from acquiring or preventing people from transmitting C19. Statistics have shown the mask mandates resulted in no advantage when comparing states that did have a mask mandate versus those that didn't. Science.

Also, studies have shown that masks actually promote the concentration of viral particles because of how the gaps around masks create a concentrated flow of air and particles in spaces that would otherwise have a less concentrated volume of particles. Science. Basic statistics in local school districts bear out the ineffectiveness of masks.

Additionally, studies have shown that viral particles can remain viable for up to 20 hours on a mask. Also science. Anyone fairly considering the width and breadth of science regarding masks will see that mandates are not warranted based on outcomes shown in data collected over nearly two years of this madness.

Aside from the science, there is the economic aspect of this idea. Businesses will see a noticeable decrease in business as many will chose to go to other communities to do shopping and eating at restaurants where they can do so maskless, seeing the smiles of those around them. My policy has been that I would not purposely go to a business that I knew was voluntarily requiring masks. I'll drive an extra few miles to grocery shop, get a haircut, have a dinner date with friends, or browse for new furnishings for my home.

This game our culture has endured around masking has damaged our ability to enjoy our humanity and friendships and will, if enforced in Minnetonka, worsen the societal damage for little gain. Omicron doesn't care about your mask. Quit pretending it does. Let people choose how they want to protect themselves. If masking really is the cure-all you won't have to force it. People know it is not the cure-all, so the fear mongers have to keep pushing for the mandate to feel like there's a way to control the virus.

I do appreciate the difficult position the council is in but I implore you all to step out from under the blanket of fear and vote for freedom, self-determination, and the broader health of our community.

Steve Oliver  
4544 Saddlewood Drive  
Minnetonka

**From:** James Lee  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Re: Friday's Mask Mandate Vote

Dear Council Member Schaeppi,

I am writing to urge you and the Minnetonka City council not to impose a city-wide mask mandate. This pending decision has me and my family concerned on several fronts. I have 2 children in the Minnetonka School district who are also active in multiple Minnetonka sports organizations.

First is the effectiveness of mask mandates. Cities such as San Francisco have maintained their mask mandates which were augmented by vaccination requirements yet continue to see high infection rates.

My second concern is the enforcement of mask mandate. As we continue to see a rise in violent crime across the western suburbs it would be a disservice to Minnetonka residents and business to divert city and law enforcement resources to enforce a mask mandate. Additionally, it would be unfair for the city to push the onus of enforcement on individual business owners and employees by placing them into potentially confrontational situations they have not been trained to address.

Other metro cities have also considered reinstating mask mandates but have voted against them citing similar concerns regarding effectiveness and challenges to compliance and enforcement. Minnetonka businesses and restaurants have already endured operational challenges imposed from State and Local restrictions since the initial COVID panic. My final concern would be the economic disadvantage a local mask mandate would impact on to these remaining businesses especially restaurants and gyms.

I would like to again urge you to vote against a second mask mandate and help the Minnetonka City Council provide a safe and fair economic environment for our families and businesses.

Thank you,

James Lee

**Submission Date:** 01/13/2022 8:34

**Name**

Gina Wheaton

**Full Address**

19800 Lakeview Avenue  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
US

**Comment**

This is such an over reach of your power to do this without letting the whole community that you serve know and have them speak or vote on this matter. You are effecting our whole life and well being on safety without science. The science you rely on is only what you are given. The CDC contradicts themselves and that is a proven fact. The Supreme Court has already stated that the vaccine mandate is unconstitutional. It was an over reach of power. Our beauty state and cities have been ruined because of your liberal policies and cowardice to stand up for true constitutional rights. People who are worried should wear a mask although this has been proven not to be fully effective. Vaccines are not effective hence the reasons for boosters. Covid does exist. We should only be testing symptomatic people and not quarantining healthy people or punishing them. I know you have heard all this before but you only care about your agenda. Our economy is suffering. Small Businesses are hurting. Our children are depressed, tired and not receiving a good education. We need to realize Covid is not going away and you should be more concerned with providing existing therapeutics so that our health care system is not overwhelmed. Children will be able to stay in school and life can remain as normal as possible. However, maybe that is not your concern. It is all about you and a fear that does have options to be remedied. So many are leaving democratic states because of the liberal policies. Is that what you want? Keep it a choice for masking and vaccines. That is the right thing to do.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:37 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Mask Mandate is NOT the answer!

To the staff of Minnetonka,

It has come to my attention that the City of Minnetonka is considering a mask mandate for Minnetonka.

I will start by saying that I am strongly against it. Not only is this an overreach and a bad idea that will have no effect on the outcome of the pandemic, it does have several downsides to it as well. Please, please, please do not try and say, this is for the greater good. We all are smart people and we know that this is not true. Wearing a cloth mask while walking into an establishment, sitting down, taking off mask for the entire time at our table, eating with our mask off, then putting it back on to walk back out.

This WILL NOT STOP THE SPREAD, it won't and you know it.

Have we had a mask mandate so far, no. Why is that? The previous strains of Covid-19 have proven to be far more deadly, and now we have a milder version of it, and now we are going to implement it? Does this make sense, of course not.

- There are several studies out there that have proven masks do very little to stopping the spread. Only high grade masks offer a significant health benefit, but they are not available to most folks. There are many other bigger factors that do help the spread, but cloth masks are not one. They are theater, they makes someone think they are safe, but they are not.
- Our state Governor is not mandating it because it does not make sense, and is a huge overreach with little or no benefit. We have been going into stores restaurants and salons, etc without masks for a long time. Our increase in the new strain of covid-19 has nothing to do with masks, you know it, we all know it.
- Our businesses need all the help they can get, now is not the time to say they don't matter.

Please do not pass this mask mandate, it will not help our city, it will only hurt our community.

Sincerely, Dave Ahlers  
Minnetonka Resident

**From:** Amy Litman  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:14 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate for Minnetonka

Mayor Wiersum,

As a long time resident of minnetonka it has continued to amaze me that Members of our community have not voluntarily stepped up to protect each other. Unfortunately, that the current situation and because of this situation I think we MUST have a mask mandate for the city.

All best,  
Amy Litman

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:49 PM  
**To:** Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Cc:** Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mtka mask issue - Please enter into public record mb

***Ms. Coakley and Council/Mayor:***

We are Ward 4.....

Please do not institute city wide mask mandate. Small businesses will suffer.

People have the opportunity to wear face coverings at their discretion.. The State law was amended to allow this.

Ordering/mandating masks in Minnetonka is unconstitutional.

Thank you.... Let me know your final decision. Regards, M

***Michael Brandvold***  
President  
***Snow Plowing Services Corporation***  
***16103 Temple Lane***

**From:** Bob Ertz  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:**

Mr. Brad Wiersum,  
Please consider our voice to not go forward with a mask mandate decision in the January 14<sup>th</sup> Minnetonka City Council meeting. Thankfully the Supreme Court ruled today against a mask mandate for most workplaces etc. Also consider that studies have found “people who wear masks feel more enabled and empowered to do things that they normally wouldn’t have done if their face was seen in public.”

Thank you  
Sincerely, Robert and Diane, long time Minnetonka residents.

**From:** Chris beran  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks



Hi please do not make the mistake of forcing people to mask. It doesn't matter if you look at many studies. And just use some common sense. The states like California and New York are not doing any better even with the most extreme policies in our country on masks and such.

Thank You,  
Chris Beran

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395971/#!po=1.00000>

<https://archive.vn/cBH4G>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30985-3/fulltext?s=09](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30985-3/fulltext?s=09)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971220324504#bib0005>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Discussion

Mr. Mayor – I am writing in response to the Mask Mandate discussion. Our family is strongly opposed to any mandate related to masks. Numerous studies have shown that masks, specifically clothes masks, are doing nothing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. They are providing citizens with a false sense of security, and they are hurting children. There is no reason for the City of Minnetonka to implement a mask mandate at this time. The city should recommend that those at risk individuals should avoid unnecessary visits to places with a high density of people for the next 30 days. The rest of people need to get on with their lives. After two years it is way past time that we realize we cannot control the virus. Stop the insanity of forcing people to wear masks.

Separately, my wife and I visit Williston 3+ times per week. If we are again forced to wear masks, we will likely forego attending classes. We tried to work out in 2020 while wearing masks. It was intolerable. We ultimately just stopped going. The city needs to encourage the citizens to get exercise. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle will do much more to mitigate the affects of COVID than the nonsense of wearing masks.

I am hopeful that the City Council will make the smart decision on Friday to forego any mask mandate. I am sure there will be the perpetually complaining crowd at the event arguing for a mask mandate, but again there is no science behind it. We need to move back to our normal lives, and realize that COVID is likely never going away. We need to learn how to live with it.

Thank you for your time.

Brian

Burke Family  
13709 Inverness Road

**From:** Charles Stauber  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:00 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate meeting

Hello Brad, I am writing you today to urge you too decline any further mask mandate. As a fully vaxxed individual, we do not need any more tyrannical decisions put into place. I voted to re-elect you. Even with our incredibly goofy ranked choice system.. thank you for your time. Have a great day.

**From:** Tom Barrett  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:14 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask

If you and the city decide to mandate masks please mandate the correct mask to utilize. Just a mask means nothing look around at what is being used. Many are just a joke in defining orders. I don't get Mpls and St.Paul with proof of vax. What does that mean? Many of us r getting 19, delta, and omicron vaxed or not. So what does showing my proof from 6 MO ago mean? Not a damn thing

Tom Barrett

**From:** Jackie Kennedy  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Friday Meeting re: Mask Mandate

To the members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I write today in regards to the upcoming meeting called to consider a city wide mask mandate and to express opposition to putting a mandate in place.

We are nearly two years into living with this virus. It is no longer an emergency. Society has learned to deal with this illness. We know the risk factors, we know early treatment methods, and we have a vaccine.

I repeat: this is no longer an emergency. Two years is not an emergency. It is inappropriate for continued government dictates and mandates. People are tired of being told what to do and how to live and to cover their nose and mouth and to take a shot. We are individuals who are capable of measuring our own risk factors and acting accordingly. You cannot legislate risk out of life.

Businesses do not want to be the enforcement arm of your dictates. Most are not interested in playing mask police. Even your local police department was not interested in enforcing your last

mask mandate. Those who haven't been wearing a mask will not suddenly start because you say to do so. Trust me. I am one of those people.

If the result of Friday's meeting is to put into place a mask mandate, I will not comply. I will frequent the places not enforcing a mandate or will gladly support the local businesses of cities without a mandate. What I will not do is comply.

We have all watched as nearly every government in the world has taken the same strategy of lockdowns and mask mandates. Those who have eyes to see understand not a single one of these governments has controlled the spread of the virus. Yet they, including this city council, continue to contemplate the same tired and failing policies. I believe your Facebook post regarding Friday's meeting has comments full of well documented studies showing mask mandates have no impact on controlling spread. I would urge the council to give them a read to lend an informed decision.

Remember this: history does not look kindly on government overreach. The narrative is collapsing and those advocating for mandates are on the wrong side of the story.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Kennedy

**From:** Matt Pince

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:02 AM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Vaccine/mask mandates

Good morning Mayor Wiersum,

This is the very first time I've ever written to any elected official, so excuse any improper use of language here; I mean absolutely no offense.

I'm writing out of concern that what's happening in Minneapolis & St. Paul may soon make its way to Minnetonka. Pardon my ignorance if I understood incorrectly, but it sounds like those cities will be implementing an emergency mandate at all restaurants & public venues, forcing people to show their vaccine cards or proof of negative test within the last 72 hours. I'm 1000% against this in Minnetonka for the following reasons:

If it's such an emergency, why are they waiting for a week before implementing it?

Why are some people exempt from following these orders (athletes, performers, supporting staff)? I didn't know this virus didn't infect those types of people.

I know plenty of vaccinated people who will NEVER show their "proof of vaccination" just to get a burger or a drink. I don't think it's a stretch to say this is akin to Nazi Germany asking people to "show their papers".

I find it very hypocritical that the same people who say you should never show an ID to vote are the ones calling for you to show an "ID" to go out and have a nice time at a private business.

A negative test (taken on a Monday, for example) won't show someone who got infected on a Tuesday.

The data/science are telling us conclusively that these "vaccines" do not stop a person from spreading the virus. They are simply a means of symptom-mitigation at this point. More businesses are going to suffer as a result of any mandate like this.

Please, Mayor Wiersum, leave this sort of thing up to individual businesses. If those who are truly afraid of catching this virus (even after having gotten multiple shots and boosters) want to protect themselves, the best thing they can do is stay home and not expose themselves to any semblance of danger. The rest of us should be allowed to live our lives as normally as possible, assuming any and all risk, with little-to-no government interference.

Thank you very much for your time,  
Matthew Pince  
2923 Cedar Knoll Court  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Diane Ertz  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:43 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I am against the mask mandate and if it is passed I will be taking my business to a city that does not have a mandate.

**From:** Kit Bix  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please pass the mask mandate

Hi Minnetonka City Council,

Please implement a mask mandate for all indoor spaces in Minnetonka. Please recognize that the need for a mask mandate is a disability rights issue. People who are immunocompromised get far less protection from the vaccines (2 shots plus booster) than abled people. For us, being in the presence of unmasked persons - who may potentially carry the omicron virus - can be a life and death risk. Please protect the most vulnerable by passing a mask mandate for all of Minnetonka.

Thank you.

Kit Bix  
(Director, DFL Disability Caucus )

**From:** Dan Kral  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate - Vote NO

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of the Minnetonka City Council,

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. Mask mandates have not worked in the past, there is no evidence they will work now.

Please vote **NO** on the mask mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Kral  
Minnetonka Resident  
3532 Tonkawood Rd

**From:** Chris Douglas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:26 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mandates

Dear Mr Mayor,

My family and I are triple vaccinated, had flu shots, are careful, and still got Omicron. I'm just ending a 10 day voluntary isolation tomorrow, erring on the side of caution. It was an incredibly mild case, mostly the sniffles, as have many work colleagues, family and friends have also experienced.

When I return to activities, I do not plan to and will not wear a mask for several reasons (I did for 15 months and am done): the vaccinated are not filling hospitals and emergency rooms; I'm at about the lowest risk of catching or passing on Covid now for some time, just as tens of thousands of recently recovered people are; and mandates are a bit late with the variant having already spread through the population like wildfire. On this topic, I see little difference between case rates and other metrics for cities and states who already had mandates in place, and those doing nothing at all. If we compare New York or DC to Dallas or Miami, there is little difference in the results.

If you feel that you must do something, implement a vaccinate mandate rather than a mask mandate and reward people who did the right things rather than penalize us to protect those who did not.

Sincerely,

Chris

**From:** Karen Mueller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:02 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Schack  
**Subject:** Asking for a mask mandate

Dear Council Member Schack,

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

**Submission Date:** 01/13/2022 9:35

**Name**

Amy Miller

**Full Address**

19150 Deerfield Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

**Comment**

As a neighbor to the south, I often do business within the Minnetonka community. I am a business owner who does end of life planning. As such, this process of masking and requiring vaccinations has put me into a very unique and difficult position. I believe people need to have their personal rights honored to determine their healthcare choices. Meanwhile each person should act responsibly towards others. Masks are psychologically damaging and disconnects us from each other. I meet with families and their aging parents to talk about aging safely in their homes and their choices around leaving a legacy. We need to bring people together and to allow people to teach

each other how to love and support each other during difficult times. To help me support my clients, I meet with them via conference calls, unless they say they would like to meet in person. I allow for this to be a decision made by my client. I share with them that I've had COVID twice while working retail during the beginning of the shutdown. It wasn't fun, but I recovered. After being honest and upfront, I am surprised at how often clients then ask to give me a hug and want to meet in person. Some clients request to meet by video. I am happy to accommodate their wishes. End of life decisions are not about ending your life. It's about making decisions so your loved ones know how to support you and help you during end of life transitions. It's about leaving a legacy. It is your last life lesson. My ask is for you to allow your residents to make the choices they feel supports them. This should not be a decision made by a city government. My tag line for my business is, "no one should age alone". We need to find ways to bring people together not tear or block them from each other. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts.

**From:** Valdo Calvert

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:29 PM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Mike Funk <mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Minnetonka City Council,

Just a quick note to let you know that I have pretty thoroughly researched the pros and cons of using masks for limiting the exposure from persons who have the COVID-19 virus. Also, as some of you know, prior to my retirement from US Fish and Wildlife Service I received extensive training in virus transfer issues concerning migratory birds (bird/swine flu etc.). I was incident commander of a team of experts organized to oversee the containment of any pandemic outbreak associated with wildlife (almost all are). Below I have attached a pretty good powerpoint (from the CDC) that articulates how effective the use of masks are. All masks are useful in varying degrees with respirators being the best. I fully support an citywide mandate until the current outbreak subsides to the point where medical facilities are not being overwhelmed.

Thank for your time - Valdo Calvert

**From:** Marshall

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:49 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Brad,

I appreciate your leadership in our city. It was a pleasure to meet you and I hope you continued success in politics. There has been a grassroots movement of concerned parents and citizens growing in our community since the lockdowns began. They are a growing constituency and they are willing to back you up if you stand with them and stand your ground, and vote no on the mask mandates. The media and public opinion is changing against the mask mandates more everyday. The writing is on the wall. The science is in. Masks are not effective and mandating them is an infringement on personal liberty.

I am happy to continue to support you.,

Thank you,  
Marshall Glynn

**From:** Ryan Schmit  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:23 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Quick FYI- if the mask mandate gets passed, I will no longer support businesses in Minnetonka.  
Thanks

**From:** Richard Jordan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:54 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Sir,

I am not a resident of Minnetonka, but frequent many businesses in Minnetonka and also go to church at St. Therese. Obviously Ridgedale is a popular place to shop. Spasso is a restaurant my wife and I frequent often. We also love Nautical Bowls.

I am hearing you are considering a mask mandate in Minnetonka and I urge you to not to do so. It is well documented that unless you are using a fitted N95 mask, the typically surgical and cloth masks are nothing but show. I actually am a textile engineer, having specialized in filtration for many years. These masks are nothing but political theater.

I can assure you that if you initiate such a mandate, I will no longer support any business in Minnetonka.

Regards,  
Richard Jordan

**From:** Daryl Sather  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Vote NO NO NO, it is dumb, they do not help!!!!

Daryl Sather  
9808 Robin Oak Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55305



**From:** Michelle Ahrens  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Mayor Wiersum:

I do not support a mask mandate for Minnetonka. Thank you for reviewing my email.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Ahrens

**From:** Lisa Larson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:43 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@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:** Michele Lesmeister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:24 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No mask mandate please

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:** Heidi Linhoff  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear council,  
As an RN who currently works in a Minneapolis ER, I am urging you to not instate another mask mandate.

Covid-19 is a virus. A virus that is never going away. Masks are not going to change anything about this virus in our community. It will continue to mutate, it will continue to spread. The

transmission of the virus is not occurring at Target, nor is it occurring at the local gas station stop. It is among friends. Family. People spending an increased amount of time around each other while eating, laughing and drinking. Strangers do not spend long enough around each other to spread the virus in the check out line. It has been proven that the masks the majority of the population wear, do not even stop particles from passing through them. Instead, masks may further hurt businesses already struggling to make it through this nightmare while doing little if anything at all to help. Covid is here to stay. Masks are not going to change that. I've seen the mental health of our city and state take a drastic turn for the worse the past two years. People need freedoms. They need to try to sift through the "new normal" to find their way. The best way to do that is to let them make their own choices.

Covid is here to stay. Nothing we do, not a vaccine, not locking down the world for weeks, not a paper mask is going to stop it. What we all need is our lives back. No more restrictions and mandates that don't do anything in the long run to change the outcomes.

Respectfully,  
Heidi Linhoff  
RN/BSN/CPEN

**From:** Mary Dolan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please require masks

Minnetonka school district conducted a survey and the majority of parents, staff, and students want mask mandates to be more strict but the school board wouldn't even bring it up for discussion. Please include schools in a mask mandate for the city. What are we teaching teenagers if we say everyone in the city needs to wear masks except you?

Sure I can put on a mask and zip in and out of a store with what I need, but I feel terrible for the elderly moving slowly through the stores, waiting at the pharmacy, etc. We should all be wearing masks to protect them.

Kids under 5 are unable to vaccinate and the very young cannot mask.

This is Minnesota. Being nice means being considerate to others.

I am afraid someone I know will have a heart attack, car crash, or other injury and have a hard time getting the help they need with attention they deserve from medical staff.

I feel terrible for medical staff who are stressed out and for other front line workers who come into contact with people as a part of their job and want to be protected but wearing a mask is only part of it. You need to other person to be masked as well. Especially with Omicron.

My son & I have asthma so don't tell me you can't breathe. My son has been hospitalized for his asthma and still wears a mask all day at school. And doctors somehow survive wearing masks all these years.

Please implement a mask mandate and help workers who want to stay on the job and businesses who want to protect workers but don't want to have to ask guests to wear masks because some of them will threaten not to, and just not, patron those stores anymore.

Thank you  
Mary

**From:** George Welles  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support Minnetonka Mask Mandate

My wife and I strongly support a mask mandate for Minnetonka.

We do not believe "anti maskers" have the right to put our lives at risk

Note: We have been Minnetonka residents since 1967.

George & Maren Welles

**From:** Tim Law  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:02 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

If you listen to Fox, they say the masks don't work, so we should not be required to wear them. If you listen to CNN or MSNBC, they say you don't need the mask, because they don't work, and you need to get the N95 mask.

The one thing they agree on it...the cloth masks don't work

Tim Law  
Minnetonka, MN.

**From:** laurie stoltenberg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:26 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Opposing Minnetonka mask mandate

Hi Mayor Brad,

Thank you for your leadership of our city for the past many years. I appreciate your moderate position on issues, always willing to do what's best for our great city. I also love that you're a runner ☺ I've passed you and said "hi" many times on the trail and look forward to many more summer (and winter!) days of seeing you on the trail.

I am opposed to a mandatory mask mandate in Minnetonka. There are reports of cities (and countries) with mask mandates that are having Covid surges, so it seems to be questionable as to whether they are actually effective in slowing the spread of the virus. With other cities close by, it's easy for people to choose to shop & eat in other communities that do not require masks. As a small business owner in Minnetonka for 5 years (not currently, but 1999 – 2004, Sweet Beads located on Minnetonka Blvd at 101) I understand how hard it is on a good day for businesses to compete and succeed – to put a burden like this seems unnecessary and unfair.

Please stand against this requirement and provide a choice for Minnetonka residents and others who would choose to visit, enjoy and spend \$ here.

Thank you!

Laurie Stoltenberg

**From:** John Leonard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:32 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Vote no on mask mandate

Please don't vote for the mask mandate. They obviously haven't worked and there is no science to back them up.

Thank you - John

**From:** Jeanna Landon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12:38 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate - PLEASE NO

Hi Brad,

I heard that there is talk about a mask mandate again. I want to make sure that you know that my self and my family (6 adults and 5 kids) are behind you in the decision AGAINST this. Masks are simply a way to control others with power at this point and do not help, but only harm those forced to wear them. We all know this at this point, it's a matter of if we want to stand up and say it. Please stand strong in your decision to keep this as a personal choice to our community. Allow us to be an example and prove to others that we are stronger then we know and have nothing to fear.

Some people think that these are just masks and why can't you just put them on. The wake of this time has yet to show its full effect, but will eventually. I do not think people fully understand the long term effects – specifically on children – that we are going to see. I have 2 healthy and happy kids. They are 100% against masks, and wear them only where forced – school. Whenever we decide to go anywhere else outside the home, the first thing they say is “as long as we do not have to wear masks, I'll go”.

We as adults know how this makes us feel. Children are learning quickly how it makes them feel. We are forcing them to be silenced and encouraging them to not have social interaction. I am sure there are memories that you have as a child, good and bad, that stick with you and help form who you have become. Think of what this is doing to these kids. We can not keep doing this.

We have lived in Excelsior for 8 years and when we moved here it was wonderful. These past few years I can not say the same. I am not saying you had anything to do with that, but please have something to do with bring it back to what it was. I know everyone's powers can only go so far – but you are the Mayor. Please push as hard as you possibly can to make sure we do not take another step backwards – but more forward past this tragic time.

Enjoy your day and please - Do Good.  
Jeanna

**From:** Linda Coonan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandates

Please stand firm on no mask mandates for Minnetonka. Our children are suffering and businesses are already exhausted trying to stay open. Thank you Linda Coonan Groveland Community

**From:** Eric Troidl  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:02 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

As a frontline RN and someone who has worked with medical safety organizations for many years I side with science and OPPOSE unscientific and harmful mask mandates.

1. Risks associated with the use of a mouth-nose- cover (MNC) in children and adolescents:

B. Vöhringer, H. Sensendorf, F. Ramseyer and others – October 2020

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/Risks-associated-with-the-use-of-a-mouth-nose-cover-MNC-in-children-and-adolescents.pdf>

2. NIH studies from 2004-2020 all finding verifiable health effects from wearing a face mask, including scientifically verified reduction in blood oxygen level:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29395560/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32590322/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15340662/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26579222/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31159777/>

3. Cloth Mask Study:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>

4. Other Mask Studies:

<https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1...>

<https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20047217v2...> <https://nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372...> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2749214...> <https://cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567...> <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/>... <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/><https://aaqr.org/articles/aaqr-13-06-0a-0201.pdf...> <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>... <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/65/11/1934/4068747...> [https://jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bio/23/2/23\\_61/\\_pdf/-char/en...](https://jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bio/23/2/23_61/_pdf/-char/en...) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01658736...> [https://journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701\(91\)90148-2/pdf...](https://journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701(91)90148-2/pdf...) <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2493952/pdf/annrcse01509-0009.pdf>

<https://cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data...> <https://nap.edu/catalog/25776/rapid-expert-consultation-on-the-effectiveness-of-fabric-masks-for-the-covid-19-pandemic-april-8-2020...>

<https://nap.edu/read/25776/chapter/1#6...> [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article...](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article...) <https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/54/7/789/202744...> <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6599448/>... <https://acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342>

5. COVID-19 Masks Are a Crime Against Humanity and Child Abuse

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/covid-19-masks-crime-against-humanity-child-abuse/5726059>

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Dr. Margarite Griesz- Brisson MD, PhD is a Consultant Neurologist and Neurophysiologist with a PhD in Pharmacology, with special interest in neurotoxicology, environmental medicine, neuro regeneration and neuroplasticity. This is what she has to say about masks and their effects on our brains:

“The rebreathing of our exhaled air will without a doubt create oxygen deficiency and a flooding of carbon dioxide. We know that the human brain is very sensitive to oxygen deprivation. There are nerve cells for example in the hippocampus, that can't be longer than 3 minutes without oxygen – they cannot survive. The acute warning symptoms are headaches, drowsiness, dizziness, issues in concentration, slowing down of the reaction time – reactions of the cognitive system.”

6. Face Masks Pose Serious Risks to The Healthy - Dr. Russell Blaylock,

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/>

Dr. Russell Blaylock warns that not only do face masks fail to protect the healthy from getting sick, but they also create serious health risks to the wearer. The bottom line is that if you are not sick, you should not wear a face mask. “ Until recently, the CDC did not recommend wearing a face mask or covering of any kind, unless a person was known to be infected, that is, until recently. Non-infected people need not wear a mask. When a person has TB we have them wear a mask, not the entire community of non-infected. The recommendations by the CDC and the WHO are not based on any studies of this virus and have never been used to contain any other virus pandemic or epidemic in history.”

7. New WHO Guidelines (5 June 2020) for Face Masks Admit No Known Medical Benefits [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC\\_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf)

Many countries have recommended the use of fabric masks/face coverings for the general public. At the present time, the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not yet supported by high quality or direct scientific evidence and there are potential benefits and harms to consider. P6, P7 (psychological reasons for healthy people to wear a mask – no evidence only for the following)

- reduced potential stigmatization of individuals wearing masks to prevent infecting others (source control) or of people caring for COVID-19 patients in non-clinical settings;

- making people feel they can play a role in contributing to stopping spread of the virus;

8. US OSHO Guidelines – 18 June 2020

The US. Department of Labor Occupational and Safety and Health Administration's guidelines clearly show cloth and surgical masks don't work to reduce transmission of COVID-19, and how they deplete the body of oxygen causing adverse health effects.

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<https://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/osha-says-masks-dont-work-and-violate-osha-oxygen-levels2>

9. A new paper from the New England Journal of Medicine exposes the myth that mask wearing will protect you from the corona virus.31 May 2020:

<https://principia-scientific.org/top-medical-journal-exposes-myth-of-face-masks-for-covid-19/>

10. The US surgeon general has said to the public warns wearing face masks could 'increase the spread of coronavirus

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/americans-dont-need-masks-pence-says-as-demand-increases-2020-2?op=1&r=US&IR=T>

11. Now the CDC say that mask wearers are more susceptible to Covid19

<https://www.newswars.com/cdc-admits-85-of-covid-infected-always-or-often-wore-masks/>



**From:** lesley leonard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:26 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

We are writing to inform you that a mask mandate in Minnetonka will be met with much backlash.

I don't know anyone who wants this. It is ridiculous and authoritarian. Inhumane and radical and useless. Masks don't work and everyone knows this. It's nothing more than a political tactic. People will not put up with it.

**From:** Megan Sighting  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:53 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Good morning Mayor,

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:** Joy  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:18 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Opposition to mandates

Good day. I live in the area and shop at many of the stores in Minnetonka. I go to several health businesses located in the city as well. I want to voice my strong opposition to the mask mandate. There are multiple studies on pub med that show the ineffectiveness of masks. Beyond the studies I would petition you to please consider the mental and emotional wellness of many people that suffer with ptsd and complex ptsd that make wearing masks extremely challenging. I am one such person and the amount of confrontation if I don't wear one is equally as harmful to the triggers of wearing one. Please also consider that anything that has to do with civilians personal medical life is private and a medical device such as a surgical mask should be kept as a personal decision made between a person and their physician. I hope that the humanity is still alive in the hearts of who ever reads these words. Thank you for your time.

Joy

**From:** Ben Siebert  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:13 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Vote No on Mask Mandate in Minnetonka

Hello Mayor Wiersum,

My name is Ben Siebert, and I am a 10 year resident of Minnetonka. We actually met briefly at Unmapped prior to the election, appreciated you stopping over at our table for a conversation. I used to run against your son, Matt, in high school (I ran for EP). It was great to hear that he is still having much success in the running world!

I am writing you tonight to encourage you to please vote no in tomorrow's vote to require masks in Minnetonka. The 'Targets' and 'Cub Foods' in the city may be able to survive such a mandate, but I fear that a mandate will have a very significant adverse impact on our small businesses in the community. Many of which are still struggling to crawl back out of the hole from the lockdowns in 2020. Just as these businesses are finally starting to get back on their feet, we cannot hit them with another blow.

We live in a world where convenience trumps most things in the eye of the consumer. If we impose a mandate that the next city doesn't have, consumers will just make their way to businesses in those cities, driving it away from those in our great city. On that note, I'd ask you to consider what type of potential upside a mandate in our community would really have on stopping covid cases when bordering cities are not doing the same. I feel that it would be little to none.

Lastly, the schools. I have two elementary kids school age children at Scenic Heights as well as a spouse who teaches at MME. Daily I am reminded by them of the negative impact of the masks. My wife, who is also pregnant, has had a minor cold which is lasted over a month, likely due to the fact that she has a mask on her face which stops her from getting what she needs, fresh air. My kids complain about them as well, mainly not getting to see their friends and teachers faces. While the masking policy they are under is controlled by the school board, I urge you to not add to that by layering in another mandate on top for the city. You may hear (albeit from many non-teachers) that there is a consensus in the teaching community that they all want masks, I can assure you that many would disagree with that.

This is not to say that we shouldn't be taking Covid seriously, we should. I just feel that a mask mandate in our city will cause more harm at this time, with relatively low potential upside (my personal feeling).

Appreciate you taking the time to read my note, and best regards.

Ben Siebert, Minnetonka Resident

**From:** Jayme Peterson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:19 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Masks

Hello Brad-

I am a resident of Shorewood and I am in the Minnetonka school district. Our children unfortunately (for a few reasons) do not attend the school district where we live. Currently the major reason is the children are forced to cover up and mask their beautiful faces. I find it so sad that our children are being harmed in so many ways throughout all the turmoil we've been through this past year. One thing these children need more than ever is to see the faces of their peers. They already do not get that at school in the district. Now the fact that there is the possibility of a mandate happening throughout the entire city is maddening. We all need connection more than anything. The CDC has come out and said that masks do not work. Dr. Fauci has also come back and said this. But yet we continue to put these horrible things on our faces. Breathing back in our own air-which our bodies are not meant to do. It's causing people to feel ill, get headaches, skin rashes and a number of other things. But the worst part is the lack of emotion that we see in our fellow community. If someone CHOOSES to wear a mask, that's fine, their decision. But to force adults and CHILDREN is completely wrong and unjust. Let's get back to doing what is right on our own accord. We don't need a mandate set to tell us something. This has been going on long enough and we need to stop it from continuing.

Thank you for reading what I have to say and I hope it's taken into deep consideration for our future.

Jayme Peterson

**From:** Grace Butler  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:24 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Masks

What I do not know about COVID is immense. What little we can do to make everyone less prone to get it is important. Please consider a mask mandate until 2/28 and do not exclude the school districts from the mandate. The purpose of good government is to help even big organizations spend less of their time making decisions and to provide consistent messaging.

Thank you and best wishes for 2022. I would love to have a 30 minute chat...I would love for it to be in person. Maybe we could walk the City's parking lot on a day above 25 degrees?

Grace

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Grace Butler (AKA Grace Sheely in Minnetonka)  
Edina, MN

**From:** Jason Balken  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

City council,

These mask mandates and perpetuation of this emergency need to stop. There is NO such thing as an endless emergency.

This is still a violation of law and our rights under MN emergency statute 12.39. You are mandating an “experimental medical device” on the population. This is unacceptable.

The following is just 1 study among many demonstrating masks don't stop or slow the spread of a virus...

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395971/>

What is your goalpost? And why does it keep moving? 2 years into this pandemic and you're trying to slow the spread of a variant that is 90% less deadly!!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/yaliberty/posts/302694478563436>

What are you doing to us?

End this political corruption and medical experiment now!

**Jason Balken**  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Jessica Lindholm  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:46 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No to the mandates

To whom it may concern,

I'm very concerned that you are considering putting in a mask mandate again. There are many studies that show there is little if any benefits to wearing a mask. People should be allowed to make the choice that is best for them and their health and for many people this would not be the best choice. This also puts businesses in a hard place being in the weird position of policing their patrons. Don't allow these businesses to have more harm happen to them. They have been through enough over the last couple years.

The following link has numerous studies showing that masks don't help mitigate the spread of a virus or help protect from a virus.

<https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>

Please let those who choose to wear masks do so but allow those who can't to make that choice for themselves. Thank you for your time.

Jessica Lindholm

**From:** Walker Wilkinson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mandatory Mask Mandate

To those whom it may concern,

To what end will a forced masking policy take the city of Minnetonka? Placing undue pressure on the local business owners, reducing the freedom of choice for the patrons of these businesses, and overall demonstrating an overreach by the elected government officials of this city.

Why must political posturing be forced upon all those whom decide to visit Minnetonka businesses? Are the citizens of this city not capable of making their own decision whether they feel safe to expose themselves to a potential cold, flu, or Covid? Again, I ask, are we not capable of making this decision?

I implore you to respect the rights of those who decide to support the Minnetonka businesses. Whether you think Covid is an extremely deadly disease or an overblown cold, that becomes beside the point. So many businesses have had to pivot and accommodate their clients with contactless curbside pick-up for example. There are options for all, and introducing a blanket mandate will only hurt these businesses as all beliefs have the ability to make choices based on their own comfort levels.

**PLEASE VOTE NO TO THE MASK MANDATE!**

Thank you for your consideration,

Mr. Wilkinson

**From:** judy corson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In Favor of mandating masks

I am writing in favor of mandating masks for indoor spaces in Minnetonka. Masking has been proven to reduce the spread of Covid and other illnesses so it should be mandated during this pandemic for the safety of all citizens.

Judith S. Corson

601 Carlson Parkway Suite 1050  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** Suzanne Severson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of a citywide mask mandate

This email is to convey my support for a proposed citywide mask mandate. I favor maintaining a mandate until positivity rates in the area fall below 5%.

Feel free to contact me for follow up. I have been a Minnetonka resident for over 4 decades.

Suzanne Severson  
3625 Woodcroft Dr

**From:** Rebecca Soderberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,

I am a Minnetonka resident with 3 children who attend Hopkins schools. I am writing in support of a temporary mask mandate during this spike in Covid cases. Wearing a mask is a simple, effective tool that our community can use to protect the vulnerable and ease the burden on those who work in healthcare and education.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Soderberg

**From:** Dan Westmoreland  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Let's get the masked mandate accomplished.

If we do it, we send a message that we are a community that looks out for the weakest in our community. Conversely if we do not do a masked mandate, we show the community that we are a not a community and that our elected leadership only responds to and cares about those with money and influence. Quite possibly in the long run and in the short, we simply lose our community.

Do the right thing for our community.

Dan Westmoreland  
4640 Caribou Drive

**From:** Barb Westmoreland  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:21 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Support the Temporary Mask Mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Council Members Schaeppi, Schack, Calvert, Kirk, Coakley and Wilburn, You know The Facts:

- We are entering the 3rd year of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We are in the midst of an “omicron viral blizzard”.
- We know that our hospitals & care center beds are filled to capacity with people deathly sick with omicron. And we know that medical staffs are decimated with the virus.
- We know that our schools and care centers are closing up buildings because of so many students and education staff out sick with the virus (Hopkins West, North and High School just announced today their change to online learning).
- We know that wearing a medical grade mask slows the spread of this virulent omicron variant.
- We want to avoid shutting down our community like we did when COVID-19 first appeared.
- We all care about the people in our community.

It's time to do the right thing.  
Support the temporary mask mandate for our city.  
Thank you,  
Barb Westmoreland  
4713 Caribou Dr

**From:** Chad H.  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 3:31 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** VOTE "NO" for City Wide Mask Mandate

Dear Members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I am writing to you in **strong opposition** to a city-wide mask mandate in Minnetonka.

I know that people are scared and they feel that a mask mandate is needed to allow them to be "protected" and to be able to "go about their day". But forcing everyone to wear a mask only to make the scared minority feel "safe" in this world is wrong. If those scared individuals want to wear a mask, so be it. I will support anyone that personally chooses to wear a mask as well as anyone that personally chooses to not wear a mask. Why, because it is their "personal free choice", be it mask or no mask. Many battles over the history of the United States have been fought to preserve our right of free choice, only for it to possibly be taken away again this Friday. The people of this

great City have already endured enough forced mandates over the past 22 months. Let the people choose what is right for them.

Furthermore, after looking over the number of comments submitted so far asking the City Council to include the Minnetonka School District in the City Mask Mandate; I have noticed that they are a number of incorrect facts in their reasoning for including the High School. I would like to clear up this incorrect information.

It is true that the Minnetonka High School will be transitioning to E-Learning for the week of Jan 17th. But that is due to High School staff shortages due to COVID, which is odd since all of the staff at the High School are already mandated to wear masks by the High School Principal. Why are there staff shortages due to COVID when all of the staff are already wearing masks? What the numerous comments failed to mention is that both Middle Schools are also transitioning to full E-Learning (with finals also being canceled) the same exact week as the High School. Why is that? The Minnetonka School District has a mask mandate for Grades E-8 (which includes both Middle Schools). Why are the Middle Schools E-Learning too? It is because a large number of the Middle School staff is out due to COVID as well, even though everyone including students **AND** staff are wearing masks at all times in the Middle Schools. That just further proves that masks do not work at preventing the spread of COVID.

There were also arguments that since the High School does not have a mandate, COVID numbers are skyrocketing compared to the other school buildings. That is also not true. If you look at the percentages of the COVID cases for both students and staff at each of the school buildings in the Minnetonka School District, they are approximately all equal. How is that? The Elementary and Middle Schools in the Minnetonka School District have a mask mandate. So shouldn't the COVID cases in those buildings be lower (if not non-existent) when compared to the High School if masks work? Again that proves that masks do not work at preventing the spread of COVID.

The Minnetonka School Board voted to "strongly recommend" masks for the High School. They did this under clear thought and the fact that the vaccination rate among students and staff at the beginning of the school year was >70% (which is higher than Gov Walz's requirement of 60%). Knowing that and the fact that the vaccination rate will further increase as the school year goes on, the School Board felt that masks did not need to be mandated at the High School and voted that way. The comments about the School Board not making a decision or "dodging their duty" regarding a mask mandate at the High School is not true. They did make a decision even though those parents do not agree.

The other item I wish to make the City Council aware of is a number of MN Statutes regarding governing of independent school districts. Two such statutes are:  
MN Statute 123B.09: "The care, management, and control of independent districts is vested in a board of directors, to be known as the school board."  
MN Statute 123B.02 states that the school board must have the authority to govern, manage, and control the business of the district.



The statutes do not state that City Government has the vested power to manage and control independent school districts. On the contrary, it states that the vested power lies with the School Board. How does the City have the authority to impose a mask mandate on an independent school district?

I have children that attend the Minnetonka School District. I have already withdrew one child due the the School Board voting for a mask mandate for Grades E-8. If the City mandates masks for the schools, I will withdraw my remaining children from the High School and will enroll them into another school that allows mask choice. Why does my family have to make additional sacrifices just to appease the scared parents that want everyone masked because their children "deserve to be in school". My children also deserve to be in school too, but with the personal free choice to wear a mask or not.

I respectfully hope that you will **VOTE "NO"** for a city-wide mask mandate.

Thank You,  
Chad H.

**From:** Christopher Warden  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 6:18 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No to Mask Mandates

To the Minnetonka City Council,

As a business owner in Minnetonka I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed mask mandate for our city. My business, Merz Physical Therapy, has been established in Minnetonka for 33 years, and has built a reputation for being a safe and caring place to rehabilitate from injuries and accidents. My patient's choose us because they know they can come to us regardless of their views on all health related issues, and they will get to be in control of how they approach their recovery, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. By mandating masks you will dramatically affect my business, as I am certain that many of my patients will forgo their treatment with us and drive to a nearby city instead, so that they may have the option to move and breathe freely. After two years of mandates and general fear espoused by so much of our government both federally and locally, my business cannot afford to take another hit.

I urge all of the council members to consider current data which tells us that masks make no meaningful difference. Here are three of the numerous studies that demonstrate their ineffectiveness.

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>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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. <https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

Reinstating a mask mandate in Minnetonka will only hurt our city and prevent us from moving forward. For 33 years we have made countless decisions within our clinic to maintain the best interest of our patients, and right now is no different. Let individuals make decisions for themselves as to what is best for their health, do not force it upon them. People are tired, angry, and flat out finished with the government controlling their health, do not continue. We trust our patients to do what is best for them and all others around them, please trust Minnetonkans to do the same. Please do not vote for a mask mandate in Minnetonka.

Cordially,  
Christopher Warden

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Christopher Warden, PT, DPT, MA, CSCS  
Owner, Merz Physical Therapy

**From:** Sharon Johnson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:38 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please vote NO mask mandates

Hello,  
Please vote NO on imposing a city wide mask mandate. I have always always enjoyed my visits to Minnetonka, but if you impose mask mandates I'll take my business to other cities.  
Sharon Johnson  
16469 Gowan Ave. NW  
Clearwater, MN 55320

**From:** Maria Baca  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 2:36:37 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Jeff Richert  
**Subject:** **Minnetonka indoor mask mandate**

Hi Deb.

We are writing to encourage you to support the proposed indoor mask mandate that the council will consider at tomorrow's council meeting.

We can't wish away the COVID-19 pandemic. We all need to take action to slow and eventually stop the spread of this virus that has disrupted our lives for too long already..

In addition, we are concerned about the ability of our small businesses to operate during these dangerous times. Requiring masking -- and taking the onus off of employees -- will help them to maintain staffing and improve safety for all.

Thank you.

Maria Baca and Jeff Richert  
3520 Arbor Lane

**From:** Laura Ludvigson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

To the Minnetonka City Council  
Common paper masks do not stop the spread of Covid. Covid is running its course and the Omicron variant is predicted to fall soon. Masks may seem like “we’re doing something” about the spread but it’s a false narrative. Stop telling the public what to do and instead trust our ability to cope and make good decisions for ourselves.

A Minnetonka resident,  
Laura Ludvigson  
17000 Hampton Court

**From:** Kari Lorence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:59 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate? No!

I am writing to urge you to vote no on a city wide mask mandate tomorrow Friday January 14. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents to make their own decisions regarding their health.

If this mandate passes, my family and I will go outside of Minnetonka to do business.

Sincerely,  
Kari Lorence

**From:** Kari Lorence  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 12:07:48 PM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate? No!

I am writing to urge you to vote against a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka in the meeting tomorrow. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents to make their own decisions concerning their health.

If this mandate passes, understand that my family and I will be going outside Minnetonka to do our normal business.

Sincerely,  
Kari Lorence

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate

We are insisting on a NO Mask Mandate. Masks do not stop disease spread, but actually increase the incidence of bacterial infections of the face, sinus and upper respiratory illnesses.

No more mandates we need to live.

**From:** Charles Stauber  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 11:04:39 AM CST  
**To:** Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mandate meeting

Hello Kimberly, I am writing today to urge no further mask mandates. We have had enough, as a citizen who has done my part enough is enough.

**From:** Deborah L. Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

If a mask mandate is passed in Minnetonka I will do my shopping, eating out, etc. in surrounding communities such as Chanhassen, Shorewood and Excelsior. Please let people make their own decisions regarding their health. If they want to wear masks, fine. If they don't let them make that choice.

I hope you will vote in favor of free choice.  
Sincerely,  
Deborah L. Anderson  
Resident of Minnetonka

**From:** Joanna. Lee  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:29 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

Hi,

As a resident I ask that you do not reinstall a 'mask mandate.' Masks do not work unless it is a correctly fitted N95 which is not feasible for the general public. Even officials from the administration have said cloth masks do nothing (which we all know based on the previous mask mandate!). People will not comply, kids should not be subjected to adults fear and abuse. This is a vain attempt to appear like you're 'doing something' which is weak considering we all know it does nothing except create tension, further divides but more importantly doesn't work.

Please do not put in a mask mandate, it will hurt businesses, further tensions and mistrust and do nothing to 'stop the spread.'

Joanna

**From:** Peterson, Dennis  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:44 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council Decision

Mayor: I hope you are doing well. It was great to see you virtually on Tuesday.

We have heard that the City Council is having a meeting on Friday to determine if the City is going to implement a mask mandate. I realize that there are parents who are residents of Minnetonka and also have students in our schools. Some of them may try to get the City to take care of their desire to have students all be masked while in school. I hope the City will leave that decision to the Minnetonka School Board and exclude the schools from any mandate. Thanks for considering that provision.

**From:** Peterson, Dennis  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:43 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Decision

Mayor: Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the need to separate governmental entities jurisdictions, within reasonable limits. We know the City has certain requirements for school districts along with other residents that are necessary to maintain safety and consistency.

I hope your logic prevails. Good luck.

Dennis

**From:** PAUL AHERN  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Boycotting Minnetonka

I will be boycotting Minnetonka businesses if you pass this mandate. Look at the extensive October 2021 WHO Study (comparing large, controlled masked and unmasked groups in Bangladesh). The study found that cloth masks made no difference in reducing infections and transmission. Paper surgical masks were found to be only 11% effective. If you have any better, actual scientific study (not an edict from bureaucrats) which refutes this - let the public know. Unfortunately, N95 and K/N95 masks are in short supply during this supply chain crisis. I have been vaccinated and boosted, but will not comply in a "your papers please" city if that is enacted as well.

Paul B Ahern

**From:** BRUCE AND ARLENE

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:51 AM

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

**Subject:**

We do not feel there is a need for a mandate. Only certain masks help anyway. It is important for business to keep open and not move to a place where there is no mandate.

Arlene & Bruce Taber

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 5:33 AM

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

**Subject:** Please do not implement a mask mandate in Minnetonka

January 14, 2022

Dear Minnetonka City Council Members:

PLEASE do not mandate masks in Minnetonka! This decision should be left up to each business, grocery store, bank, fitness club, restaurant, mall, etc....

I am specifically asking on behalf of the people who attend fitness clubs. It's winter, and people need a place to exercise inside. Especially people who depend on swimming pools. By the way, people who attend fitness clubs **are not sick** and do not have covid.

My husband and I tested positive for covid in early December. We struggled to get out of bed in the mornings and get to the bathroom. After the bathroom, we had to decide if we were strong enough to get to the kitchen, sit at the table, couch, chair, or just climb back into bed. We had no energy to get in a car and drive anywhere. We could not do our jobs, even though we both work from home.

We have a large freezer full of food in the house but had no strength or energy to prepare any meals. Family members and friends dropped off homemade lasagna, soups, and other healthy food for us at our door which took relatively no preparation on our part. They made trips to the pharmacy for us to pick up Ivermectin and other prescriptions that our doctor prescribed for us.

Christmas came, and our family postponed getting together. New Years Day came, and we postponed again. Even though we no longer had covid anymore and we were no longer contagious, we decided to cancel our third attempt at getting together because we were still not feeling well enough to get all dressed up and leave the house. This is common sense.

A very wealthy man once told me that common sense isn't so common... and it's too bad because a lot of intelligent people sometimes have no common sense.

My point is, no one who has covid is going to the gym. They can't. They can't drive there, they can't shoot hoops, play pickleball, run on a treadmill, swim in a pool, ride a stationary bike, lift weights, join a rebounding class (mini-trampoline), or do anything else at the gym. It's not possible. They are sick. They are also not going to Cub Foods, Costco, Target, Walmart, or to get a haircut. They aren't going anywhere.

A person who has covid is trying to figure out how to get their dirty laundry bucket to the washing machine because they are running out of clean underwear. Or trying to decide if they have enough energy to take a shower that day. They eat a banana for breakfast instead of bacon, eggs, and a fruit smoothy because it takes less energy and time to just eat the banana and then sit for a while before getting back in bed.

People who go to the gym regularly want to stay healthy and get the maximum benefit from their workout. It's hard to run on a treadmill with a mask on. It's hard to breathe! One benefit of exercising is to get more oxygen into your body. When you wear a mask, you get less oxygen.

I became a member of the Marsh, which is now owned by the YMCA, several years ago. The individual membership fee is \$97.00 per month. The only reason I joined is because of the therapy pool, which is a small swimming pool that is heated like a bathtub. I don't like swimming in other pools, like at the Williston Center, because the water is much colder than in the therapy pool at the Marsh.

During the first statewide covid shutdown, The Marsh closed and didn't charge their members the monthly fee until it reopened. This was the right thing to do!

The second time they closed, they continued charging members the monthly fee even though we couldn't use the facility. This was the wrong thing to do! No business should ever charge customers for a service (or a product) they can't have access to. That's stealing!

I know two members who quit their membership at the Marsh during this time. It made no sense to pay for something you can't have. They never went back.

When the Marsh reopened with a mask mandate, I was required to wear a mask in the therapy pool while trying to do my exercises. For one of my exercises, I lay on my stomach in the water, holding the bar with my hands, arms stretched out, with my face in the water, kicking my legs in place. WEARING A MASK! WITH MY FACE IN THE WATER! This is stupid! Very Complicated! NOT common sense... and pretty much impossible. You can't blow bubbles (breath out) with your face in the water wearing a mask. This is so dumb!!! Even dangerous. Whoever makes up these rules has no common sense.

I look forward to exercising again in the therapy pool when my strength comes back. However, if you implement a mask mandate, I will most likely cancel my membership. It's not common sense to keep paying \$97.00 per month for something I can't properly do because of a mask requirement.

If people in Minnetonka are afraid to go somewhere, they have the option to wear a mask if that makes them feel safer. They also have the option to stay home. You can't eat in a restaurant without taking your mask off. Again, I appeal to common sense.

Please vote against a mask mandate in Minnetonka! Let people and businesses make their own decisions. I would like to think that we are all smart people, have common sense, and can make good choices.

I will patronize businesses, grocery stores, and places where I can go without wearing a mask. Even if this means I drive a little farther... outside of Minnetonka.

Sincerely, Marie (Minnetonka Resident since 2000).

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 5:28 AM

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

**Subject:** Please do not implement a mask mandate in Minnetonka

Council Members,  
Please read my attached letter.

Thank you!  
Marie

**From:** Luke Van Santen

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 7:27:50 AM CST

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, 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)>

**Subject:** Our family fully supports a mask mandate in Minnetonka

Luke Van Santen  
2148 Sheridan Hills Rd  
Minnetonka MN 55391

**From:** Jessy Meyer/Olson

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:13 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate Input

I am writing in opposition to the proposed mask mandate, and here is why:



1. The latest Omicron variant that has been raging through our community is going to burn itself out. So many people, both vaxed and unvaxed, have now had Covid- there are not a lot of people left for this virus to infect!
2. The Omicron variant has shown itself not to be as virulent - maybe more contagious, but less of a health concern.
3. Studies have shown that most masks are ineffective at stopping the Covid virus from going right through. N95s may have some effectiveness, but unless you are going to mandate everyone wear those and fit them properly, the mask mandate is not going to work. Many people wearing masks have still gotten COVID - is this not giving people a false sense of security?
4. Do the supposed (but in my opinion mistaken) benefits of masking up again outweigh the social/psychological/mental negative impacts that are being observed and documented?
5. There would be a negative impact on Minnetonka businesses. Ater almost 2 years of dealing with COVID related issues, business owners need the support and encouragement of our community. Consumers can take their business to surrounding communities that don't have the same restrictions. Don't we want our local businesses to make a comeback and thrive again? Let's do everything we can to support them!

Thank you for hearing my thoughts and concerns,

Jessy Olson, RN and Minnetonka resident

**From:** Ben Siebert  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:19 PM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Please Vote No on Mask Mandate in Minnetonka

Hello Brad,

I am writing you to encourage you to please vote no in tomorrow's vote to require a mask in Minnetonka. The 'Targets' and 'Cub Foods' in the city may be able to survive such a mandate, but I fear that a mandate will have a very significant adverse impact on our small businesses in

the community. Many of which are still struggling to crawl back out of the hole from the lockdowns in 2020. Just as these businesses are finally starting to get back on their feet, we cannot hit them with another blow.

We live in a world where convenience trumps most things in the eye of the consumer. If we impose a mandate that the next city doesn't have, consumers will just make their way to businesses in those cities, driving it away from Minnetonka. On that note, I'd ask you to consider what type of impact such a mandate in our community would really have on stopping covid cases when bordering cities are not doing the same. I feel that it would be little to none.

Lastly, the schools. I have two elementary school age children as well as a spouse who teaches in the Minnetonka school district. Daily I am reminded by them all the negative impact of the masks. My wife, who is also pregnant, has had a minor cold which is lasted over a month, likely due to the fact that she has a mask on her face which stops her from getting what she needs, fresh air. My kids complain about them daily as well, they miss seeing the emotions on their friends and teachers' faces. While the masking policy they are under is controlled by the school board, I urge you to not add to that by layering in another mandate on top of that. You may hear (albeit from many non-teachers) that there is a consensus in the teaching community that they all want masks, I can assure you that many would disagree with that.

Appreciate you taking the time to read my note, and best regards.

Ben Siebert, Minnetonka Resident

**From:** cindy kral

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:10 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I urge you to vote NO on the mask mandate proposed for the city of Minnetonka. Small businesses are an important benefit to our community. I am concerned that consumers will take their business to neighboring cities.

Please trust our people and businesses to make their own decisions and vote NO on mask mandates.

Thank you,

Cindy Kral

Minnetonka resident

**From:** Bonnie LeBlanc

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:58 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** mask mandate discussion

Mr. Schaeppi,

At this point in the pandemic response, heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all mandates don't work. The Omicron variant, while very contagious, is actually quite mild in its symptoms for most. The majority are vaccinated and choosing to wear masks in public places. Most of those who are not have personal or health reasons for their decisions. Encouraging people to wear masks is one thing. Forcing them to do so is a power grab and draconian at this stage in the game. I hope you will not resort to this in Minnetonka.

Thank you,  
Bonnie LeBlanc

**From:** Lindsey Wilkus  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:24:54 AM CST  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Good morning Brad,

I'm writing to voice my concern over Minnetonka implementing a mask mandate for the City and asking for your support against the mask mandate. This really should be handled at the State level and not the local level. If Governor Walz deems it necessary to implement a mask mandate, it should be done there and not wasting each city's individual council time with implementing this measure.

I also am concerned about the undue burden this is putting on local businesses in Minnetonka, especially the service industry to enforce a mask mandate. Do not put this burden on private business owners.

If the community is not wearing a KN95 mask or better in public, with the Omicron variant a cloth or surgical mask will provide very little additional benefit. Those who want to wear masks will continue to do so. There is no need to make a mandate.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you,

Lindsey Wilkus

**From:** David Rose  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:34 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

I would like to request that the council vote yes on a mask mandate for Minnetonka businesses. I work at the Trader Joe's on Wayzata Boulevard. Our store currently has 8 cases of Covid. Please help protect the employees of Minnetonka businesses by passing a mask mandate.

Thank you,

David Rose

**From:** Anne-Lie Green  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 8:54:31 AM CST  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No on Mask mandate  
I vote No on Mask mandate  
Anne-Lie Green

**From:** Jennifer Long  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate for indoor spaces

While I know that it will be challenging for staff of indoor spaces to enforce a mask mandate I think that it needs to be done because the vaccines do not protect us 100% from Covid-19 and we have had a huge surge in cases due to the Delta, Omicron and other variants currently. Only getting the vaccines, masking, social distancing and the other CDC guidelines will get us out of the current situation we are in in Minnesota and our country. The United States is among the worst among "westernized" countries in regard to getting vaccinated and getting the virus and spreading it. Let's do our part to help make a change for the better.

Jennifer Long

**From:** Drake Lorence <[drakelorence@yahoo.com](mailto:drakelorence@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**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)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Mask Mandate Ordinance

Dear Minnetonka Council,

Below is a chart using *MN Department of Health data*, which shows the date when the State of Minnesota mask mandate was enacted. At that time the state first said it would take two weeks to work, but later

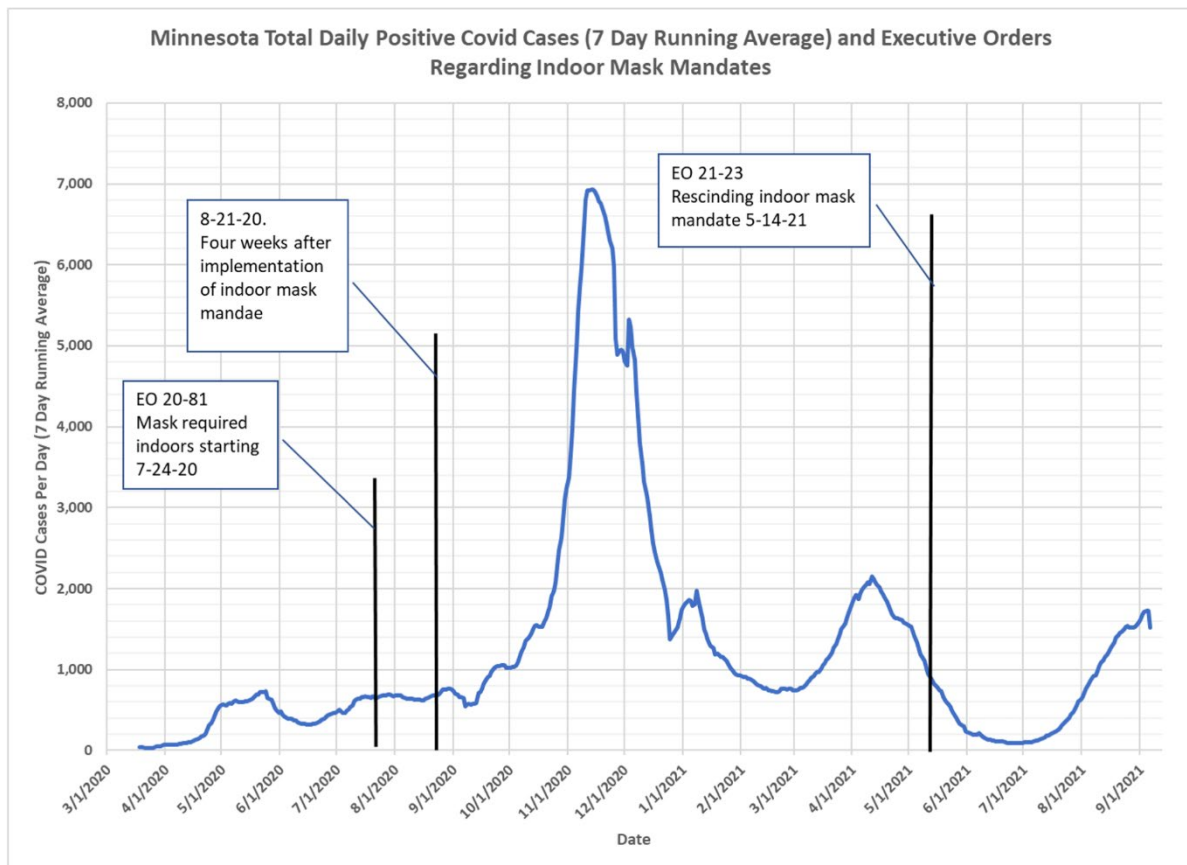
amended that to four weeks. As you can see, four weeks later there was *no drop* in cases and instead a huge spike (November-December) while mask wearing was 90% plus. (Minnesota had one of the best mask-wearing rates in the nation throughout this period.)

And then there is the date the mandate finally expired (May 14, 2021). Ironically, once the mask mandate was ended Covid cases dropped to new lows. You will note that at no time during the mandate were cases ever lower than before the mandate.

Our actual experience as Minnesotans? *Mask wearing did not work as hoped.*

Meanwhile, **businesses and commercial real estate owners** experienced severe duress during this period, resulting in the loss of many tenants and smaller businesses. They are just now recovering. To reinstate masking now, while adjacent suburbs do not, will only hurt our own Minnetonka businesses. Minnetonka residents who do not want to mask, will simply drive the 10 minutes to shop elsewhere.

*Please let the Governor lead on this policy. Please vote no.*



Thankyou!

Source: MN Dept of Health (*Dave Dixon*)

Drake W. Lorence  
13555 Essex Place  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:37 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; rschak@minnetonkamn.gov; Bradley Schaepfi <bschaepfi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** Please vote no on mask mandate proposal

January 14, 2022

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing in response to the proposal you will have the privilege of voting on later today, Friday, January 14, 2022, regarding a mask mandate for Minnetonka public buildings, which includes private businesses.

In the past, I have been pleased to see the council take the stance that it would follow the state mandates for guidance on this issue. I feel this was a wise decision on the part of the council as it did not put our businesses at a disadvantage with neighboring community's businesses.

I urge you to take this same stance now and vote no on this proposal.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of us city residents.

Sincerely,

Ellen Cousins  
4531 Greenwood Dr.  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:49:23 AM CST

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

**Subject: Fwd: Please vote no on mask mandate proposal**

Dear Councilmember Schack,

I apologize for incorrectly addressing the email below.

Please vote no on this mask mandate. I feel it will affect our small, independent businesses the most as residents have choices when deciding where to drive to spend their hard-earned dollars.

Again, thank you for your hard work on behalf of us residents.

All the best,

Ellen

**From:** Reed Nelson

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:27 AM

**To:** Brian Kirk

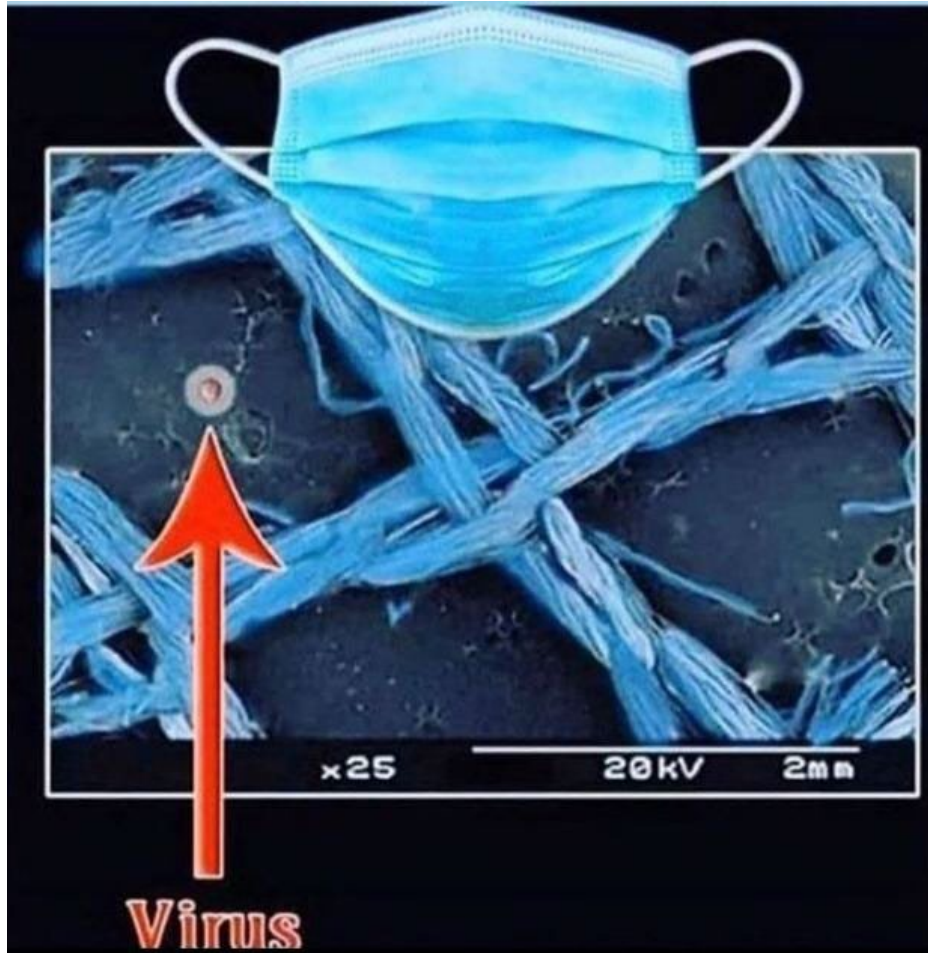
**Subject:** Good Morning from Reed Nelson Please Read before the Vote

**Brian, Good Morning.**

I am writing to you to ask you to please vote against the proposed Mask Mandate for Minnetonka.

Good Reasons to Not Mandate Masks:

1. Masks don't work (see the photo with the mask vs the virus at x25 in a microscope.)



2. It will be bad for business as people who don't want to mask up will take their business to other cities without a mandate. I know I for one along with many of my common sense neighbors will just go to Hopkins or to Eden Prairie for groceries and other shopping.

3. A real-life example from last time we locked down and masked up from our own Minnetonka Williston Fitness Center and Pool:

I have working out and swimming almost nightly for the last 13 years for health reasons and when they implemented the mask mandate it was not good for my health. Working out with a mask on is a terrible experience. In addition when swimming it was required to the pool deck and back to my shower and then from the shower to my locker. Until you have been there and experienced trying to do this while keeping my mask clean was nearly impossible. Imagine you get to the locker room and now you have to take off your t-shirt with a mask on. It comes off of course and falls on the ground, or if you take it off you set in on the bench, or on your bag, then you get your swimsuit on, and then you have to put your mask back on as you take 15 steps to the shower where you need to rinse off before you get to the pool and



so what do you do with your mask while taking a shower? Hang it on the hook; where everyone else has hung theirs? Then after you get the mask back on you walk about 70 steps to the pool; if you go to the far end and then you are now going to swim but you are not sure where to put your mask. So you put on on the top of your towel which you have resting on a chair if you are lucky enough to find a chair (during one of the recent mask mandates they removed the chairs). Then while you are swimming people are walking by your towel and possibly coughing on your mask that rests on top of your towel. So after your swim, you get out and reverse the process but now you are putting on a mask that is likely contaminated by something. Masked up for my 70 steps back to the shower, hang your mask on the hook - oops I accidentally dropped it. I will have to throw that one away. Now I am unmasked from the shower back to the locker and --- Do you seem how stupid this is? This is not protecting anyone. In fact, it is likely spreading more germs and viruses around.

If people want to go through this process that is their choice but nobody should be mandated to do it. If you are concerned about getting Covid then just don't go anywhere. The reality is that in two years nothing we have done has stopped the virus. As you can see how this would be a real motivation to look for another city Fitness center that does not require masks.

This would be a real disappointment. I really like the Williston Center; the city does a fantastic job of keeping up a great place for friends to meet and work out.

Please vote against this Mask Mandate. Let each of us make our own decision. Let Minnetonka be known as a "Freedom City" Not a "Lockdown Mask Mandate City" which is likely a slippery slope to "Vaccine Mandate City".

People are smart enough to make their own decisions. We don't need our Elected Officials to tell us what to do. In my above example of the Williston, those who are scared of getting the virus don't have to work out or go swimming. It is their choice just as it is their choice to wear a mask when they work out if they want to.

A better suggestion would be to suggest people who are sick not go out and spread "whatever they have" around; which is just common sense.

America is supposed to be a place where we can pursue Life, Liberty (Freedom), and the Pursuit of Happiness.

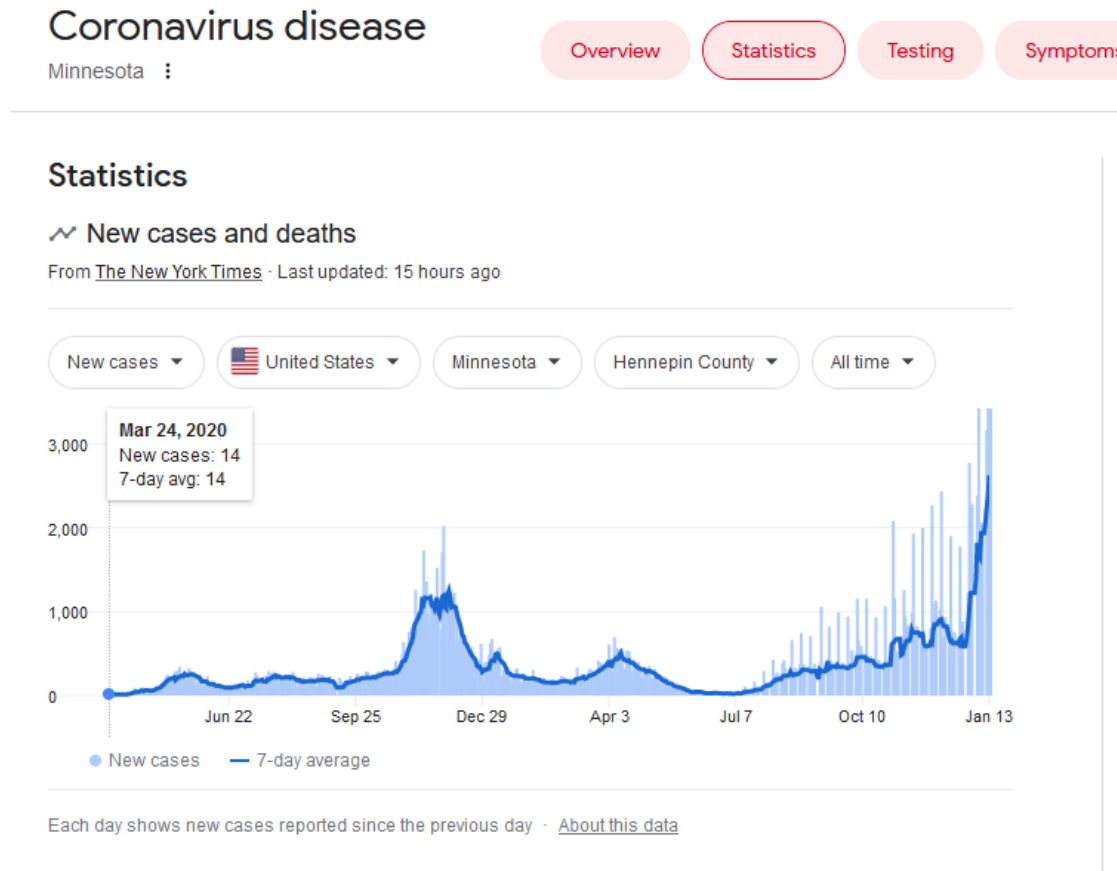
I ask you Brian to please vote against this Mask Mandate.

Thank you for listening and we will see you tomorrow.

Reed Nelson  
13018 Jane Lane  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

**From:** Dewey Hassig  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:31 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Covid stats

Brian,  
I'm sure you are overwhelmed with advice, so I'll just send a graph of Covid stats I found on Google:



Sorry, but the link is impossibly long to send. I hope you support the mask mandate.  
Dewey Hassig 4624 Church Ln.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:45 AM

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

**Subject:** Regarding Council Meeting TODAY 1/14/22 - Mask Mandates

To my city representatives –

I am writing to make sure that you hear MY concerns about today's vote. It's unfortunate that this is a closed meeting.

I am **vehemently opposed** to another mask mandate!

This is Minnesota in the winter. We get colds. And we recover. We don't need a mandate to protect us. It has been proven – and is clearly written on the box of the blue masks – that they do not stop the spread of COVID.

Minnetonka businesses are barely limping along as it is – if you pass a mask mandate, I will not “shop local” and will eat and shop in other nearby cities that do not have a mandate.

It is not for the healthy to be punished and forced to wear a mask. It is up to the individual person to decide if they want to wear a mask to protect themselves. Our country does not run on “guilty until proven innocent” – it is the other way around. If I have no symptoms, I cannot be accused of being sick; therefore I do not need to suffocate wearing a dirty, ineffective mask!

Families go on vacation to warm places – are you going to outlaw that to “keep me safe”?

This city has got to go back to allowing personal freedoms and personal responsibility! It is not the government's job to keep me healthy.

Sick is not the same as being “unsafe”, so don't tell me you are trying to keep me “safe”.

Please vote “NO” to a city wide mask mandate!

Sincerely,

Kristi Beil

Minnetonka Resident

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:46:10 AM CST

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

**Subject:** Vote NO to a mask mandate

Hello Rebecca,

It has been brought to my attention that elected Minnetonka officials will be voting today regarding a mask mandate for Minnetonka. I am not a resident; however, I have a vested interest in your vote. My children attend grade school at Minnetonka, and my understanding is that a city wide mask mandate will require my children to continue to wear masks at school. We also frequently shop at businesses in Minnetonka.

I oppose the mask mandate for several reasons:

Masks are ineffective - [Masks: Why They Cannot & Do Not Work - Overview - Ep. 20 \(rumble.com\)](#) This will not slow the spread of Omicron.

My children have recently had COVID and were barely sick – a couple of sneezes and coughs. No fevers, no congestion, no real illness. They have been suffering behind mask for over a year now and impeding their learning and social skills. There is no exemption for children who have natural immunity, so my children continue to suffer behind the masks. They are sick of not being able breath with masks on!

I believe in freedom of choice. If people think masks work, they may wear them, but don't force others to wear them.

Because we live so close and have children attending school in Minnetonka, we frequent business establishments in Minnetonka. Such that this mask mandate goes into effect, we will be taking our business to other cities until freedom of choice is renewed.

Regards,  
Amanda Persinger  
Eden Prairie Resident  
Patron of Minnetonka Businesses  
Parent of 3 Clear Springs Elementary Students

**From:** Zara Thomas  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 11:05:39 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council Mask Mandate Discussion

Dear Ms. Calvert,

I am a high school student writing to weigh in before the vote for a citywide mask mandate tomorrow, especially as someone in the Minnetonka school district, where masks are not required for high school students. From what I've noticed, those who are more concerned about getting covid will wear masks, double masks, or N-95 masks, keep their distance from other students, and avoid eating unless it's in a secluded place. On the other hand, students who don't wear masks tend to avoid social distancing. A citywide mask mandate, which would affect Minnetonka High School, would not make much of a difference. Those who are concerned about getting covid will continue to take all the necessary precautions, while those who are not concerned will continue to avoid social distancing, and will likely not wear their masks properly when possible. Since a mask mandate would not change the behavior and attitude of either of these groups of people, it seems that the best decision would be to allow individual schools, businesses, and organizations to take into consideration their students, customers, employees, and anyone else when making a decision whether or not to enforce a mask mandate.

Whether or not you agree with my viewpoint, I hope that you better understand the perspective of at least one more part of the Minnetonka community.

Regards,  
Zara Thomas

**From:** Reed Nelson

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:44:47 AM CST

**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kimberly Wilburn <[kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@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)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Please Read this short Article and follow the Science.**

Dear Council Members,

Please follow the science... and vote NO to the mask mandate.

Thank you,  
Reed

13018 Jane Lane  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** Jessica Reader

**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 9:31:46 PM CST

**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Please maintain mask choice in Minnetonka**

Hello Ms Calvert,

I understand that there will be a vote tomorrow afternoon regarding a mask mandate in Minnetonka. I am asking you to vote to maintain personal choice on masking in our community.

I am concerned about the negative impact on Minnetonka businesses and the resources that it will take to enforce a mandate. Our small businesses and restaurants have had a very difficult two years, with the initial COVID shutdowns and the current staffing shortages. A localized mask mandate will prompt many to shop and eat in nearby communities instead, further

crippling their ability to compete and grow. Asking them to enforce a mask mandate is awkward and has the potential to cause significant stress and ill will.

I realize there is a strong temptation to do whatever we can to stop the virus, but I believe it is becoming clearer everyday that until it runs its course, we will never be free of it. Even then it is something that we will need to manage and live with long term. Masks are a mitigation tool for those who choose to use them, but the unfortunate reality is that most people don't use them effectively - especially when forced.

If you choose to vote in favor of a mandate, I would ask that a clear measure is put in place on exactly when the mandate will be removed. Perhaps a case rate equivalent to mid-December, prior to the Omicron spike. I would also ask that you exclude our schools from the mandate and allow the school boards to make their own decisions, in collaboration with parents, for our young people.

Thank you for your consideration and your service,

Jessica Reader

**From:** NANCY DICKINSON  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 7:18:25 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote

Good Morning Rebecca.

I sent you an email concerning the mask mandate vote today earlier this week. I am against the mandate.

I found out about this vote through a text from one of my neighbors. Shouldn't the city have informed it's residents via email? The city has my email address. I get other emails from the city. I even get emails about the Williston Center, which I am not a member of, and from the Park Board. I got an email when the first mask mandate went through in 2020.

Thank You.

Nancy Dickinson

**From:** Lisa Rowley  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 6:15:16 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No to Mask Mandate

Dear Ms. Schack,

Please consider voting against mandating masks in Minnetonka. Businesses will do better, people won't be stifled in their decisions in enclosed places, and this decision will be put back in the Governor's ball park.

Edina passed on such a mandate, and I believe we should too.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rowley

**From:** Bruce Honnigford  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:22 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** No Mask Mandate

Mr. Kirk,

I am writing to inform you of my strong opposition to the City of Minnetonka mandating any further mask requirements.

The harm caused by the compulsory wearing of masks in our society far outweighs any known benefit. There is no reliable scientific study that supports that masks are effective in preventing the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and as well, no way to ensure proper fit or use. The CDC has demonstrated that it no longer is concerned with public health, rather it has become a political and ideological weapon that represents a serious danger to our society.

I urge you to decline further efforts to harm our children, workers, elderly and everyone who values their mental health and freedom.

Bruce Honnigford  
13705 Summit Ln  
Minnetonka MN

**From:** James Thomas  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 10:35:43 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council Mask Discussion

Dear Council Member:

As a Minnetonka High School student, I believe that you should not pass the mask mandate. I have noticed other students more engaged in school if they aren't required to wear a mask, and the general atmosphere of school has been a lot more encouraging and uplifting as opposed to last year. Also, many students have made decisions to wear masks as the Covid numbers have gone up, so forcing people to mask when Covid gets worse seems backwards. Students are already making those decisions so why take away that freedom unnecessarily?

Thanks,  
James Thomas

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Minnetonka Public Schools reserves the right to review and archive all messages sent on the Google Docs domain. Messages both inbound and outbound are archived for an unlimited time period and are subject to review. Full message content including all attachments are included in this Minnetonka Public Schools policy. Please see your media specialist for further information.

**From:** Jen Bryce  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:43 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

If, after two years of data showing that's the highest rates of infection are most often where mask mandates are very strict and prevalent, you then recommend aggressive masking for a less aggressive virus, you aren't really interested in people's health.

Special Note: in those places, the hypocrisy of those who voted yes is often recorded and widely shared on social media. So don't go to Eden Prairie and shop at the mall, or stop by a Home Depot in Plymouth, or show up in public unmasked anywhere. Your hypocrisy will most likely be noted and widely shared by your constituents, who feel angry and betrayed.

Vote no.

Jen Bryce  
Minnetonka Resident

**From:** "Cranbrook, Stacy"  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 11:57:01 PM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask Mandate**  
Council Member Calvert,

The past two years has wreaked havoc on some Minnetonka business, restaurants and stores. Some business have had to close and many have had to let employees go because business has declined. I feel that forcing a mask mandate will result in the demise of more businesses, loss of jobs and hours for employees.

I believe without a doubt you want to make the best decisions to protect residents. A mask mandate will cause more harm than good. I strongly urge you to take our businesses into consideration when making your decision on a mask mandate. Our residents will cross city lines to shop in other cities that have not mandated masks. We want to keep Minnetonka money in Minnetonka. We also want to keep residents safe.



I believe we can have the best of both by making the decision to strongly encourage masks, not pass a mandate that will add extra stress to already struggling employers and employees.

Please vote NO to a mask mandate.

A 61 day, or even two week mandate could result in some of our neighborhood businesses closing forever.

Thank you,

Stacy Cranbrook  
13636 Spring Lake Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Terese Ciaccio  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 10:14:07 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Mask Mandate**  
Hello Rebecca,

My name is Terese Ciaccio and I live in Shorewood. My students go to Minnetonka High School. Most of my day is spend in Minnetonka. I am a regular customer (daily lol) at the Cub on 101 as well as Target. We frequent restaurants in Minnetonka 3-4 times a week. I am asking if you would consider voting NO on the mask mandate tomorrow.

Vaccines and masks do not prevent the spread of disease. If a mandate is put in place myself and several others will not patronize Minnetonka business. This will hurt the local economy and business owners.

Thank you for your consideration as I know these are hard time.

Warm regards,  
Terese Ciaccio

**From:** Allison Taffe  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 8:54:43 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Minnetonka Mask Mandate**

Hello Rebecca,

I am writing to you as a Minnetonka school district resident and community member. I am very concerned about the potential mask mandate that the council will be voting on tomorrow. What is this mandate supposed to do at this point? Omicron is already out there and expected to peak in the next 2 weeks. Vaccinated and Unvaccinated alike are being affected. Cloth and surgical masks do very little in preventing transmission. The only thing a mask mandate will do is pull our law enforcement away from vital crime fighting, put additional stress on struggling businesses and further divide our community. Those that are at high risk know how to protect themselves by wearing N95/KN95 masks and avoiding highly populated events. Forcing ALL people over the age of 2 to wear a mask will not slow the spread- it has already spread! Please don't punish our local businesses by forcing this added enforcement and stress upon them.

Thank you,  
Allison Taffe

**From:** Amy Litman  
**Date:** January 13, 2022 at 7:22:41 PM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject: Minnetonka Mask Mandate**

Dear Ms Schack,

As a long time minnetonka resident who lives in your area of representation, I hope you will support a mask mandate for our city. We need schools and businesses to get back to normal but that can't happen as long as Covid continues to spread and mutate.

Masks work and I personally am sick and tired of the suffering inflicted by the jerks who refuse to get vaccinated or wear a mask. I hope minnetonka come down on the side of protecting everyone with this measure.

Kind regards,  
Amy Litman  
2823 Breckenridge Road  
Minnetonka, 55305

**From:** Karen Sattler  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Deborah Calvert  
**Subject:** Please vote no to city-wide mask mandate

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council members,

I understand that an emergency meeting has been called to discuss a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka. I am writing to ask you to vote no.

I go to stores, work, and church in Minnetonka. Businesses and customers police themselves. Some businesses encourage or require everyone to mask, and people comply. If a person chooses to not mask, he/she is asked to leave. I have witnessed no harassing about whether or not an individual chooses to mask. Persuade – fine. Mandate – absolutely not. This is not the job of government.

I have seen businesses that require masks, businesses that encourage masks, and businesses that don't care. We are all getting along just fine. If a business wants to require a mask, I wear one. If not, I have one available depending on the crowd of people in the stores or restaurants.

Last week Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former FDA commissioner and Pfizer board member stated that cloth masks just do not provide protection against COVID-19. It makes no sense to require something for Minnetonka just to virtue signal that we are just as concerned about this illness as those in Minneapolis and St. Paul, who recently imposed their own silly mandates. Let's keep Minnetonka free, and people will flood in from the areas with government overreach.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Sattler

**From:** Kari Lorence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Mask mandate? No!

I am writing to urge you to vote against a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka in tomorrow's meeting. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents to make their own decisions concerning their health. If this mandate passes, understand that my family and I will be going outside of Minnetonka to do our normal business.

Sincerely,  
Kari Lorence

**From:** Charles Stauber  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:13 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Mandate meeting

Decline a mask mandate we have had enough. Tired of tyrants. Thank you for hearing my voice.

**From:** Donna Gause <dgause@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:07 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** mask mandate

I feel that churches should be included in the mandate as they are singing and gathering similar to other establishments and fear of lawsuit or other Church and State considerations should not exempt them, people's health is the concern here and worshipers are people too.



**Donna Gause** | Public Works Administration  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

11522 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55305  
Office: 952-988-8400

**From:** [minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:41 AM  
**To:** Mike Funk <[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** No more Covid rules

Message submitted from the <City of Minnetonka, MN> website.

**Site Visitor Name:** Matthew Bappe

**Site Visitor Email:** [REDACTED]

No more mask mandates, no forced injections, and no vaccine passports. These measures do nothing to stop the spread of a disease, and it doesn't matter how many times a government uses the word "safe".

These worthless rules have to end. I will no longer give any money to businesses in a city with these kinds of rules. If Minnetonka passes a mask mandate or any other such rule, I will happily take my business elsewhere.

Thank you,  
Matt Bappe

**From:** Chris Murphy

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:14 AM

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

**Subject:** RE: mask mandate meeting comments

As a resident, I highly recommend the council not approve another mandate. As it stands, you can go into any public place, such as grocery stores, bars, gas stations, retail outlets, and observe that those who want to wear masks are already doing so. I would guess that 1/3 of people are already wearing masks. Staff I would say at these places is a higher percentage of mask wearers.

I understand the concern, but this seems more like another unnecessary display of "power" rather than anything that will help stop any spread of Omicron. All you will realistically accomplish with a mandate is to frustrate a lot of people who either are not concerned about the virus, or have already been vaccinated/boostered, or both. I highly doubt, based on CDC statements and a plethora of information about Omicron spreading that the council I'm sure has read as well, that a mask mandate will accomplish a reduction. Vaccinations and boosters vastly reduce risk of severe symptoms, hand washing, social distancing, and quarantining. These methods are proven to actually work.

Try taking an approach of recommendation, posting regular CDC guidelines to your media outlets, and sticking with that. Perhaps state that businesses should post guidelines on their doors and windows as well, for those that already don't. It will make the city seem more like a leader and less like an enforcer to adults and business owners. Not to seem snarky and I mean no offense, but take into consideration that the majority of us have figured out our lives without the city being involved in our health, pandemic or not. Those who want to wear masks will continue to. More may start. There will be some who won't. Should the state make the decision to enforce, that's a different story.

Also, a comment on the last mandate I heard from the council members in 2020. There was a comment about enforcement of the mask mandate. It was stated (by councilman Kirk I believe) similar to the effect of "Most cases of those not following the mandate will be resolved by the public without police engagement" - Dangerous slope to go down, suggesting the public take

these affairs into their own hands of mob rule. I really didn't appreciate that comment, seemed he was emotionally reacting to the whole situation rather than being a leader and making a balanced judgement.

Regards,  
Chris Murphy

**From:** Susan Wells  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:16 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

Stop the spread of Covid. Make masks mandatory.

Thank you!

**From:** Donna Ricco  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:17 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** No mask mandate

These measures data (cloth masks that people wear) have not been shown to have much impact. Let those who feel more protected to wear a mask and let us all decide for ourselves.

Thank you

Donna Ricco

**From:** David Rose  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 9:39 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

As an employee of Trader Joe's on Wayzata Boulevard, I would like to request that the council vote yes on a mask mandate today. Our store currently has 10% of our crew out sick with Covid. Please help protect us by voting yes to a mask mandate.

Thank you,

David Rose

**From:** Rob Shainess  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:13:07 AM CST  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** 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. As a father of three living in Minnetonka you have my support of a city wide mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration

Rob Shainess  
5938 Lone Lake Loop, Minnetonka

**From:** Trish Hadley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:06 PM  
**To:** Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; [bachaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bachaepi@minnetonkamn.gov); Kissy Coakley; Brad Wiersum  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

As a small business owner in Minnetonka I know first hand how a mask mandate can have a negative affect. Loss of clientele, angry customers and enforcing mandates are real issues. A mask mandate may cause people to take their business outside of Minnetonka to neighboring suburbs that have chosen not to mandate.

Also, the wearing of a mask doesn't correlate with a decrease of COVID 19 cases, therefore it makes absolutely no sense to make Minnetonka look ridiculous.

Please vote no to the mask mandate.

Trish

**From:** Cindy Kral  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 9:35:48 AM CST  
**To:** Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Dear Ms Schack,

I am very concerned about the proposed mask mandate and its effect on small Minnetonka businesses. Many people avoid shopping in stores which require masks so they might shop in neighboring Wayzata or Eden Prairie rather than continuing to support our many wonderful businesses.

Please support our businesses and vote NO on mask mandates.

Thank you,

Cindy Kral

Minnetonka resident

**From:** Steve Alcorn

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:13 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Mask mandate

I most strongly urge you to vote NO on imposing a mask mandate for Minnetonka. Most studies show that masking is ineffective in stopping the spread of viruses.

James Alcorn

15624 Wing Lake Dr

Minnetonka

**From:** Douglas bergeson

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:12 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Vote no! Thanks. Mr Bergeson Townline Rd mtka

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:05 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Council Member Schaeppi,

My best to you in this new year. I am writing to express my opposition to a citywide mask mandate, as is being considered by the city council this afternoon. There is little evidence that such random municipal mandates materially impact COVID transmission or hospitalization numbers, but the impacts to local business could be extremely dramatic.

That said, I also want to thank the council for considering this issue in a thoughtful way. I believe such issues of mask mandates (and many other public policy issues) should be debated and decided at the local level, taking into account local health and economic circumstances, as

well as the preferences of local residents and businesses. So count me as a resident who supports the council in addressing this issue.

Should the council support a citywide mask mandate, please consider the following:

1. Be flexible in the duration of the mandate. Set for an initial two week mandate and grant the mayor authority to extend for two additional weeks or cancel after the first two weeks. Require council authorization to extend past one month. Health experts are intimating that the surge of infections associated with the omicron variant is on a path to dissipate quickly in the coming weeks. The council should recognize that potential and build in flexibility to address quickly changing circumstances.

2. Minor issue: A citywide mask mandate will again impact the Williston Club facility. Please either exempt the club from the mandate or grant members the option to suspend their memberships during the mandate and add that time to the back end of their membership contract.

Thank you for your consideration and best to you and the council.

Be Well.

Bob McFarlin  
4240 Winchester Ct.

**From:** Christine Poston

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:06 AM

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

**Subject:** Fwd: Mask Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that the schools within Minnetonka may be excluded from a mask mandate that could be passed. With this information I also request that all schools are included in the mask mandate for the safety of our children, staff and community. Our hospitals are overrun and we need the community's help.

Sincerely,

Christine Poston, RN, BSN, PHN

**From:** Kathy Burns

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:17 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Mask Mandate



I am opposed to a mask mandate in Minnetonka.

Kathy Burns  
3614 Steele St

**From:** Sam Venjohn  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Please vote no for the mask mandate, the mandate is ridiculous and infringes on our freedoms. If vaccines work, we shouldn't need the masks, especially if we are social distancing. People who don't feel safe should simply A) get vaccinated B) wear a mask C) social distance from others. If they still don't feel safe, that's their problem, it shouldn't be mine.

Thank you,

Sam Venjohn

**From:** Mavis Heupel  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:25 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Masks

I strongly urge against the mask mandate in Minnetonka.

**From:** John Cannon  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:26 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate written comments - vote no

As Minnetonka residents, our family opposes the mask mandate that is being debated on 1/14/22. Masks are ineffective and we feel that it is not the role of government to institute such measures. Encouraging and promoting individuals to make their own personal health decisions, whether that is masking, vaccination, or making different lifestyle choices to strengthen your own health, are far more appropriate. We don't need mandates. Let us make our own health decisions that we feel are necessary to protect ourselves and our families.

Respectfully,

John Cannon  
16000 Birch Ln, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Sally Carroll  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Vote

Good morning City Council Board,

I have children who participate in activities in the city of Minnetonka. They are mentally affected by stress and anxiety when having to wear a mask. Has there been any research into the effects on mental health of individuals under all the mandates?

The Omicron variant has been significantly lower in risks in all areas, according to CDC (chart attached), compared with Covid-19. It is very similar to the common cold, and there have never been any mandates or government ruling for all people that goes against individual choices concerning outbreaks of the common cold. I tried to find a chart for the common cold on the CDC's website. I couldn't find one. They had influenza charts. The attached chart shows normal yearly (seasonal) flu outbreaks in Minnesota Schools. These are high numbers and never did we think to shut down schools or require everyone to mask up. The approach with the common cold and flu that has worked so far is to let it run its course. Natural immunity was viewed as important.

Also, allowing people the freedom of choice has been the American way. This is democracy. I believe these mask mandates and school shutdowns are doing harm to our children, and that we as a society are not paying attention to the long term effects on them or on our freedoms. Please allow some "normal" to stay in place by not implementing a mask mandate again.

In short, I am asking that you all vote NO on the mask mandate this afternoon.

Thank you for your time,  
Sally Carroll  
Parent of 3 students Minnetonka District

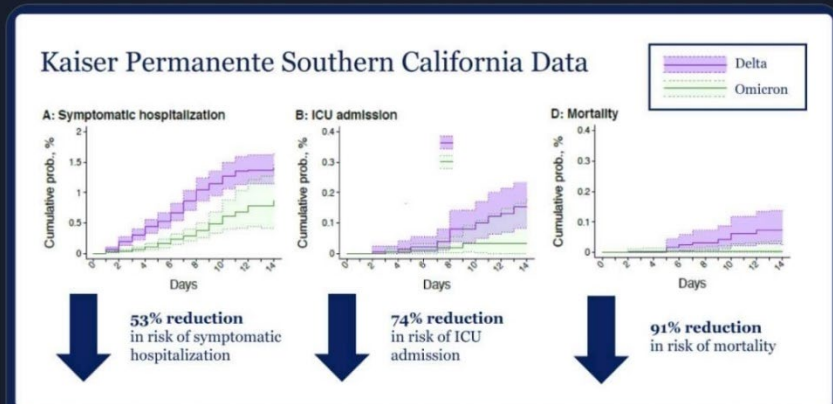


Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH  
@CDCDirector

NEW: Study on severity of those infected with the #OmicronVariant compared to the #DeltaVariant:

- ↓ 53% less risk of symptomatic hospitalization
- ↓ 74% less risk of ICU admission
- ↓ 91% less risk of death
- 0 Omicron patients required mechanical ventilation

[bit.ly/3GiRpBC](https://bit.ly/3GiRpBC)

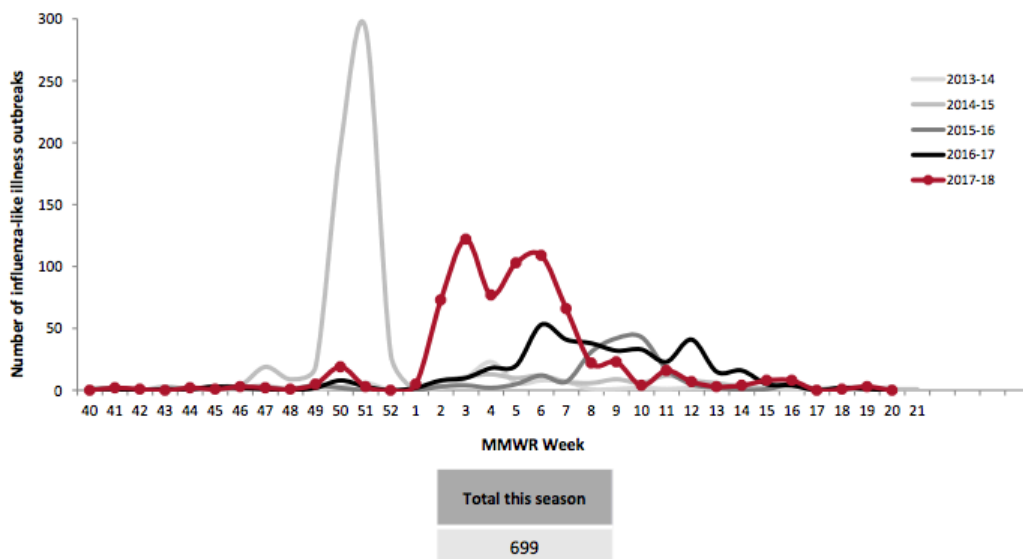


## Respiratory Disease Outbreak Surveillance

### School Outbreaks

K-12 schools report an outbreak of influenza-like illness (ILI) when the number of students absent with ILI reaches 5% of total enrollment or three or more students with ILI are absent from the same elementary classroom.

### Influenza-like Illness (ILI) in Schools by Season



**From:** LuAnn Tolliver  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** In favor of Mask Mandate

Considering the Omicron virus positivity rate, I am in favor of a temporary mask mandate for Minnetonka, until the virus counts steadily decline.

Thank you.  
LuAnn Tolliver

**From:** Dick Beil  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:33 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote Today

I request that the City Council consider voting '**NO**' today on the 'Mask' mandate.

Richard A. Beil  
5342 Michaele Ln  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Jen & Tom  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:36 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Feedback

Dear Council Members and Mayor:

I do not support the reinstatement of a mask mandate in the City of Minnetonka.

The only high quality research on masking that I'm aware of shows masking is extremely unlikely to provide any meaningful benefit. Further, I do not think it is the place of the city to mandate this. If people wish to wear a mask, they can choose to do so.

Peer reviewed, published research in the journal Science:  
Impact of community masking on COVID-19: A cluster-randomized trial in Bangladesh

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abi9069>

The primary findings include:

Cloth masks had no advantage over the control arm (no intervention), but surgical masks showed a modest, statistically significant benefit. So the cloth masks that everyone has are not going to help whatsoever.

The surgical mask intervention reduced symptomatic seroprevalence by 11.2%; the endpoint -- COVID-19 symptoms followed by a positive COVID-19 test -- occurred in 0.76% of people in the control group compared to 0.67% for those assigned to surgical mask villages. This is in a population that had almost 0 natural immunity, and no vaccination. As a result, the benefit may not apply to a population with high natural immunity and/or vaccination like the City of Minnetonka.

Opinion article from Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH on this study:

<https://vinayprasadmph.substack.com/p/why-do-we-have-to-lie-about-the-results>

### **Emphasize Health Promotion- Not Mask Wearing:**

Though I understand this special meeting is to consider a mask mandate and that that will occur, I propose that the City Council and Mayor consider other, more meaningful and creative ways to promote the health and well being of the Minnetonka community and focus strategy there instead.

I have reviewed the many statements other neighbors have shared with varying perspectives and would like to briefly share one perspective that I don't see often discussed as it relates to reducing the impact of COVID-19, Health Promotion. Health promotion empowers people to take control of their own health and improve their health status.

This is a global term and has been a public health tool that has been missed repeatedly throughout the entire pandemic in the United States. We know the commonly discussed and utilized tools: vaccines, masks, hand washing, social distancing, etc., and we need those. Yet we have missed a meaningful conversation about health promotion as an additional tool in our COVID-19 toolkit.

The CDC has identified 19 categories of medical conditions that are more likely to cause a person to get severely ill from COVID-19, many of which are preventable or can be managed, as they are long-term. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html> updated 12/14/21)

There are many simple, affordable, and fun activities that can be done to promote improved health that would help in improving the health status of people. Rather than offering incentives for vaccination, what about incentives that go towards a pair of walking shoes or a year subscription to a meditation phone app? A pedometer? Yoga mat? What about nutrition classes? Or a pilot project to offer 1:1 coaching support for seniors with diabetes or cardiovascular disease? The options are endless and many of these types of programs exist in our communities. What if we allowed some efforts to flow towards making those opportunities more robust? There are trained community members with expertise in a variety of areas. Imagine if we had shifted some focus to identifying creative ways to improve the health status of individuals and the community two years ago? A year ago? Or even 6 months ago? We could have more community members who may have quit or reduced smoking, improved a cardiac condition, reduced stress, learned how to manage Type 2 diabetes with nutrition and exercise, or

fostered community building in more creative and safe ways to promote social connection.

I would love to see the City be a leader in cultivating creativity to promote a healthier and safer community. I would anticipate that the positive implications of such creativity would reach even farther beyond the lens of the pandemic.

Some food for thought on this winter day.

Thank you,  
Thomas Suerth  
Minnetonka Resident, Windridge Circle

**From:** k.eckelbee@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:38 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Mask Mandate

I'm against mask mandates simply because they are not effective. For evidence beyond the scientific fact that the virus is so small that the average mask cannot keep it out, look at the skyrocketing numbers of areas that do mask mandates. Even CNN medical commentator recently said that a mask is nothing more than a facial ornament at this time.

Let people who want to wear masks wear them. And leave the rest of us alone.

If you really care about health, focus on the real dangers of a high sugar/processed foods diet and need for healthy fruits and vegetables/whole grains and boosting your immune system with vitamins like C, D, B and Quercetin and getting regular fresh air and exercise.

Masks create psychological oppression with no true medical benefit. Requiring community members to cover their faces in the case they see another person outside of their home is certainly no way to treat anyone but most of all- children.

Thank you for your time,  
Kathryn Eckelberry

**From:** Tess Fitch  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Institute a Mask Mandate

Please institute a mask mandate for public indoor spaces in Minnetonka. During this current surge of Omicron it is the one easy thing that everyone can do to help prevent the spread of the virus. I realize that it isn't something that is very enforceable but it takes the burden off of the

businesses - they can put up a sign to remind people that it is a city mandate. Everyone should be wearing a mask, vaccinated and unvaccinated, because it is something that will help and is easy to do. Too many businesses can't operate fully because their employees are out with Covid. It really would help the local economy if everyone wore a mask.

Thanks.

Tess Fitch

**From:** Suzanne Schwartz

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:40 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask mandate

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I think a mask mandate for the city of Minnetonka is a bad idea. There is absolutely no evidence that masks have done one bit of good in slowing the spread, and in fact, there have been large randomized controlled studies that have proven they don't work at all.

The director of the CDC herself has come out recently saying that cloth masks aren't useful, and Leana Wen, medical analyst for CNN said "they are nothing more than facial decorations."

It's time to bring common sense and logic back! Stay home if you're sick, otherwise enjoy life like we've always done! This virus is highly transmissible, yet produces relatively mild symptoms. Masks won't change any of it.

Suzanne Schwartz

Tired of the Nonsense in MN

**From:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:56 PM

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

**Subject:** image.png

This might be good to include in our packet for Friday.

Deb

# Transmission times for an infectious dose of Covid-19

According to the CDC, a non-mask wearing, uninfected person can be infected with Covid-19 within 15 minutes if standing within 6 feet of an unmasked infected person. Here's a table showing infection times when persons are wearing protective face coverings.

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING...			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING...	Nothing	15 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 minutes	27 minutes	40 minutes	3.5 hours
	Surgical mask	30 minutes	40 minutes	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours*

\*Result is for a non fit-tested N95 mask (10% leakage). A fit-tested N95 has a leakage of 1% and will result in 2,500 hours of transmission time.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

John Blanchard / The Chronicle

**From:** Erica Hway  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Today's Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

I would have liked to virtually attend today's meeting but am unable to, so I'd like to submit my brief comments. Many of you received an email from me earlier this week as well.

I certainly understand your concern for the well-being of the community, but I have some concerns about a mask mandate and am not in support of it.

One concern I have is that indiscriminately compelling specific behavior or health measures on businesses and individuals is not something that can be taken lightly. When weighing such a decision, especially considering how divisive this issue has been in our community, it seems that there are a couple of important things to consider:

- 1 - Is there a defined, measurable goal?
- 2 - Is the decision based on irrefutable and conclusive evidence that the measures are going to be effective in meeting the specific goal?



After two years of the pandemic, it does not appear that masking has been proven to be an irrefutably and substantially beneficial regulatory response. In addition, as recently indicated by the CDC, cloth masks have not even been shown to be effective against the current strain of virus. Especially in light of this being a rather controversial issue with inconclusive data, I hope that this might be considered.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

--

Erica Hway  
16316 Highwood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Matt Michaels

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:42 AM

**To:** Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** No to Mask Mandates

Council Members,

Please no mask mandates for Minnetonka. Such mandates are senseless and arbitrary in my view and do not offer the protection they are assumed to have. Omicron does not stop at the mask. We should also be very wary of mandates in a free society. It does not align to our values as a nation or community.

Just because other communities are mandating, does not mean we need to.

Thanks for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Matt Michaels  
600 Townes Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55391

**From:** Bel Fam

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:45 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Council Members,

I'm a frustrated citizen. I have worked in healthcare for over 25 years. I do not agree with imposing a mask mandate in the city of Minnetonka. It has become clear that the science just is not there to support the mass use of masks (especially the ones being worn by most people) to protect people from acquiring or preventing people from transmitting Covid-19. Statistically, there is no advantage.

There are studies available that do show that wearing masks for prolonged periods of time actually promotes sickness. Masks, by the nature of the environment that they create with warmth and moisture, encourage bacteria and viral growth causing a variety of other issues and sickness. Not to mention breathing a great deal of higher concentrations of self made carbon dioxide.

I am a resident of nearby Deephaven and do a great deal of my business in the City of Minnetonka. I frequent the shops, restaurants, malls, salons, among others. If you impose a mandate on these businesses they will suffer. Many, like myself, will choose to take their business elsewhere (surrounding communities like Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, etc) where we can have maskless freedom. Let individual businesses decide what policies will benefit the health of their customers and employees. That is what America is about. Trusting the people, not the government, to make the best choice as to what is right.

This virus will continue on as viruses do, and have done throughout history. The more recent strains are more contagious and far less severe. Show some patience and allow it to run the course. The economic and psychological impacts of the decisions being made have already been devastating (and shown little positive effect on containing or eliminating the virus) and will be even more destructive to all of us if implemented yet again.

I appreciate your time and urge you to set fear and political pressure aside and vote for common sense and freedom. Trust the educated community in which we all live.

Thank you,  
Julie Belisle

**From:** Justin Hennessey  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Hello,

As a resident of Minnetonka, I believe that wearing masks should be a choice not a law or a mandate. As Americans, we ALL have the right to choose what we do. Whether it is wearing a mask or getting a vaccine, it is up to each person to decide! No government should EVER decide what we choose to do within the law!

Please do your constitutional duty and uphold our freedoms! Let the people decide!

Thank you,

Justin Hennessey

**From:** Maryann Esh

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:56 AM

**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@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>

**Subject:** Minnetonka mask mandate

As a Minnetonka resident and parent of a student in the Minnetonka district, I'm writing to request that a mask mandate be implemented for all of Minnetonka INCLUDING the school buildings. The Minnetonka school board has made it clear that they are not willing to discuss the safety of our high school students and staff, so it's imperative that the City of Minnetonka show support for this currently unrepresentative group. Think about it...there's a building in the city that regularly has well over 3,000 people in it in a daily basis. Businesses that size aren't even having staff work onsite. We want our students in school, but we want it done safely with a mask mandate.

Please support our staff and students and include the Minnetonka school buildings in a mask mandate.

Sincerely,  
Maryann Esh

**From:** Bob Welch

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 10:18:54 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)>

**Cc:** Cheryl Welch

**Subject: I support a mask mandate for Minnetonka**

Encouraging you to vote "yes" later today.

Thank you  
Bob Welch  
18261 Tamarack Dr

**From:** Melissa White

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 10:22:24 AM CST

**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Physician support for temporary mask mandate**

**Reply-To:** Melissa White

Hello,

I am writing to express my **support for a temporary mask mandate** in Minnetonka.

This is the easiest public health measure we can try as a society who values the lives of all humans.

I have been a practicing Hospitalist physician for 14 years and currently do front line Emergency and ICU care for adult patients. Throughout the pandemic, healthcare workers have had increasingly stretched resources and compassion fatigue from the disregard of many community members to voluntarily follow public health guidelines.

This most recent peak in cases--the FIFTH surge--has brought our ability to continue caring for patients to the breaking point. We have standing room only in our ED triage area and new "hallway beds" for the walking wounded who can stand and be in the hallway for exams instead of taking up a bed. There are typically 90-100 patients waiting for an inpatient bed each morning in the M Health system alone. Whatever communities can do at the local level will alleviate stress on the system so that we can care for ALL the patients who come in for strokes, heart attacks, hip fractures, etc that have had delayed care due to overwhelm from covid-19 patients.

I have 3 children currently in Minnetonka public schools and one who graduated. My high schooler has missed the past week of school from MHS as he was exposed and then symptomatic from Covid-19. This is not reflected in the dashboard as we have been unable to secure a PCR test to register at the MDH. We used our last home test kit for him and he was positive. This is despite our entire family being vaccinated.

The "recommended but optional" masking approach is not working. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends universal masking for K-12 at this time. It is not enough to say, "As long as you're vaccinated, you're fine."

Thanks for considering the input of medical experts and current state of the limited community resources to support the health of our most vulnerable community members and children.

Melissa White, MD

**Melissa White, MD**  
Chair of Medicine  
M Health Fairview

Edina, MN

**From:** Carinna Williams  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 10:27:03 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Support for mask mandate**

I live in the Minnetonka school district and graduated from Minnetonka High School in 2019.

I am in favor of a mask mandate.

**From:** Camille Calderaro  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:49 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Yes to mask mandate

**From:** Frank Malley  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:49 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

1-14-22

We are entering a third year of the pandemic. We have tried seemingly easy measures only to see more and more contagion.

We have readily accepted other mandates—childhood vaccinations, seat belts for cars.

Please put in place a mandate for our health. Wearing a mask in public is hardly burdensome.

Sincerely,

Frank Malley  
14501 Atrium Way #227  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**From:** Jennifer Zobel  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:51 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on the Mask Mandate

Hello,

I am asking you to VOTE NO today on implementing a city-wide mask mandate for Minnetonka. For the past 2 years we followed the CDC's guidelines, yet here we are again with Covid numbers on the rise despite masking up, getting vaccinated and social distancing. It is time for a new approach. Implementing a mask mandate at this time would be taking a step backwards, especially with everything we know now. The cons of masking up far outweigh the benefits, especially since the majority of people wear cloth masks or don't wear their masks correctly, which has been proven to be ineffective at stopping the spread of covid. Residents of Minnetonka should be able to make their own choices when it comes to health-related issues. It should be a personal choice if you want to wear a mask. Those who feel safer with them can wear them. PERIOD.

I wonder where we would be right now if the government would have mandated people to eat more fruits and vegetables, exercise on a regular basis and reduce stress with things like meditation and breathing techniques instead of instilling fear into people. Let's not overlook the fact that there are multiple ways to achieve health and keep our community safe.

Thank you,  
Jenny Cannon

**From:** Mary Firestone  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:02 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Stop the Mask Mandate in Minnetonka

I frequently visit Minnetonka and shop at the Ridgedale Mall, and other stores in the area. If I am forced to wear a mask, I will certainly take my business elsewhere.

Minnesotans are smart enough to see that this is political. We follow the science that makes do little if anything to prevent the spread of covid.

Mary Firestone

**From:** Elaine Rothman  
**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 10:21:43 AM CST  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Deb,

Writing to urge the Mtka City Council to pass a mask mandate for the next month.

*Take Care,*  
*Elaine Rothman*

**From:** Carol Nordquist  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:37 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

Please vote no on the mask mandate for Minnetonka! We do not need it!

Thanks so much, Ralph and Carol Nordquist

**From:** JENNIFER ROERS  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:02 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate-YES

Please vote YES to help protect our community!!

**From:** Jeff Stone  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi; Jeff Stone; Nicole  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Vote NO on Minnetonka Mask Mandate

**From:** Stone, Jeff  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Minnetonka Mask Mandate

Dear Councilman Schaeppi,

My wife Nicole and I are writing to you in an effort to voice our opinions about the upcoming mask mandate vote in Minnetonka. We urge you to vote NO.

If you would review the below material, it provides the primary basis for our position. That is, the cloth masks that people normally wear simply are ineffective against these viruses.

These are facts, articulated by none other than a surgeon general, a WHO executive and Dr. Fauci.

Secondly, it is clear that the current variant/strain of covid is, for the vast majority of people, nothing more than a mixture of cold and flu like symptoms, with rapid recovery. It is also clear that just about everyone is going to become sick with the omicron strain...there is no stopping it or "slowing the spread". The following issues were clear from the outset if we only had the critical thinking skills to actually listen and analyze:

1. We are not going to eradicate this virus, no matter the extreme hubris of Fauci or Biden concerning their ability to eradicate and/or control the virus. Fauci has recently admitted (finally) that this virus is not going anywhere.

2. As noted herein, cloth masks do not work; the virus is simply too small for these masks to be effective. See article below and attached Fauci email.
3. Given points 1 and 2, those with vulnerabilities to the virus (those conditions were and are actually very well-known and readily ascertainable) should take care. IF they wish to stay home, wear a mask, limit visitors, etc., then that's what they should absolutely do.
4. Further, this is NOT a one-size fits all solution, particularly in view of points 1 and 2 above. Forcing people who will get this strain and rapidly recover (just about everyone that you and I know fall into this category) isn't good governance. I would hope that is self-evident at this point.
5. IF a mask mandate was appropriate (it is not), THEN the timing is absolutely wrong as you've missed the upswing and we're right in the middle of it all. Does the council really think they can affect this trajectory at this very late stage?
6. Finally, and with reference to point 3 above, it must be understood that cloth masks are not effective, are inappropriate and **give people a false sense of security and well-being, resulting in unwanted exposure**. This, perhaps, is the most damaging element in terms of public health inflicted by masks.

I am trained as a patent attorney, but also have a master's degree in public health from the U of MN and find the current situation from a strategic perspective to be absolutely appalling. The fact that, after two years, we are still contemplating going back to masks that do not work is stunningly wrong from a public health perspective. It is not good enough to knee-jerk to a solution like this simply because the council doesn't know what else to do and it might make certain people feel better. But see at least point 6 above. Council should be focusing on doing no harm, yet requiring masks for something like omicron will almost certainly be harmful while not protecting anyone from anything.

[Do Masks Work? | City Journal \(city-journal.org\)](https://www.city-journal.org/article/2020/02/27/do-masks-work/)

An excerpt from the Do Masks Work Article – the link should work (ctl/click) so you can get to the source document:

*“Seriously people—STOP BUYING MASKS!” So tweeted then–surgeon general Jerome Adams on February 29, 2020, adding, “They are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus.” Two days later, Adams said, “Folks who don’t know how to wear them properly tend to touch their faces a lot and actually can increase the spread of coronavirus.” Less than a week earlier, on February 25, public-health authorities in the United Kingdom had published guidance that masks were unnecessary even for those providing community or residential care: “During normal day-to-day activities facemasks do not provide protection from respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19 and do not need to be worn by staff.” About a month later, on March 30, World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergencies Program executive director Mike Ryan said that “there is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any particular benefit.” He added, “In fact there’s some evidence to suggest the opposite” because of the possibility of not “wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly” and of “taking it off and all the other risks that are otherwise associated with that.”*

*Surgical masks were designed to keep medical personnel from inadvertently infecting patients’ wounds, not to prevent the spread of viruses. Public-health officials’ advice in the early days of Covid-19 was consistent with that understanding. Then, on April 3, 2020, Adams announced*



*that the CDC was changing its guidance and that the general public should hereafter wear masks whenever sufficient social distancing could not be maintained.*

And....almost humorously at this point if things weren't so ridiculously off the rails in terms of "expert" guidance... we have Dr. Fauci himself in Feb. 2020 advising that "*the typical mask you buy in the drug store is not really effective in keeping out the virus...i do not recommend that you wear a mask.*" Please see attached email from Fauci to Sylvia Burwell.

This initial mask guidance could not be any clearer or unequivocal. What is also clear is that political pressure caused all of these folks to backtrack on what their scientific training and experience was (rightly) telling them.

Where is the scientifically underpinned rationale (from a public health standpoint) to wear masks? If we're talking about the ubiquitous blue cloth masks, there simply is none. Perhaps there is value from a virtue signaling perspective and it may help less informed people feel better about themselves and others, but I promise you THOSE masks will not slow the spread of omicron which, by the way, really does appear to be somewhere between a cold and the flu (we've both had it and that is borne out in our experiences). Continuing down this unscientific path removes con

We need to learn to live with this damn virus, without fear and without hiding our faces from each other. Communication is comprised of many factors, including but not limited to facial expression – indeed, it is part of our "human-ness".

Further, it is abundantly clear that instituting a mask mandate will have undesirable economic impact as people will simply stay home more rather than deal with the mask. I know that our family will greatly reduce patronage of MTKA businesses should this mask mandate be approved and will seek out alternatives.

Jeff and Nicole Stone  
16560 Grays Bay Bld  
Minnetonka, MN

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAD) [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 very low risk location. Your instincts are correct, money is best spent on medical countermeasures such as diagnostics and vaccines.

Safe travels.  
Best regards,  
Tony

The typical mask you buy in the drug store  
is not really effective in keeping out the virus

I do not recommend  
that you wear a mask

Best regards,  
Tony

**From:** Andrew Cardinal  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Minnetonka Mask Mandate

As a healthcare professional, I stand in agreement with the following statements/requests of my employer:

To the Minnetonka City Council,

As a business owner in Minnetonka I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed mask mandate for our city. My business, Merz Physical Therapy, has been established in Minnetonka for 33 years, and has built a reputation for being a safe and caring place to rehabilitate from injuries and accidents. My patient's choose us because they know they can come to us regardless of their views on all health related issues, and they will get to be in control of how they approach their recovery, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. By mandating masks you will dramatically affect my business, as I am certain that many of my patients will forgo their treatment with us and drive to a nearby city instead, so that they may have the option to move and breathe freely. After two years of mandates and general fear espoused by so much of our government both federally and locally, my business cannot afford to take another hit.

I urge all of the council members to consider current data which tells us that masks make no meaningful difference. Here are three of the numerous studies that demonstrate their ineffectiveness.

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/3fkEJu0>

This study concluded: "Neither surgical nor cotton masks effectively filtered SARS-CoV-2 during coughs by infected patients." <https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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. <https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

Reinstating a mask mandate in Minnetonka will only hurt our city and prevent us from moving forward. For 33 years we have made countless decisions within our clinic to maintain the best interest of our patients, and right now is no different. Let individuals make decisions for themselves as to what is best for their health, do not force it upon them. People are tired, angry, and flat out finished with the government controlling their health, do not continue. We trust our patients to do what is best for them and all others around them, please trust Minnetonkans to do the same. Please do not vote for a mask mandate in Minnetonka.

--

Andrew Cardinal, PT, DPT  
Merz Physical Therapy

**From:** Alyssa Foggia  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:13 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Mask mandate

Hi there,

As a member of a neighboring community who frequents Minnetonka businesses, I urge the city council to vote against a mask mandate. There are countless studies that have determined the majority of masks are ineffective. Please vote to let those who wish to

wear a mask do so without forcing it upon those who do not. I will no longer give my business to places that require masking.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Foggia-Hamm  
Maple Grove, MN

**From:** Reed Nelson  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** My personal experience from the last Mask Mandate.

A real-life example from last time we locked down and masked up from our own Minnetonka Williston Fitness Center and Pool:

I have been working out and swimming almost nightly for the last 13 years for health reasons. When the mask mandate was implemented it was not good for my health. Going to the Williston Center with a mask on is a terrible experience. I was required to wear a mask when walking to the pool deck and back to the shower and then from the shower to my locker. Until you have been there and experienced trying to do this yourself, while keeping your mask clean, you cannot understand how difficult it is. I will explain.

Imagine you get to the locker room and now you have to take off your t-shirt with a mask on. It comes off of course and falls on the ground, or if you take it off and set it on the bench, or on your bag, then you get your swimsuit on, and then you have to put your mask back on as you take 15 steps to the shower where you need to rinse off before you get to the pool and so what do you do with your mask while taking a shower? Hang it on a hook; where everyone else has hung theirs? Then after you put your mask back on, you walk about 20 steps to the pool. Now you are going to swim but you are not sure where to put your mask. So you put it on top of your towel which you have rested on a chair if you are lucky enough to find a chair (during one of the recent mask mandates they removed the chairs).

While you are swimming people are walking by your towel and possibly coughing on your mask that rests on top of your towel. So after you swim, you get out and reverse the process but now you are putting on a mask that is likely contaminated by something. You are masked up for your 20 steps back to the shower, hang your mask on a hook - oops you accidentally dropped it. You will have to throw that one away. Now you are unmasked from the shower back to the locker and --- Do you see how stupid this is? This is not protecting anyone. In fact, it is likely spreading more germs and viruses around.

If people want to go through this process that is their choice but nobody should be mandated to do it. If you are concerned about getting Covid then just don't go anywhere. The reality is that in two years nothing we have done has stopped the virus. As you can see how this would be a real motivation to look for another city Fitness center that does not require masks.

This would be a real disappointment. I really like the Williston Center; the city does a fantastic job of keeping up a great place for friends to meet and work out. Please vote against this Mask Mandate. Let each of us make our own decision. Let Minnetonka be known as a "Freedom City" Not a "Lockdown Mask Mandate City" which is likely a slippery slope to "Vaccine Mandate City".

People are smart enough to make their own decisions. We don't need our Elected Officials to tell us what to do. In my above example of the Williston, those who are scared of getting the virus don't have to work out or go swimming. It is their choice just as it is their choice to wear a mask when they work out if they want to.

A better suggestion for the city to encourage would be to ask people who are sick not go out and spread "whatever they have" around; which is just common sense.

America is supposed to be a place where we can pursue Life, Liberty (Freedom), and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Reed Nelson  
13018 Jane Lane  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

**From:** Maria Ahlers  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:18 AM  
**To:** Bradley Schaeppi  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

Dear Council Member Schaeppi,

Thank you for representing Minnetonka's residents.

I wanted to reach out to you and let you know that I am totally opposed to the proposed mask mandate for the City of Minnetonka. I am a long time resident of Minnetonka. I also work in a public school, which has a very strictly enforced mask mandate. This strictly enforced mask rule has NOT stopped the spread of COVID or the flu. In fact, even with strict mask measures, there are so many sick students and teachers that we just switched to distance learning. I truly wish

that wearing a mask could stop the spread of this terrible virus and make everyone healthy, but the fact is that the masks DO NOT WORK for this particular virus. In fact, for young children I am seeing many adverse effects and unintended consequences on their articulation, language, emotional and social development.

Before you make up your mind, please consider that masks will not solve the problem of the rapid spread of this latest strain of COVID or the flu. We all wish that it was as easy as putting on a mask and everything would be better. As a professional educator and parent, I want you to be aware of the unintended consequences of mask mandates on children in the areas of articulation, language development, social skills and emotional well being.

Hear and amplify my voice!

Maria Ahlers

**From:** Linda & Michael Halley  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:24 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates

Hello City Council Members,

Thank you so much for calling this meeting to discuss a mask mandate for our city!  
We are unable to call in at the time of the meeting, so we are submitting our plea for a mask mandate here.

We believe the surging virus is a public health issue with far reaching implications.  
Masks have been proven to help decrease the spread of this virus.  
We have many vulnerable people in our city ~ those whose health does not allow them to be vaccinated and many children too young to get it.

Wearing a mask is a non-invasive way for those of us who are vaccinated and especially those who are not to help keep all of us safe!

We respectfully request that you pass a mask mandate for our city!

Thank you,  
Michael and Linda Halley  
18610 Clear View Drive  
Minnetonka MN 55345

**From:** Joshua Morris  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:37 AM

**To:** Bradley Schaeppi

**Subject:** Vote NO on mandates!!!

Please vote No on all mandates for the people of Minnetonka. We are intelligent, caring people who want what's best for each other.

It is unnecessary to force us to do anything.

There are some good resources on the Healthy Skeptic website if you are looking for nuance on this masking issue.

I appreciate your time.

Josh Morris

**From:** Eaton

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 11:32:55 AM CST

**To:** Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Mask Mandate - Objection

**Reply-To:** Eaton

Hi Councilperson Coakley - I just wanted to send a quick note expressing my objection to a renewed mask mandate in Minnetonka. I work in the city and spend a fair amount of money at the restaurants and shopping areas in Minnetonka.

The number of studies showing that masks simply do not prevent the spread of Covid-19, especially the Omicron variant, have been increasing dramatically. I wish they did prevent the spread. One only needs to stand out in the cold to see the breath droplets escaping for even the best fitting mask.

Walking into a bar or a restaurant with a mask on, only to remove it when arriving at a table, does little to stop any air borne virus.

I will not spend money nor patronize business where there is a mask mandate. My coworkers and I will drive to the next suburb to dine.

Thanks,

Sue

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:39 AM

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

**Subject:** Mask Mandate - Objection

City Council Members - I just wanted to send a quick note expressing my objection to a renewed mask mandate in Minnetonka. I work in the city and spend a fair amount of money at the restaurants and shopping areas in Minnetonka.

The number of studies showing that masks simply do not prevent the spread of Covid-19, especially the Omicron variant, have been increasing dramatically. I wish they did prevent the spread. One only needs to stand out in the cold to see the breath droplets escaping for even the best fitting mask.

Walking into a bar or a restaurant with a mask on, only to remove it when arriving at a table, does little to stop any air borne virus.

I will not spend money nor patronize business where there is a mask mandate. My coworkers and I will drive to the next suburb to dine.

Thanks,

Sue

**From:** Michael Remucal

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 11:29:44 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 Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Emergency Masking Ordinance**

Mr. Wiersum and Council Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed emergency ordinance regarding face coverings, as a physician, a medical researcher, a parent of children in the Minnetonka School District, and as a patron of the many stores and restaurants in the city of Minnetonka. Although I am a resident of Chanhassen, our communities are intertwined, and the effort to suppress the pandemic's most recent surge must be a combined effort. Please join our neighboring cities in taking the steps that even our school district has been reluctant to do, in order to add another layer of protection for our community. Our hospitals are being overrun and the medical staff is suffering from infection-related illness, from burn-out, and from an erosion of morale caused by the length and breadth of this pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

-Mike

Michael Remucal, MD

PhD Student, Healthcare Informatics

**From:** Darcie Bruss

**Date:** January 14, 2022 at 11:20:05 AM CST

**To:** Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject: Mask Mandate**



My husband, Rick and I oppose the mask mandate. We ask you to vote NO today!  
Thank-you!!  
Darcie Bruss

**From:** Tamara Howsden  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:52 AM  
**To:** Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

I will take my business elsewhere if a mask mandate is implemented. Study after study has shown that masks are ineffective against this virus. Even N95 masks provide negligible protection. Please don't play into this nonsense. Your businesses will suffer. Leave masking up to each person.

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 #maskoffmn

<https://1epk.com/3fkE0Nm>

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/3fkEIu0>

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

<https://1epk.com/3GmWKYE>

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.

<https://1epk.com/3I1hiX6>

**From:** Terry Luke  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Minnetonka Mask Requirements

Hello Minnetonka Officials, hope this email finds you doing well and in good health. In regards to the Minnetonka mask mandate you will be taking into consideration later today, would like to give one citizens perspective.

I would suggest that a Minnetonka mask mandate is not good for our quality of life as a community or economically for our businesses. There are already many, many precautions we can take as individuals to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. A Minnetonka mask mandate would likely not provide substantively more protection from Covid infection than the protective actions our citizens are taking today. Minnetonka is a community of good people, who want to protect others, are collectively making good choices, and doing the right thing. Please continue to allow us the privilege of making our own choices and the liberty of deciding this (when and where to wear a mask) for ourselves.

Thank you kindly,

*Terry Luke*

*Proud Minnetonka resident since 2013*

**From:** paula ramaley

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:59 AM

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

**Subject:** Enact a Mask Mandate for Minnetonka

Please do the right thing for our community's public health and to avoid a total crash of our health-care system -- enact a mask mandate now.

Although the risk of severe illness to any one individual from Omicron is low, the extremely high transmission and infection rates means our hospitals are being stretched to and possibly beyond the breaking point. This means that if we or a loved one needs urgent medical care, it may be delayed - maybe fatally.

Our schools are also being overwhelmed by infection and resulting staff shortages.

And those of us who continue to do the right thing by masking and vaccinating are being endangered and held hostage in our homes by those who refuse to do so.

Enough. In reality, Minnetonka *\*should\** be following Minneapolis and St. Paul and require proof of vaccination to enter public establishments. At the VERY LEAST, it is the responsibility of the City Council to follow the science and show true leadership by protecting the health and safety of those who live and work in Minnetonka. Enact the Mask Mandate Now.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Ramaley

17306 County Road 101 West

**From:** PAUL AHERN

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:00 PM

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

**Subject:** Surgical masks limit covid-19 spread, say authors of Bangladesh study - The Washington Post

Please look at the numbers. The reductions from surgical mask wearing were minimal (11%) and no difference for cloth masks. That was not tested on the new, more contagious Omicron variant. One would expect that masks would be even less effective against this more contagious variant (with less serious symptoms). Do not pass a mask mandate or this Deephaven resident will shop and dine somewhere other than Minnetonka.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/09/01/masks-study-covid-bangladesh/>

Paul B Ahern

**From:** Sumner Jones

**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:00 PM

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

**Subject:** why a mask mandate is wrong for Minnetonka

To the Minnetonka City Council,

This letter is in opposition to a mask mandate that currently being considered.

Forcing everyone to wear a mask when hospital admittance, ICU admittance, convalescence cases, and deaths are all currently already decreasing will not have an effect and will only make it appear that the council feels an obligation to "do something" on an issue that is already resolving itself.

Furthermore, the CDC has recently updated it's message on masks by stating that cloth masks do very little, if anything to stop the spread of covid spread through aerosols. If the Council enacts a mandate and allows cloth masks, that would be unscientifically ignoring the current known data about cloth masks. It would be an admission that the council felt it had to "do something" even if it was was known that the action would have no effect. If the council enacts a mandate and only allows N95 masks, the entire population of Minnetonka will be terribly inconvenienced and will have to scramble to obtain N95 masks to comply with a mandate for a problem that is, again, already going away.

If the council would like to have a real positive impact on the covid pandemic for the city of Minnetonka, it could use it's messaging platform to strongly encourage all Minnetonka residents to make sure they are not vitamin D deficient. Vitamin D plays a huge role in the immune system's ability to fight viruses, with some estimates that more than 90% of severe covid patients are vitamin D deficient. In an interview, Dr Fauci stated that he supplements with 6,000 IU of vitamin D per day to keep his immune system healthy. With Minnetonka currently getting little sun during the winter to help in the natural production of vitamin D, all Minnetonka residents would benefit from making sure their vitamin D levels are sufficient.

I encourage the council to make sure it's decisions are meaningful and positive.

Sumner Jones

Minnetonka resident



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# Mask mandate and use efficacy for COVID-19 containment in US States

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America;

<sup>2</sup>Authentic Biochemistry, VerEvMed, Clarkston, Washington, United States of America

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** COVID-19 pandemic mitigation requires evidence-based strategies. Because COVID-19 can spread via respired droplets, most US states mandated mask use in public settings. Randomized control trials have not clearly demonstrated mask efficacy against respiratory viruses, and observational studies conflict on whether mask use predicts lower infection rates. We hypothesized that statewide mask mandates and mask use were associated with lower COVID-19 case growth rates in the United States.

**Methods:** We calculated total COVID-19 case growth and mask use for the continental United States with data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. We estimated post-mask mandate case growth in non-mandate states using median issuance dates of neighboring states with mandates.

**Results:** Earlier mask mandates were not associated with lower total cases or lower maximum growth rates. Earlier mandates were weakly associated with lower minimum COVID-19 growth rates. Mask use predicted lower minimum but not lower maximum growth rates. Growth rates and total growth were comparable between US states in the first and last mask use quintiles during the Fall-Winter wave. These observations persisted for both natural logarithmic and fold growth models and when adjusting for differences in US state population density.

**Conclusions:** We did not observe association between mask mandates or use and reduced COVID-19 spread in US states. COVID-19 mitigation requires further research and use of existing efficacious strategies, most notably vaccination.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, face covering, medical mask, mask mandate, nonpharmaceutical intervention

### \*Correspondence to Author:

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## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased mortality and induced socioeconomic upheaval worldwide [1]. Evidence-based containment strategies are warranted, given that age, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes are common comorbidities associated with severe COVID-19 symptoms [e.g., pneumonia, blood clots, cytokine storm], hospitalization, and death [2, 3]. Respirated droplets and aerosols containing SARS-CoV-2 are intuitive modes of community transmission [4]. To reduce viral spread, governments have issued mandates to wear medical masks or cloth face coverings in public settings. From April to December 2020, 40 States of the United States issued mask mandates. Mask mandates have limited precedent, making efficacy unclear. Our first objective was to evaluate the efficacy of mask mandates in attenuating COVID-19 growth in US states.

Prior studies have conflicted on whether masks reduce COVID-19 spread. For USS Theodore Roosevelt crew, mask use was lower among COVID-19 cases compared with non-infected [56% vs. 81%] [5]. There were no infections for 48% of universally masked patrons exposed to COVID-19 positive hair stylists [6], but PCR tests were not obtained for the other 52% of patrons [6], and first wave COVID-19 hospitalizations were no higher in public schools [high density with minimal masking] than elsewhere in Sweden [7]. A randomized controlled trial [RCT] of Danish volunteers found no protective benefit of medical masks against COVID-19 infection [8]. In RCTs before COVID-19, viral infections were not lower in Vietnamese clinicians who wore cloth or medical masks than in the control arm [9], and N-95 respirators [but not medical masks] protected Beijing clinicians from bacterial and viral diseases compared to no masks [10]. Mask compliance in RCTs is not always clear [11]. Mask use was 10% and 33% for Beijing households with and without intrahousehold COVID-19 case growth, respectively [12]. This suggests greater mask use may reduce COVID-19 spread. Our

second objective was to assess if mask use predicts lower COVID-19 case growth.

We assessed if mask mandates and compliance in US States predict statewide COVID-19 growth during the second and third infection waves [1 June 2020-1 March 2021]. Controlling for infection wave timing with logarithmic and linear relative growth models, we found limited association between COVID-19 case growth and mask mandates or mask use before 1 October 2020, and no association during the subsequent and largest third wave. These findings do not support the hypothesis that statewide mandates and enhanced mask use slow COVID-19 spread. Pharmaceutical interventions [including recently available COVID-19 vaccines] provide alternative, evidence-based strategies to minimize COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality.

## Materials and methods

### *Data Sources and Terms*

We obtained total [confirmed and probable] COVID-19 cases up to 6 March 2021 for the 49 continental US states, normalized per 100,000 residents, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] [13]. To reduce reporting lag effects, we used 7-day simple moving means [e.g., the 7-day simple moving mean of cases on 31 March is the mean of daily cases between 28 March and 3 April]. Hawaii was excluded because COVID-19 growth patterns deviated from those of continental US states. Confirmed and probable cases are defined by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Confirmed cases require PCR amplification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from patient specimens. Probable cases require one of the following: clinical and epidemiologic evidence, clinical or epidemiologic evidence supported by SARS-CoV-2 antigen detection in respiratory specimens, or vital records listing COVID-19 as contributing to death. Total PCR tests for each state were obtained from Worldometers on 25 May 2021 [14].

Mask mandates are statewide emergency executive public health orders requiring nose and mouth coverings in public settings in more

than 50% of counties within a state [15, 16]. We assigned US states to one of five quintiles based on when mandates went into effect [effective dates]: 18 April-16 May 2020 [Q1], 29 May-3 July 2020 [Q2], 8 July-27 July 2020 [Q3], 1 Aug-9 Dec 2020 [Q4], or no statewide mandate as of 6 March 2021 [Q5]. Effective dates were obtained from US state executive and health departments and press releases [available upon request].

We assessed mask use with the University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation [IHME] COVID-19 model site [17], which estimates daily compliance from Premise, the Facebook Global Symptom Survey [University of Maryland], the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the YouGov Behavior Tracker Survey. Mask use is the percentage of people who always wear masks in public settings. We assigned US states to mask quintiles based on the mean percent mask use from 1 Jun-1 Oct 2020 [Summer] or from 1 Oct 2020-1 Mar 2021 [Fall-Winter].

To assess geographic differences, we assigned each US state to one of five regions: Northeast [Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont]; Midwest [Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin]; Mountains-Plains [Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming]; South [Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia]; and Pacific [Alaska, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington].

*Growth Rate Calculation*

COVID-19 growth has been modeled logarithmically [15, 18, 19] and linearly [19, 20]. Therefore, we calculated COVID-19 case growth for each US state by measuring percent natural logarithmic [Ln Growth] and percent linear [Fold Growth] relative growth rates:

$$\text{Ln Growth} = 100 * \ln \frac{C_t}{C_{t-1}}$$

$$\text{Fold Growth} = 100 * [-1 + \frac{C_t}{C_{t-20}}]$$

Where  $C_t$ ,  $C_{t-1}$ , and  $C_{t-20}$  are total normalized cases on a day, the prior day, and 20 days prior, respectively. We determined adjusted population density by calculating the weighted mean of each state's urban [U] and rural [R] population density using the following formulas:

$$\text{Urban Density [U]} = u_1p_1 + u_2p_2 + u_3p_3$$

$$\text{Mean Rural Density [R]} = \frac{\text{State Population} * [1-F]}{\text{State Area} - a_1 + a_2 + a_3}$$

For the three most populous urban regions in each US state, we obtained urban population density [ $u$ ; people/square mile in an urban area], urban land area [ $a$ ; size of urban area in square miles], and population proportion [ $p$ ; fraction of combined urban population] via 2010 US Census Bureau estimates [21]. For some states, two rather than three urban regions were used. The proportion of urban [ $F$ ] and rural [ $1-F$ ] population of each state was similarly obtained [21]. We thus calculated adjusted population density of each state as:

$$\text{Adjusted Population Density [APD]} = UF + R[1 - F]$$

To assess association between population density and growth rates, we multiplied Fold Growth by the inverse of normalized APD:

$$\text{Adj. Fold Growth} = \text{Fold Growth} * \left( \frac{\text{Mean APD of all US States}}{\text{State APD}} \right)$$

We defined minima and maxima [extrema] as the lowest and highest growth rates between the end of the Summer wave and the height of the Fall-Winter wave. Ln Growth extrema comprised 20-day windows when Ln Growth rates were lowest or highest:

$$\text{Ln Growth extremum} = \max_{20 \text{ Jul } 2020 \leq t \leq 1 \text{ Mar } 2021} / \min_{20 \text{ Jul } 2020 \leq t \leq 1 \text{ Mar } 2021} \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{t=20} \text{Ln Growth on Day } t}{20}$$

Fold Growth extrema similarly comprise the lowest and highest Fold Growth:

$$\text{Fold Growth extremum} = \max_{20 \text{ Jul } 2020 \leq t \leq 1 \text{ Mar } 2021} / \min_{20 \text{ Jul } 2020 \leq t \leq 1 \text{ Mar } 2021} \text{Fold Growth [t-20, t]}$$

For each state, surges are differences between maxima and minima [relative growth rate increase], masks at extrema are the 20-day mean mask use at minima and maxima, and  $\Delta$  Masks is the percent change in mask use between maxima and minima.

To assess association between mandates and growth rates in the 48 contiguous states [excluding Alaska and Hawaii], we determined Ln, Fold, and Adj. Fold Growth between 1 March 2021 [ $C_{301}$ ] and the mandate effective date [ $C_M$ ] for US states in mandate quintiles 1-3:

$$\text{Post-Mandate Ln Growth} = 100 * \ln \frac{C_{301}}{C_M}$$

$$\text{Post-Mandate Fold Growth} = 100 * \left[-1 + \frac{C_{301}}{C_M}\right]$$

For states in quintiles 4-5, *modeled effective dates* are medians of actual dates among bordering states of mandate quintiles 1-3. For example, the modeled effective date of Tennessee [10 July] is the median of effective dates of Arkansas [20 July], Alabama [16 July], Kentucky [10 July], North Carolina [26 June], and Virginia [29 May].

For each state, Summer 2020 [1 June-1 Oct] and Fall-Winter 2020-21 [1 Oct-1 Mar] mask use is mean mask use between these dates. Cases on 1 June or 1 Oct were the 20-day mean total normalized cases on these two dates. We likewise defined Summer and Fall-Winter case growth using Ln and Fold Growth formulas:

$$\text{Summer Ln Growth} = \ln \frac{C_{1001}}{C_{601}}$$

$$\text{Summer Fold Growth} = 100 * \left[-1 + \frac{C_{1001}}{C_{601}}\right]$$

$$\text{Fall-Winter Ln Growth} = \ln \frac{C_{301}}{C_{1001}}$$

$$\text{Fall-Winter Fold Growth} = 100 * \left[-1 + \frac{C_{301}}{C_{1001}}\right]$$

Where  $C_{601}$ ,  $C_{1001}$ , and  $C_{301}$  are total normalized cases on 1 June 2020, 1 October 2020, and 1 March 2021, respectively.

### Statistics

We used Prism 9.2 [GraphPad; San Diego, CA] to construct figures and perform null hypothesis significance tests, for which the significance threshold was  $p < \alpha = 0.05$  [**Worksheet D in S1 Table**]. Error bars denote standard deviations, 95% confidence intervals, or interquartile ranges as indicated in figure legends. We performed D'Agostino-Pearson tests to assess normality of residuals.

To evaluate mask mandate and use efficacy among categories [mandate effective date or mask use quintiles], we performed ordinary one-

way ANOVA with Tukey posttests. For non-normal data, we performed Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn posttests. For two sample comparisons [e.g., **Fig. 3G, J**], we conducted two-tailed t tests or Mann-Whitney tests for normal and non-normal data, respectively.

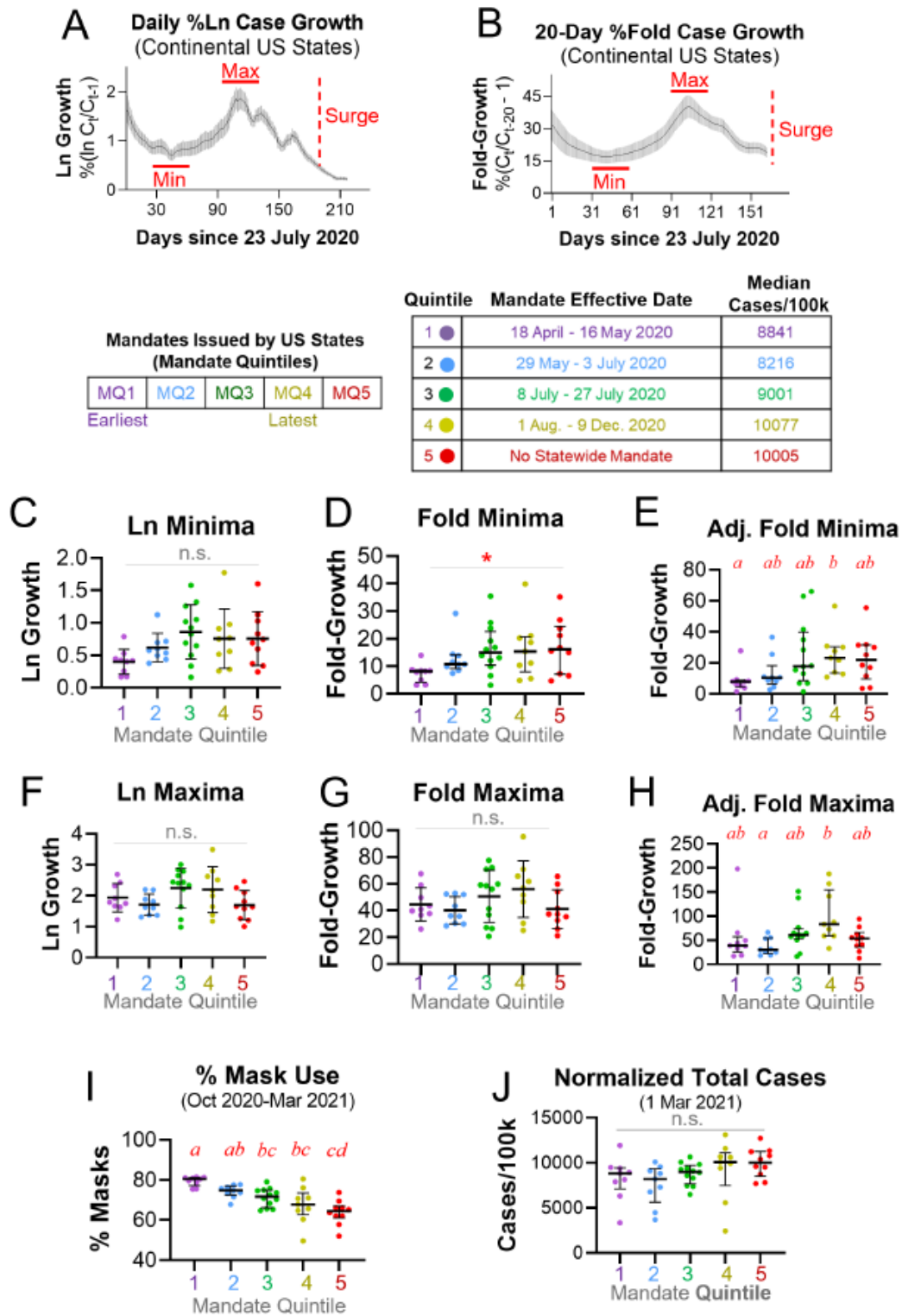
This decision tree conforms with recommended practices for datasets of  $N > 5$  [22].

For interval variable associations, we performed ordinary least squares [OLS]-simple linear regression with null hypotheses of zero slope. Infectious disease research has employed OLS previously [23, 24], with linear and ln-linear models reported in recent COVID-19 studies [25, 26]. For the Summer wave, Northeast states were excluded because they deviated from other states with respect to total cases and growth covariation. We used weighted least squares [WLS] for heteroscedastic data, as determined by the GraphPad Prism Test for Homoscedasticity. Regardless of statistical significance,  $R^2$  values denote coefficients of determination for lines of best fit with unconstrained slopes.

## Results

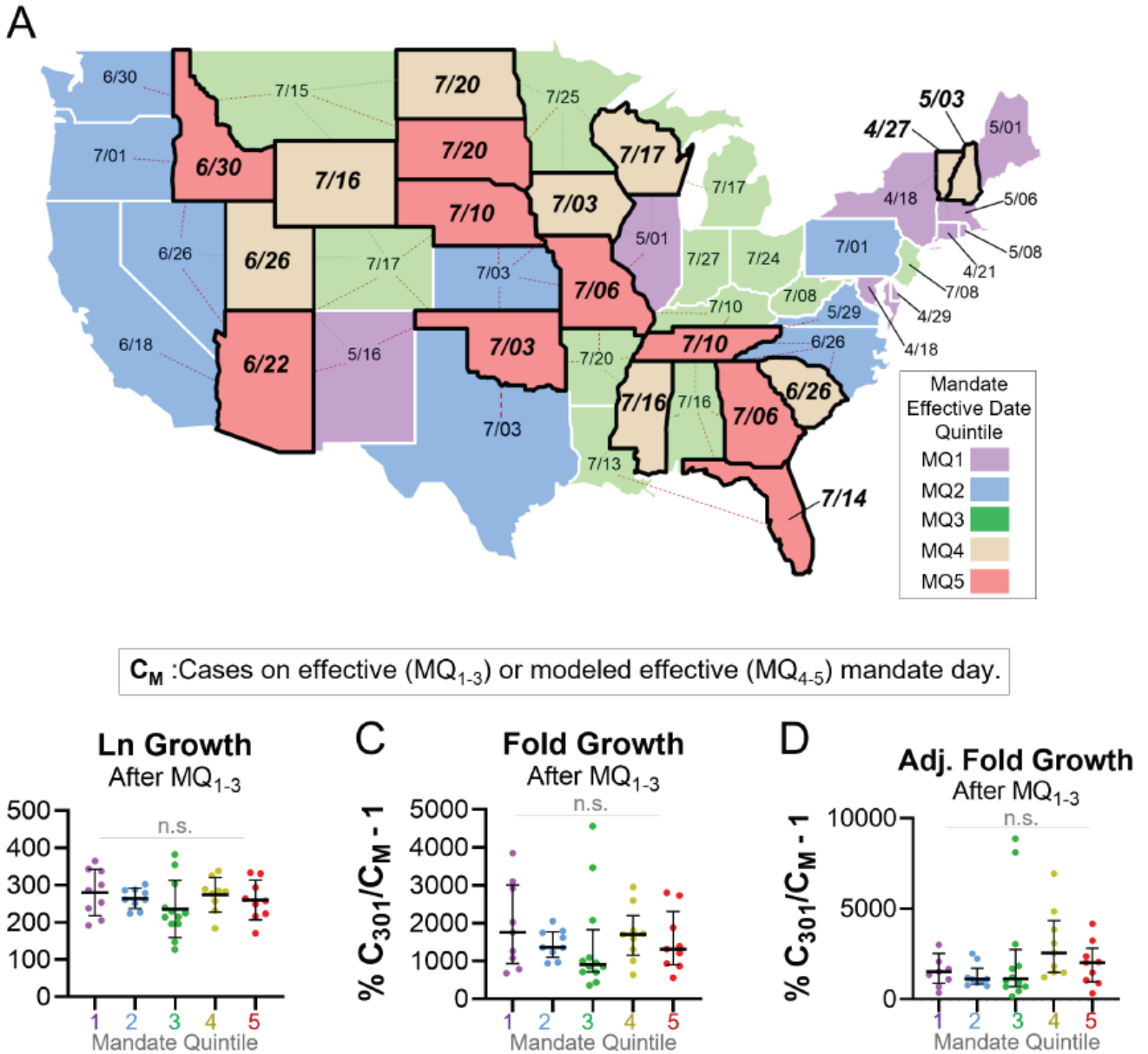
### *COVID-19 growth rates vary with time*

With the aim of reducing COVID-19 case growth, 40 US states enacted mask mandates in 2020. We wondered if mask mandate timing affected COVID-19 growth patterns. To identify patterns of COVID-19 growth, we graphed natural logarithmic [Ln] Growth of COVID-19 in US states as a function of time [**Worksheet A in S1 Table**]. We observed six phases of COVID-19 growth up to 6 March 2021: first wave [before May 2020], Spring minimum [May-June 2020], Summer wave maximum [June-August 2020], post-Summer minimum [August-October 2020], Fall-Winter wave maximum [October-January 2020], and third minimum [March 2021] [**Fig. 1A and S1 Fig**]. Hawaii growth patterns deviated from those of continental US states and was thus excluded from further analysis. Regardless of mask mandate effective date quintile, Ln growth patterns were comparable for all continental US states, and there was no association between normalized total cases and PCR tests [**S1 Fig**].



**Fig 1. Earlier mask mandates are not consistently associated with lower COVID-19 growth rates in continental US States.** A-B. Natural logarithmic [A] and Fold [B] COVID-19 growth in continental US states. Red horizontal lines denote growth rate minima [Min] and maxima [Max] between Summer and Fall-Winter waves. Surge: growth rate increase between Min and Max. C. Ln minima were not associated with the time quintile of a state's mandate effective date [MQ]. D. Fold minima trended lower in MQ1 than MQs 3 and 5. E. Adjusted Fold minima were lower in MQ1 than MQ4 and indistinguishable for all other pairwise comparisons. F-G. Ln [F] and Fold [G] maxima were not associated with mandate effective date time quintiles. H. Adjusted Fold maxima were lower in MQ2 than MQ4 and indistinguishable for all other pairwise comparisons. I. States with earlier mask mandates exhibited greater mask use between Oct. 2020 and March 2021. J. Cases per 100,000 by 1 March 2021 were not associated with mandate effective date time quintiles. Different letters denote  $p < 0.05$  by Tukey tests after one-way ANOVA [C, F, G] or all pairwise comparison Dunn tests after Kruskal-Wallis [D, E, H-J]. \*:  $p < 0.05$  by Kruskal-Wallis. n.s.: not significant. Error bars: 95% confidence intervals [A-B], standard deviations [C, F, G], and interquartile ranges [D, E, H-J].





**Fig 2. Earlier mask mandates are not associated with lower post-mandate COVID-19 growth rates in contiguous US states.** A. Effective and modeled effective [**bold, italicized**] dates in 2020 for mask mandates in contiguous US states. State colors denote effective date time quintiles. Modeled dates of MQ4-5 states [late or no actual mandates] are medians of effective dates among bordering states of MQ1-3 [earlier mandates]. Dashed lines denote MQ1-3 states that border a given MQ4-5 state. B-D. Between actual or modeled mandate effective dates and 1 March 2021, Ln Growth [B], Fold Growth [C], and population density-adjusted Fold Growth [D] were not associated with mandate effective date time quintiles. n.s.: not significant by one-way ANOVA [B] or Kruskal-Wallis [C-D]. Error bars: standard deviations [B] and interquartile ranges [C-D].

*Earlier mask mandates are not consistently associated with COVID-19 growth rates in US states*

A recent study reported time-enhanced negative association between mask mandates and Ln Growth of COVID-19 [15], but simple Fold-Growth [an alternative COVID-19 metric [19, 20] may be preferred for post-exponential, linear pandemic spread. PCR testing for COVID-19 was limited

before Summer 2020 [27]. Thus, to determine if US states with earlier mask mandates exhibited less COVID-19 spread, we examined both Ln Growth and Fold Growth at the post-Summer wave minimum and the Fall-Winter wave maximum [Fig 1A-B]—periods of low and high transmission, respectively. We assigned US states to one of five quintiles [MQ1-5], with MQ1 including states with the earliest mandates, MQ4

the latest mandates, and MQ5 states without mandates. Ln minima [ $p=0.07$ ; **Fig. 1C**] and Fold minima [ $p=0.047$ ; **Fig. 1D**] trended lower for earlier mandates. Fold minima was 3-fold higher in MQ4 than MQ1 after adjusting for population density [ $p=0.04$ ], but all other pairwise comparisons were not significant [**Fig. 1E**]. This suggested that mask mandate duration was a weak predictor of lower minimum growth. Ln maxima [ $p=0.23$ ; **Fig. 1F**] and Fold maxima [ $p=0.19$ ; **Fig. 1G**] did not differ among quintiles. Adjusting for population density, Fold maxima were 2.8-fold higher in MQ4 than MQ2 [ $p=0.01$ ], but MQ1, 3, and 5 were indistinguishable [**Fig. 1H**], suggesting mask mandate duration was not associated with lower maximum growth. Likewise, surges [growth rate increases from minima to maxima] were MQ-independent for Ln [ $p=0.08$ ] and Fold [ $p=0.13$ ] models, and only MQ2 and MQ4 exhibited significantly different Fold surges with population density adjustment [ $p=0.03$ ; **S2 Fig**]. Most MQ4 states exhibited lower initial and Summer 2020 infection waves than Q1-2 [**S1 Fig**], suggesting high MQ4 growth rates could be an artifact of lower total cases. While there was strong positive association between earlier mandates and Fall-Winter mask use [ $p<0.001$ ; **Fig. 1I**], total cases on 1 March 2021 were MQ-independent [ $p<0.07$ ; **Fig. 1J**]. Direct MQ1 vs. MQ5 comparison by t test uncovered a small [1.2-fold] and non-significant [ $p=0.078$ ] difference in total cases. Taken together, these findings suggest that US state mask mandates were not associated with slower spread of COVID-19.

#### *Early mask mandates do not predict lower post-mandate COVID-19 growth in contiguous US states*

Most US states enacted mandates during infection waves, which confounds assessment of effectiveness. To assess association between mandate effective date and post-mandate case growth, we compared growth after actual MQ1-3 mandates with growth after modeled MQ4-5 mandates up to 1 March 2021. For a MQ4-5 state, the modeled date was the effective date median of contiguous, common-border MQ1-3

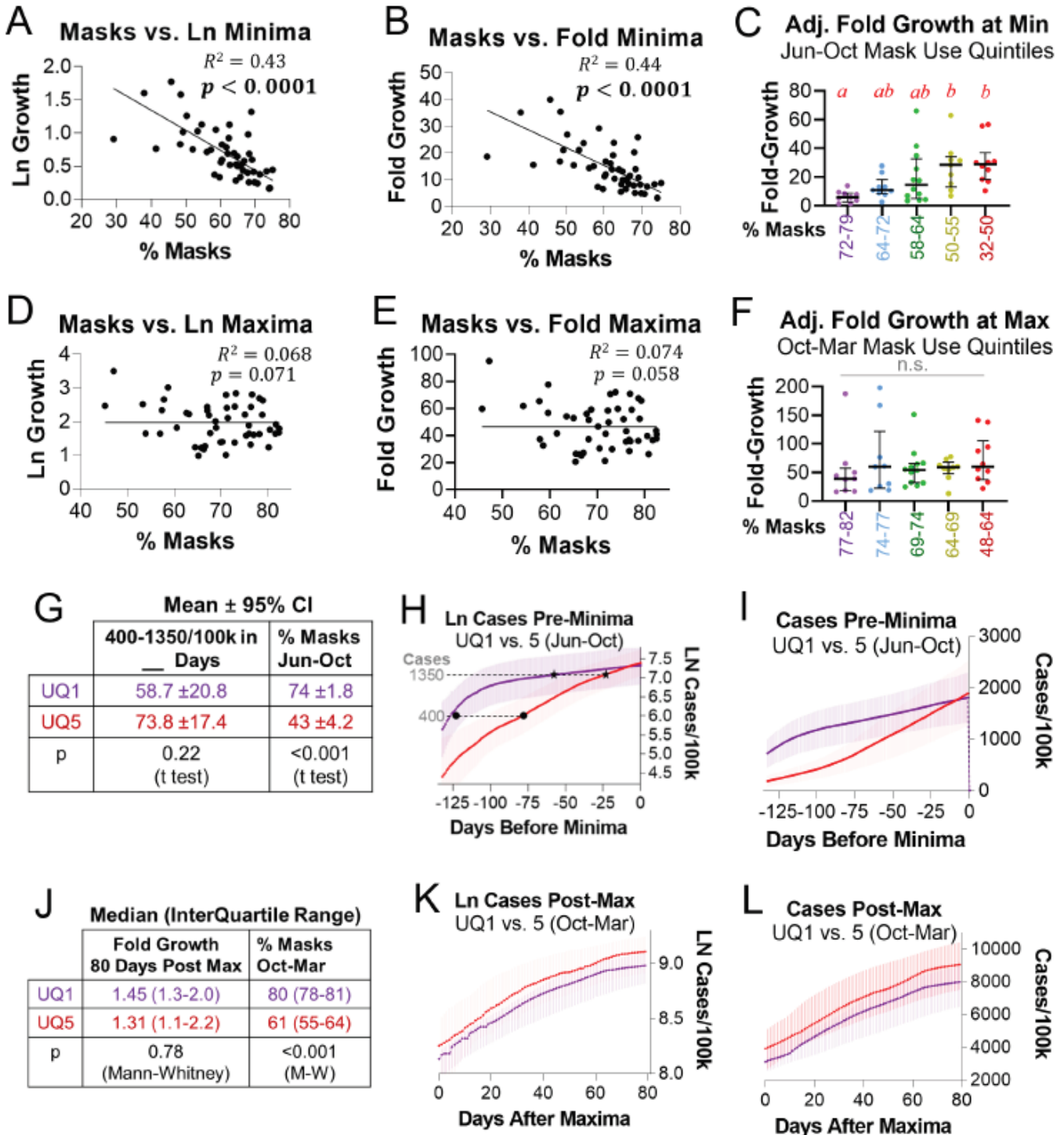
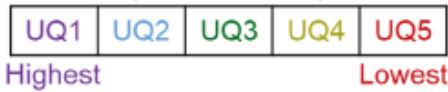
states [**Fig. 2A**]. Post-mandate growth in total cases was MQ-independent by Ln [ $p=0.43$ ], Fold [ $p=0.41$ ], and population density-adjusted Fold [ $p=0.15$ ] models [**Fig. 2B**]. Direct MQ1 vs. MQ5 comparison by Mann-Whitney test uncovered a small [1.3-fold] and non-significant [ $p=0.86$ ] difference in adjusted fold-growth. Overall, we did not obtain an association between mandates and lower COVID-19 growth.

#### *Mask use is not associated with most state COVID-19 case growth*

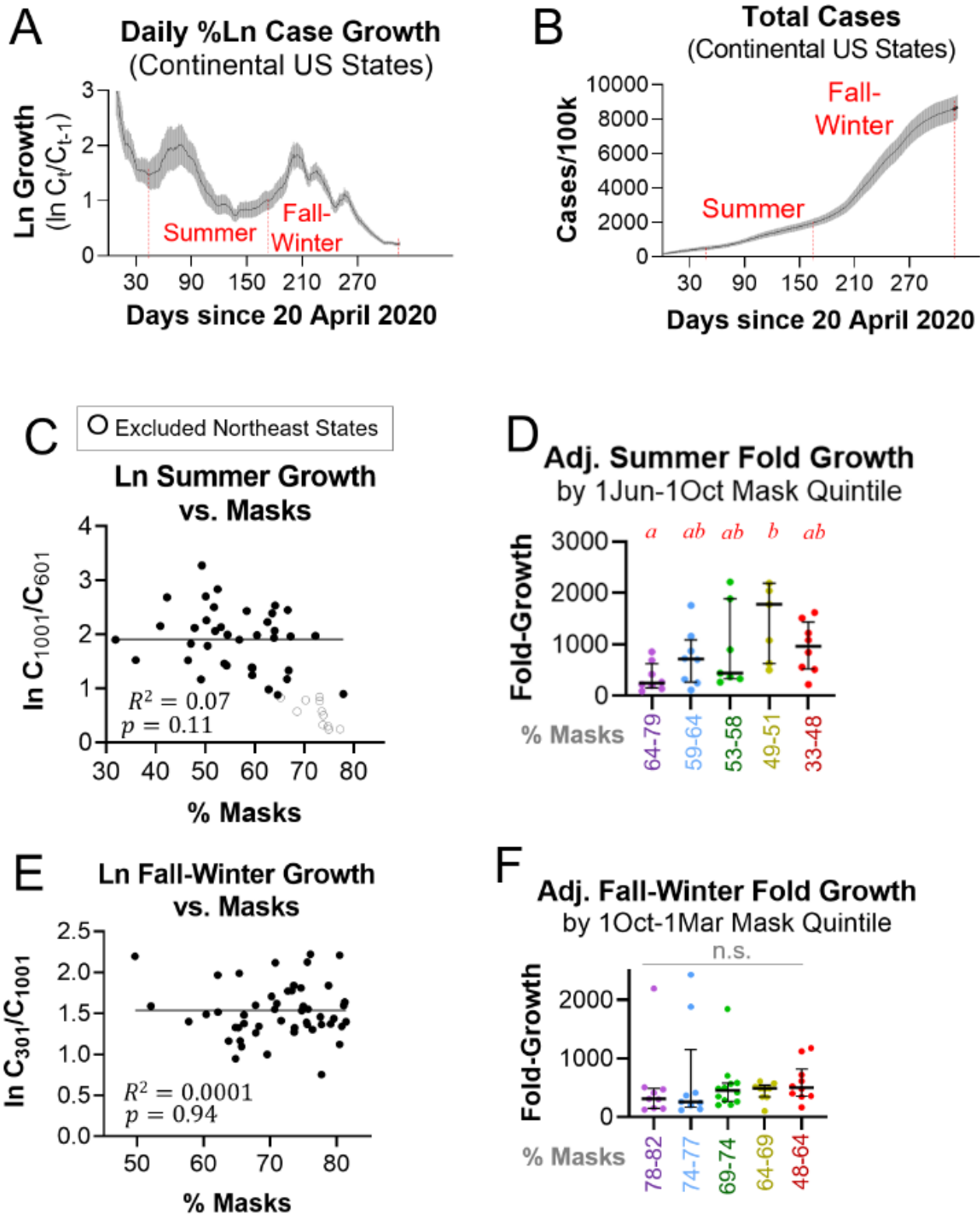
We speculated that statewide mask use, rather than mask mandates per se, may predict lower COVID-19 growth rates. The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation [IHME] provides robust estimates for mask use [defined as the percentage of people who always wear masks in public settings] <sup>[17]</sup>. By simple linear regression, mask use was associated with lower Ln, Fold, and adjusted Fold minima [ $p<0.0001$ ; **Fig 3A-B** and **S3A Fig**]. To better understand this trend, we assigned US states to one of five mask use quintiles [UQ1-5], with UQ1 including states with the highest mask use and UQ5 states with the lowest mask use. UQ5 exhibited a 3.4-fold greater adjusted Fold minimum than UQ1 [ $p=0.002$ ; **Fig 3C**], suggesting potential association between mask use and COVID-19 spread at minima. By contrast, mask use was not associated with Ln [ $p=0.071$ ], Fold [ $p=0.058$ ], or adjusted Fold [ $p=0.076$ ] maxima [**Fig 3D-E** and **S3D Fig**]. Adjusted Fold maxima were also UQ-independent [ $p=0.56$ ; **Fig 3F**], with direct UQ1 vs. UQ5 comparison by Mann-Whitney test uncovering a modest [1.5-fold] and non-significant [ $p=0.16$ ] difference in maxima. This suggests that mask use is not associated with COVID-19 spread at maxima.

We wondered why mask use was associated with lower minimum but not lower maximum growth rates. Mask use was not associated with total cases at Ln minima [ $p=0.54$ ] or maxima [ $p=0.086$ ; **S3C-D Fig**], indicating potential confounders in the mask-minimum growth relationship. Excluding Northeast states, which exhibited the largest first waves and July 2020 seroprevalence [13, 28], total cases predicted

**Mask Use Among US States  
(Use Quintiles)**



**Fig 3. Mask use does not consistently predict COVID-19 case growth in continental US states.** A-C. At minima, mask use was associated with lower ln [A], fold [B], and population density-adjusted fold [C] growth rates. D-F. At maxima, mask use was not associated with ln [D], fold [E], or population density-adjusted fold [F] growth rates. G. States in June-Oct. 2020 mask use quintiles [UQ] 1 and 5 grew from 400 to 1350 normalized cases at indistinguishable rates before minima. H-I. Ln cases [H] and cases [I] vs. time for UQ1 and UQ5. J. States in Oct. 2020-March 2021 mask use UQ1 and UQ5 exhibited indistinguishable Fold Growth 80 days after maxima. K-L. Ln cases [K] and cases [L] vs. time for UQ1 and UQ5. Simple linear regression used weighted [A-B] or ordinary [D-E] least squares.  $R^2$  values refer to unconstrained lines of best fit. Different letters denote  $p < 0.05$  by all pairwise comparison Dunn tests after Kruskal-Wallis [C, F]. n.s.: not significant. Error bars: Interquartile ranges [C, F, J, K] and 95% confidence intervals [G-H].



**Fig 4. Mask use does not predict lower COVID-19 growth during the Summer or Fall-Winter waves.** A-B. Ln Growth rate [A] and total COVID-19 cases [B] for continental US states from 20 April 2020 to 6 March 2021. Red vertical lines denote Summer [Jun-Oct 2020] and Fall-Winter [Oct 2020-Mar 2021] waves. C. Mask use does not predict Summer Ln Growth in non-Northeast states. D. In the Summer wave, population-adjusted Fold Growth was lower in Summer mask use UQ1 than UQ4 and indistinguishable among UQ2-5. E. Mask use does not predict Fall-Winter Ln Growth in continental US states. F. In the Fall-Winter wave, population-adjusted Fold Growth was indistinguishable among Fall-Winter mask use quintiles. Simple linear regression used ordinary least squares [C, E].  $R^2$  values refer to unconstrained lines of best fit. Different letters denote  $p < 0.05$  by all pairwise comparison Dunn tests after Kruskal-Wallis [D, F]. n.s.: not significant. Error bars: 95% confidence intervals [A-B] and interquartile ranges [D, F]. Solid circles [●]: All continental US states. Hollow circles [○]: Excluded Northeast states.

lower Ln minima [ $p=0.001$ ; **S3E Fig**]. This suggested that the link between mask use and lower minima may be an artifact of the tendency for faster case growth to occur at lower case prevalence. In support of this, for 1 June – 1 Oct. 2020 mask use quintiles, normalized cases grew from 400 to 1350 at similar rates for UQ1 [which includes eight Northeast states] and UQ5 [ $p=0.22$ ; **Fig. 3G**]. UQ5 exhibited exponential growth and reached these case totals ~50 days after UQ1 [**Fig 3H-I**], further implying that higher growth rates may reflect lower total cases in low mask use states before minima. 0-80 days after Ln maxima, when total case differences were smaller among states, UQ1 and UQ5 exhibited indistinguishable growth rates [ $p=0.78$ ; **Fig 3J**; 1 Oct. 2020 – 1 March 2021 mask use quintiles]. Growth was post-exponential for both UQ1 and UQ5 during this period [**Fig 3K-L**], and total cases predicted lower Ln maxima in all continental US states [ $p<0.0001$ ; **S3F Fig**]. Together, these data suggest that mask use is an unreliable predictor of COVID-19 growth in US states.

*Mask use does not predict Summer or Fall-Winter COVID-19 cumulative growth in US states.*

As expected, total cases were negatively associated with Ln growth in non-Northeast states for 1 June-1 Oct. 2020 and all continental US states for 1 Oct. 2020 – 1 March 2021 [ $p<0.0001$ ; **S4A-B Fig**]. We reasoned that even if mask use could not predict growth rate, mask use may be negatively associated with cumulative case growth. 1 June-1 Oct. 2020 [Summer] 1 Oct. 2020 – 1 March 2021 [Fall-Winter] represent two distinct COVID-19 growth waves [**Fig 4A-B**]. Excluding Northeast states, masks were not associated with lower Summer growth using Ln [ $p=0.11$ ; **Fig 4C**] or Fold [ $p=0.18$ ; **S4C Fig**] models. Mask use trended with lower adjusted Fold Summer growth [ $p=0.05$ ; **S4D Fig**]. While adjusted Fold Summer growth was 3-fold higher in UQ4 than UQ1 [ $p=0.009$ ], all other pairwise comparisons were not significant [**Fig. 4D**]. Likewise, mask use was not associated with lower Fall-Winter growth

using Ln [ $p=0.94$ ; **Fig 4E**], Fold [ $p=0.91$ ; **S4E Fig**], or adjusted Fold [ $p=0.71$ ; **S4F Fig**] models, and adjusted Fold Fall-Winter growth was not significantly different among mask use quintiles [ $p=0.38$ ; **Fig. 4F**]. These data suggest that mask use is not consistently associated with Summer wave growth and not associated with Fall-Winter wave growth in US states. Furthermore, low Summer growth did not protect Northeast states from subsequent Fall-Winter growth. In summary, statewide SARS-CoV-2 transmission waves appear independent of reported mask use <sup>[17]</sup>.

## Discussion

Our main finding is that mask mandates and use likely did not affect COVID-19 case growth. Mask mandates were associated with greater mask use but ultimately did not influence total normalized cases or post-mandate case growth. Higher mask use [rather than mandates per se] has been argued to decrease COVID-19 growth rates <sup>[11]</sup>. While compliance varies by location and time, IHME estimates are derived from multiple sources and densely sampled. Even when accounting for population density, higher mask use was not associated with lower Ln or fold maximum growth rates or lower Fall-Winter case growth among continental US states. By contrast, mask use-growth rate association was highly significant at minima. This antinomy warrants consideration. Mask use did not predict normalized cases at growth minima or maxima, whereas there were more cases in the highest than the lowest mask use quintile before minima. Northeast states exhibited the highest seroprevalence by July 2020 <sup>[28]</sup> and comprised 80% of the highest mask use quintile, suggesting that mask use may be a lagging indicator of case growth. At maxima, when case prevalence was similar among states, COVID-19 growth rates were also similar for the highest and lowest mask use quintiles. Thus, initial association between masks and lower COVID-19 growth rates that dissipated during the Fall-Winter 2020-21 wave is likely an artifact of fewer normalized cases begetting faster growth in states with coincidental low mask use.



There is inferential but not demonstrable evidence that masks reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Animal models [29], small case studies [6], and growth curves for mandate-only states [16] suggest that mask efficacy increases with mask use [11]. However, we did not observe lower growth rates over a range of compliance at maximum Fall-Winter growth [45-83% between South Dakota and Massachusetts during maxima] [17] when growth rates were high. This complements a Danish RCT from 3 April to 2 June 2020, when growth rates were low, which found no association between mask use and lower COVID-19 rates either for all participants in the masked arm [47% strong compliance] or for strongly compliant participants only [8]. While N-95 respirators offer some protection against respiratory viruses [10], there is limited evidence for cloth and medical masks. Higher self-reported mask use protected against SARS-CoV-1 in Beijing residents [30], but RCTs found no differences in PCR confirmed influenza among Hong Kong households assigned to hand hygiene with or without masks [mask use 31% and 49%, respectively] [31]. Medical and cloth masks did not reduce viral respiratory infections among clinicians in Vietnam [9] or China [10], and rhinovirus transmission increased among universally masked Hong Kong students and teachers in 2020 compared with prior years [32]. These findings are consistent with a 2020 CDC meta-analysis [33] and a 2020 Cochrane review update [34].

Our study has implications for respiratory virus mitigation. Public health measures should ethically promote behaviors that prevent communicable diseases. The sudden onset of COVID-19 compelled adoption of mask mandates before efficacy could be evaluated. Our findings do not support the hypothesis that greater public mask use decreases COVID-19 spread. As masks have been required in many settings, it is prudent to weigh potential benefits with harms. Masks may promote social cohesion during a pandemic [35], but risk compensation can also occur [36]. By obscuring nonverbal communication, masks interfere with social

learning in children [37]. Likewise, masks can distort verbal speech and remove visual cues to the detriment of individuals with hearing loss; clear face-shields improve visual integration, but there is a corresponding loss of sound quality [38, 39]. Prolonged mask use [>4 hours per day] promotes facial alkalinization and inadvertently encourages dehydration, which in turn can enhance barrier breakdown and bacterial infection risk [40]. British clinicians have reported masks to increase headaches and sweating and decrease cognitive precision [41]. Survey bias notwithstanding, these sequelae are associated with medical errors [42]. Future research is necessary to assess risks of long-term daily mask use [34]. As COVID-19 remains a public health threat, it is also appropriate to emphasize interventions with demonstrated efficacy against COVID-19, most notably vaccination [43] and vitamin D repletion [44].

In conclusion, we found mask mandates and use to be poor predictors of COVID-19 spread in US states. Strengths of our study include assessing COVID-19 association with both mandates and reported use; evaluating both Ln and Fold growth models; accounting for population density differences; and measuring case growth after modeled mandate effective dates in states with late or no mandates. Our study also has key limitations. We did not assess counties or localities, which may trend independently of state averages. While dense sampling promotes convergence, IHME masking estimates are subject to survey bias. We only assessed one biological quantity [confirmed and probable COVID-19], but the ongoing pandemic warrants assessment of other factors such as hospitalizations and mortality. Importantly, our study does not disprove the efficacy of all masks in limited and controlled circumstances, such as properly worn N95 respirators. A recent study found that at typical respiratory fluence rates, medical masks decrease airway deposition of 10-20 $\mu$ m SARS-CoV-2 particles but not 1-5 $\mu$ m SARS-CoV-2 aerosols [45]. Aerosol expulsion increases with COVID-19 disease severity in non-human primates, as well as with age and

BMI in humans without COVID-19 [46]. Together with enhanced vaccination rates, aerosol treatment with improved ventilation and air purification could help reduce the size of COVID-19 outbreaks.

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### Notes from Editorial Office

International Research Journal of Public Health (ISSN:2573-380X) is committed to freedom of expression. Sharing different research information in public health improves global health and creates new insights. Our aim is to provide a platform that encourages publication of the most recent research and reviews for authors from all countries. The article entitled “*Mask mandate and use efficacy for COVID-19 containment in US States*” by *Drs Damian D. Guerra and Daniel J. Guerra* was initially reviewed and then accepted for publication without peer-review (Per our policies, we may accept and publish a few manuscripts of authors without peer-review. [click here for details](#)). Should you have any questions or comments regarding the article, you may contact the authors directly. Or please contact us.

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January 14, 2022

Dear Minnetonka City Council Members:

PLEASE do not mandate masks in Minnetonka! This decision should be left up to each business, grocery store, bank, fitness club, restaurant, mall, etc....

I am specifically asking on behalf of the people who attend fitness clubs. It's winter, and people need a place to exercise inside. Especially people who depend on swimming pools. By the way, people who attend fitness clubs **are not sick** and do not have covid.

My husband and I tested positive for covid in early December. We struggled to get out of bed in the mornings and get to the bathroom. After the bathroom, we had to decide if we were strong enough to get to the kitchen, sit at the table, couch, chair, or just climb back into bed.

We had no energy to get in a car and drive anywhere. We could not do our jobs, even though we both work from home.

We have a large freezer full of food in the house but had no strength or energy to prepare any meals. Family members and friends dropped off homemade lasagna, soups, and other healthy food for us at our door which took relatively no preparation on our part. They made trips to the pharmacy for us to pick up Ivermectin and other prescriptions that our doctor prescribed for us.

Christmas came, and our family postponed getting together. New Years Day came, and we postponed again. Even though we no longer had covid anymore and we were no longer contagious, we decided to cancel our third attempt at getting together because we were still not feeling well enough to get all dressed up and leave the house. This is common sense.

A very wealthy man once told me that common sense isn't so common... and it's too bad because a lot of intelligent people sometimes have no common sense.

My point is, no one who has covid is going to the gym. They can't. They can't drive there, they can't shoot hoops, play pickleball, run on a treadmill, swim in a pool, ride a stationary bike, lift weights, join a rebounding class (mini-trampoline), or do anything else at the gym. It's not possible. They are sick. They are also not going to Cub Foods, Costco, Target, Walmart, or to get a haircut. They aren't going anywhere.

A person who has covid is trying to figure out how to get their dirty laundry bucket to the washing machine because they are running out of clean underwear. Or trying to decide if they have enough energy to take a shower that day. They eat a banana for breakfast instead of bacon, eggs, and a fruit smoothy because it takes less energy and time to just eat the banana and then sit for a while before getting back in bed.

People who go to the gym regularly want to stay healthy and get the maximum benefit from their workout. It's hard to run on a treadmill with a mask on. It's hard to breathe! One benefit of exercising is to get more oxygen into your body. When you wear a mask, you get less oxygen.

I became a member of the Marsh, which is now owned by the YMCA, several years ago. The individual membership fee is \$97.00 per month. The only reason I joined is because of the therapy pool, which is a small swimming pool that is heated like a bathtub. I don't like swimming in other pools, like at the Williston Center, because the water is much colder than in the therapy pool at the Marsh.

During the first statewide covid shutdown, The Marsh closed and didn't charge their members the monthly fee until it reopened. This was the right thing to do!

The second time they closed, they continued charging members the monthly fee even though we couldn't use the facility. This was the wrong thing to do! No business should ever charge customers for a service (or a product) they can't have access to. That's stealing!

I know two members who quit their membership at the Marsh during this time. It made no sense to pay for something you can't have. They never went back.

When the Marsh reopened with a mask mandate, I was required to wear a mask in the therapy pool while trying to do my exercises. For one of my exercises, I lay on my stomach in the water, holding the bar with my hands, arms stretched out, with my face in the water, kicking my legs in place. WEARING A MASK! WITH MY FACE IN THE WATER! This is stupid! Very Complicated! NOT common sense... and pretty much impossible. You can't blow bubbles (breath out) with your face in the water wearing a mask. This is so dumb!!! Even dangerous. Whoever makes up these rules has no common sense.

I look forward to exercising again in the therapy pool when my strength comes back. However, if you implement a mask mandate, I will most likely cancel my membership. It's not common sense to keep paying \$97.00 per month for something I can't properly do because of a mask requirement.

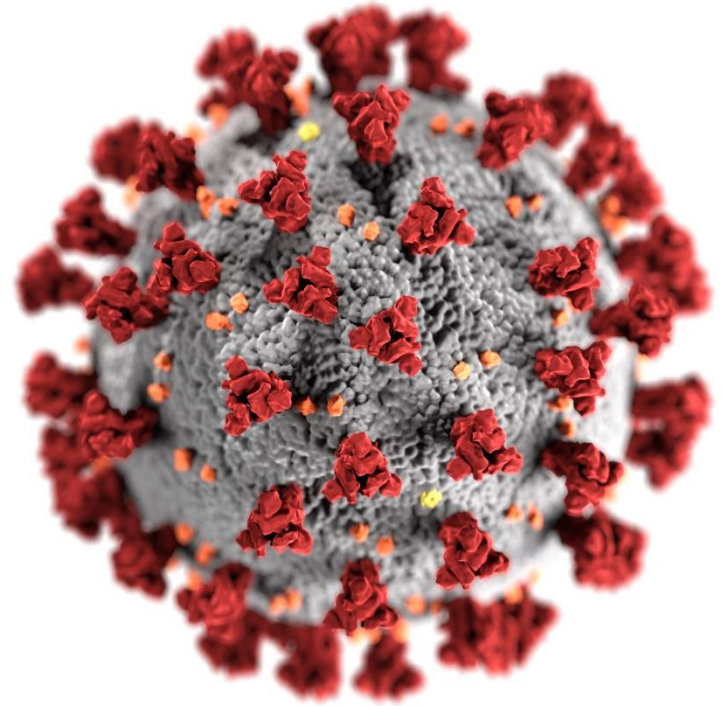
If people in Minnetonka are afraid to go somewhere, they have the option to wear a mask if that makes them feel safer. They also have the option to stay home. You can't eat in a restaurant without taking your mask off. Again, I appeal to common sense.

Please vote against a mask mandate in Minnetonka! Let people and businesses make their own decisions. I would like to think that we are all smart people, have common sense, and can make good choices.

I will patronize businesses, grocery stores, and places where I can go without wearing a mask. Even if this means I drive a little farther... outside of Minnetonka.

Sincerely, Marie (Minnetonka Resident since 2000).

# The Science of Masking to Control COVID-19

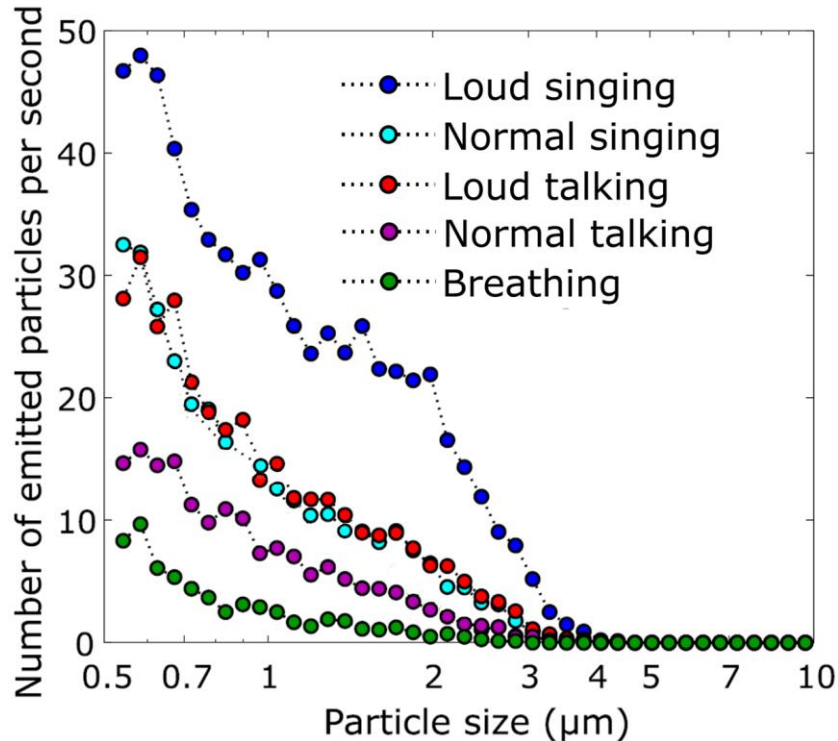


[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Valid as of November 16, 2020



# Most SARS-CoV-2 Infections Are Spread by People without Symptoms



Infection is spread primarily through exposure to respiratory droplets exhaled by infected people when they breathe, talk, cough, sneeze, or sing

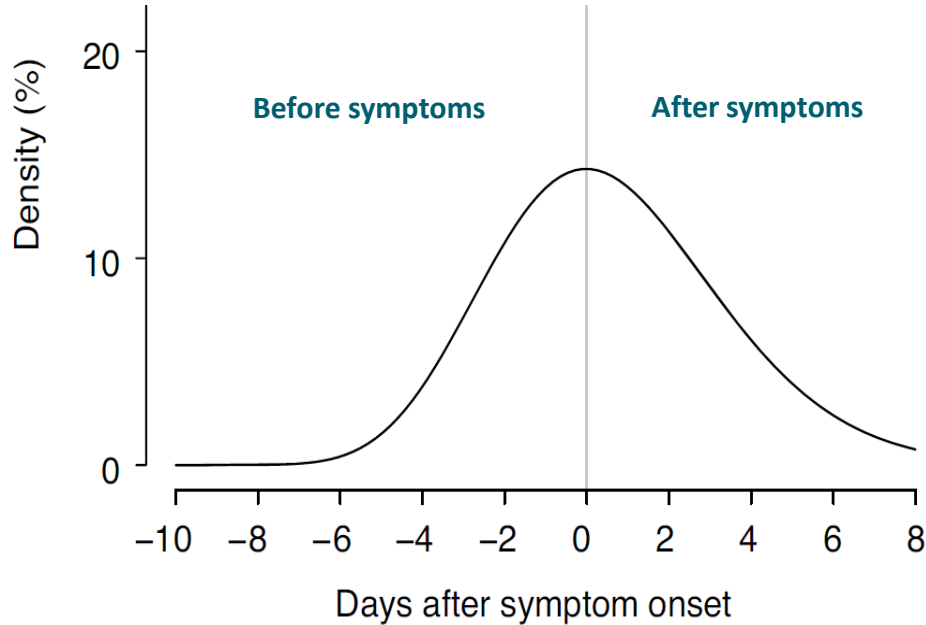
- Most of these droplets are  $<10 \mu\text{m}$ , often referred to as aerosols
- The amount of these fine droplets and particles increases with volume of speech (e.g., loud talking, shouting) and respiratory exertion (e.g., exercise)



Adapted from Aslved et al. 2020, *Aerosol Sci Technol*; <https://doi.org/10.1080/02786826.2020.1812502>.

Valid as of November 16, 2020

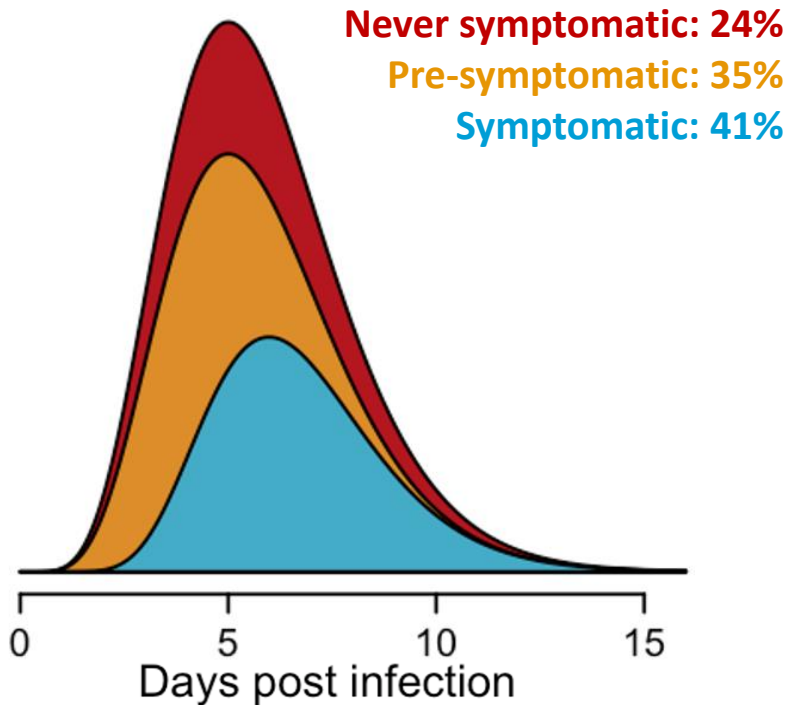
# Most SARS-CoV-2 Infections Are Spread by People without Symptoms



- 40-45% of infected people are estimated to never develop symptoms
- Among people who do develop symptomatic illness
  - Transmission risk peaks in the days just before symptom onset (presymptomatic infection) and for a few days thereafter
  - Accordingly, the number of infections transmitted peaks when virus levels peak



# Most SARS-CoV-2 Infections Are Spread by People without Symptoms



- CDC and others estimate that more than 50% of all infections are transmitted from people who are not exhibiting symptoms
- This means, at least half of new infections come from people likely unaware they are infectious to others (red and orange in the figure, left)\*

\* Figure assumes peak infectiousness occurs 5 days after infection and that 24% of infections are asymptomatic. With these assumptions, 59% of infections would be transmitted when no symptoms are present but could range 51%-70% if the fraction of asymptomatic infections were 24%-30% and peak infectiousness ranged 4-6 days.



# Three Levels of Scientific Evidence Demonstrate the Benefit of Community Masking to Control SARS-CoV-2

1. Controlled laboratory-based experimental studies of cloth masks' capacity to
  - Block exhaled emission of virus-laden respiratory particles (source control)
  - Reduce inhalation of these droplets by the wearer (personal protection)
2. Epidemiological investigations
  - Outbreaks
  - Cohort and case-control studies
3. Population-level community studies
  - Across multiple levels (e.g., hospital system, city, state, country, multi-country)

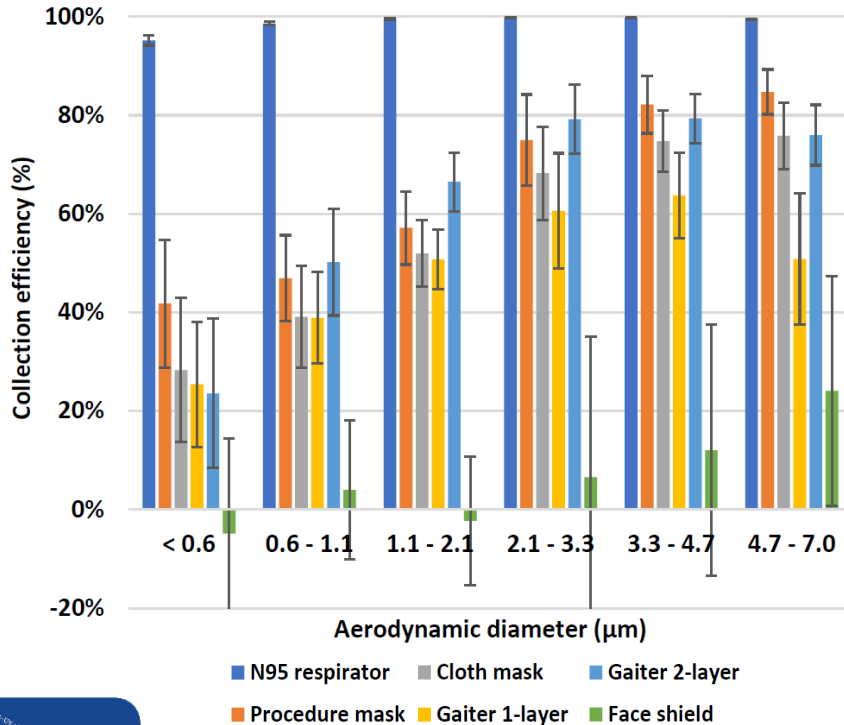


# Community Masking to Control SARS-CoV-2

Experimental Studies



# Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Source Control (exhalational)



Cloth masks provide source control

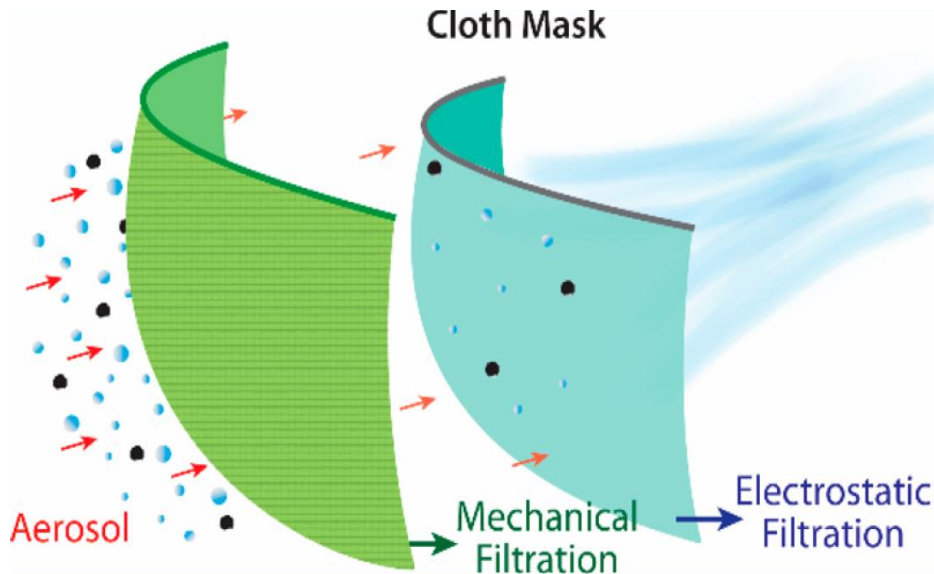
- Cloth masks block most large (>20-30 μm) exhaled respiratory droplets
- Multi-layer cloth masks substantially block respiratory droplets <1-10 μm
  - Comprise the greatest fraction of exhaled respiratory droplets
  - Reductions as high as 50-70%
- Some on par with surgical masks

Figure from Lindsley et al. 2020; [medRxiv: doi 10.1101/2020.10.05.20207241](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.10.05.20207241). See “Appendix” at end of slide set for full set of references.

Valid as of November 16, 2020



# Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Filtering Protection (inhalational)



Cloth masks also filter inhaled droplets

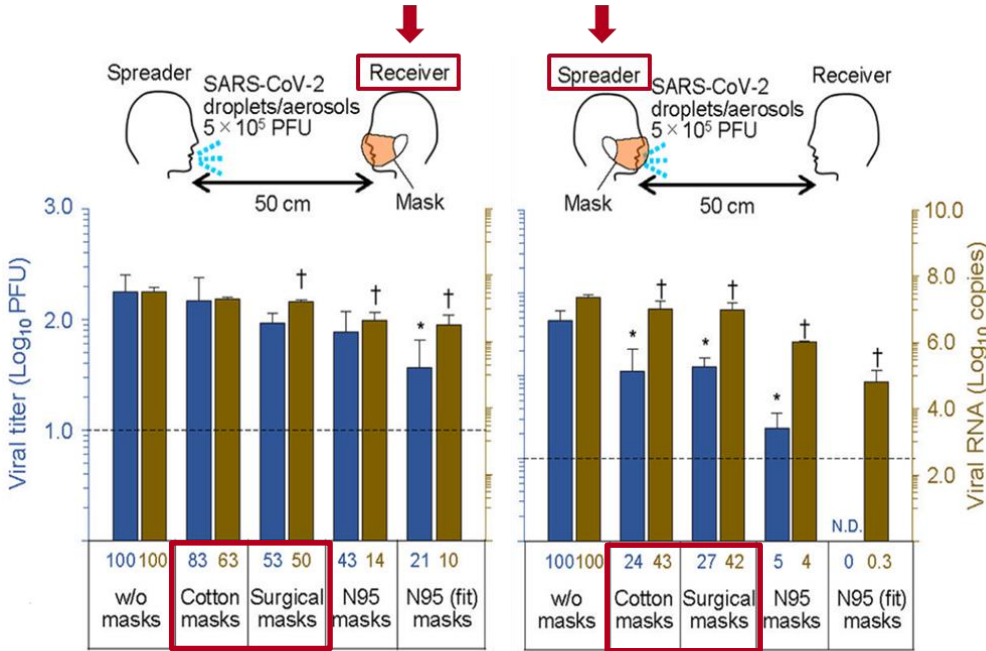
- Their performance *filtering inhaled* small droplets is not as good as their performance *blocking exhaled* small droplets
- Improvements possible with more layers, multiple materials
  - Static charge, hydrophobic
- Opportunities for innovation



Image from Konda et al. 2020, [ACS Nano](#); 14(5):6339-6347. See “Appendix” at end of slide set for full set of references.

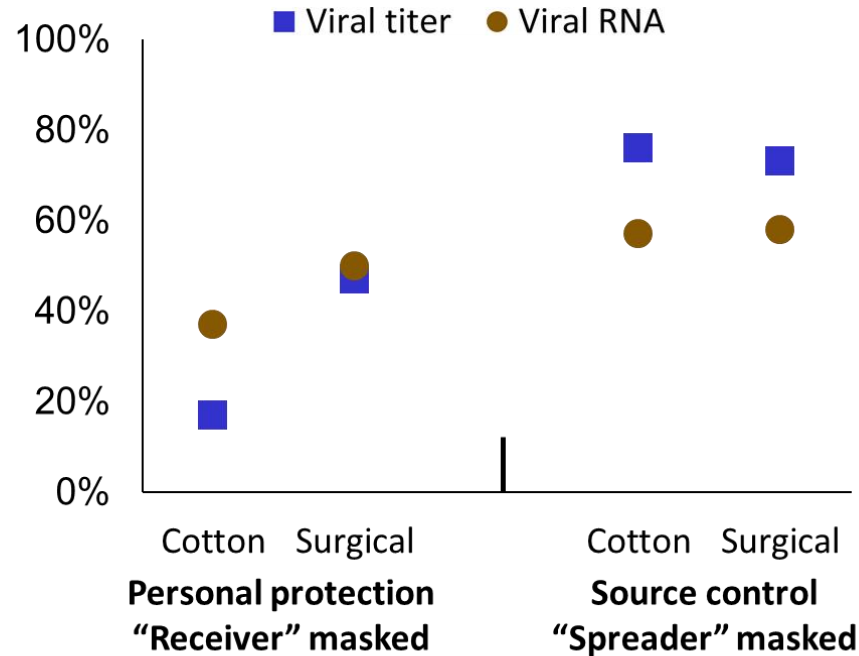
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# Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Two-Headed Experimental Masking Evaluation using SARS-CoV-2



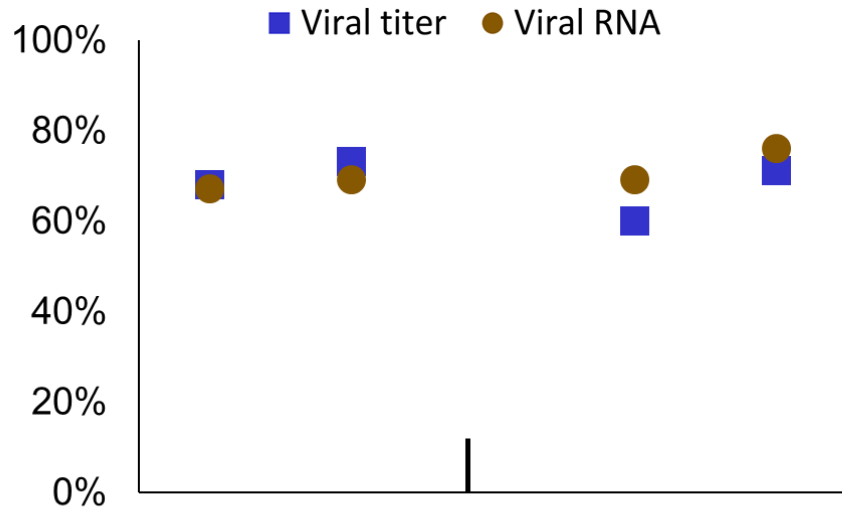
The numbers below the bars show the percentages detected relative to the left-most control bar values. \* and † indicate p-value <0.05 compared with left-most columns.

## Relative Percentage Reduction in Collection Received Cotton and Surgical Masks: Separately



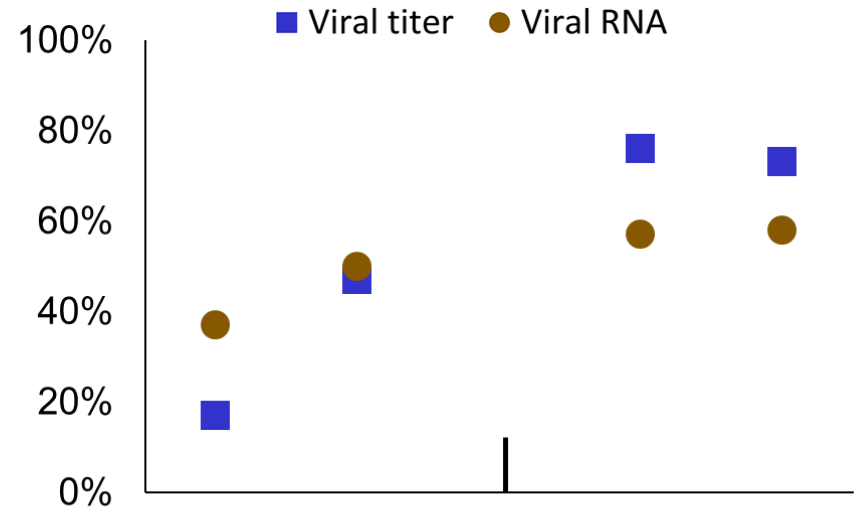
# Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Two-Headed Experimental Masking Evaluation using SARS-CoV-2

Relative Percentage Reduction in Collection Received  
Cotton and Surgical Masks: **Combined**



**Spreader:** Cotton Cotton Surgical Surgical  
**Receiver:** Cotton Surgical Cotton Surgical

Relative Percentage Reduction in Collection Received  
Cotton and Surgical Masks: **Separately**



**Personal protection**  
"Receiver" masked

**Source control**  
"Spreader" masked



Ueki et al. 2020, [mSphere](https://doi.org/10.1128/mSphere.00637-20); doi.org/10.1128/mSphere.00637-20.

Valid as of November 16, 2020

## Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Summary

- Focus on the *relative* effects, not the absolute values from these laboratory studies
  - All experiments are proxies for human experience and biological processes
- Source control is substantial, but there is also measurable and meaningful personal protection with the use of cloth masks
  - Masking reduces the wearers' viral exposure
- Cloth masks are comparable to surgical masks when used together for community control (i.e., when combined for both source control *and* personal protection)



# Community Masking to Control SARS-CoV-2

Epidemiological Investigations





# Multiple Epidemiologic Investigations of Cloth Mask Effectiveness

## ■ High-risk exposure events

- May 2020: 2 symptomatically ill hair stylists
  - Interacted closely, for 15 minutes on average, with 139 clients over an 8-day period
  - The stylists and all clients wore masks per local ordinance and company policy
  - *0 of 67 clients subsequently reached for interview and tested developed infection*
- March and April 2020: Outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt
  - Environment notable for congregate living quarters and close working environments
  - *Use of face coverings on-board was associated with a 70% reduced risk*

## ■ Retrospective case-control study of exposed contacts (Thailand)

- March 2020: People who reported having always worn a mask during high-risk exposures
  - Experienced a *greater than 70% reduced risk of acquiring infection* compared with people who did not wear masks under these circumstances



Hendrix et al 2020, [MMWR](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.22.20109231); doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.22.20109231. Payne et al. 2020, [MMWR](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.22.20109231); 69(23):714-721.

Doung-Ngern et al. 2020, [Emerg Infect Dis](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.22.20109231);26(11).

# Multiple Epidemiologic Investigations of Cloth Mask Effectiveness

## ▪ Household surveys

- February and March 2020: Within 124 Beijing households with  $\geq 1$  laboratory-confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 infection
  - Mask use by the index case and family contacts before the index case developed symptoms *reduced secondary transmission within the households by 79%*

## ▪ Air travel

- January 2020: symptomatically ill person was the sole air passenger wearing a surgical mask
  - 15-hour flight (Wuhan to Toronto)
  - *0 of 25 close contacts were infected in subsequent 14 days*
- June and July 2020: At least 6 known infected passengers on 5 flights
  - 11-hour flights (Dubai to Hong Kong)
  - 100% enforced mask mandate on-board
  - *0 new infections among other passengers in the subsequent 14 days*



Schwartz et al. 2020, [CMAJ](#); 192(15):E410. Freedman et al. 2020, [J Travel Med](#); doi: 10.1093/jtm/taaa178.

Wang et al. 2020, [BMJ Glob Health](#); 5:e002794. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002794.

## Frequently Cited Study that Cloth Masks Are Not Protective

- **MacIntyre et al. 2015: 1,607 healthcare workers in 15 Vietnamese hospitals**
  - Compared: Regular use of surgical masks (3-ply), regular use of cloth masks (2-ply), control (standard masking practice)
  - Endpoint: Respiratory illness identified through self-monitoring or lab-confirmed infection with flu, rhinovirus, or human metapneumovirus
  - Outcome: Despite equal compliance wearing surgical and cloth masks, cloth masks were statistically no better than the control situation and inferior to surgical masks against
    - Clinical upper respiratory illness
    - Lab-confirmed viral infection



# Frequently Cited Study that Cloth Masks Are Not Protective

- **Generalization of these findings to community masking is limited**
  - Study did not include SARS-CoV-2 infection
  - Study did not include a true “no mask” group
  - Study took place in a healthcare setting and not a general community setting
  - Hospitalized patients and other staff were not masked (limited source control)
  - Assignment to study arms was unblinded
    - Possible mask-type preferences could influence self-reporting of illness
  - Cloth masks were washed by users and re-used (risk of self-inoculation handling mask)
    - Re-analysis of the data in 2020 found increased risk of infection from self-washing masks
      - HR of infection for self-washing was 2.04 (95% CI 1.03-4.00); p=0.04
    - *“Healthcare workers whose cloth masks were laundered in the hospital laundry were protected as well as those who wore disposable medical masks.” MacIntyre et al., 2020*



MacIntyre et al. 2020, [BMJ Open](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042045);10:e042045, doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042045.

MacIntyre et al. 2015, [BMJ Open](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2014-006577); 5:e006577, doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2014-006577.

# Community Masking to Control SARS-CoV-2

## Community Studies



# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking

- Seven published reports examined changes in new diagnoses or deaths with mask mandates
  - Massachusetts General Brigham (MGB) Integrated Health Care System
  - Jena city, Germany
  - Arizona state, United States
  - 15 states and District of Columbia, United States (two analyses)
  - Canada, national
  - United States, national
- All observed reductions in new COVID-19 diagnoses (n=6) or deaths (n=3) following recommendations for universal masking

Wang et al. 2020, *JAMA*; 323(14):1341-1342. Gallaway et al 2020, *MMWR*; 69(40):1460-1463. Lyu and Wehby 2020, *Health Affairs (Millwood)*; 39(8):1419-1425.

Mitze et al. 2020, Institute of Labor Economics Report; DP No. 13319, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp13319.pdf>.

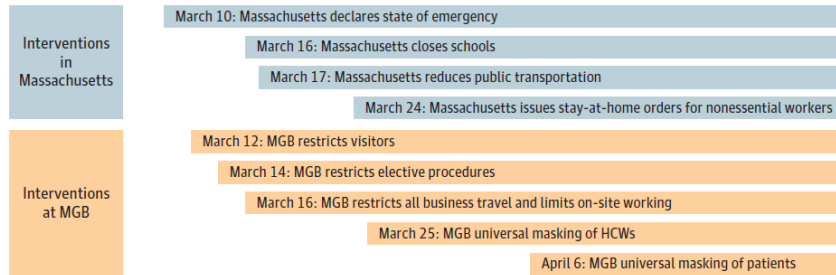
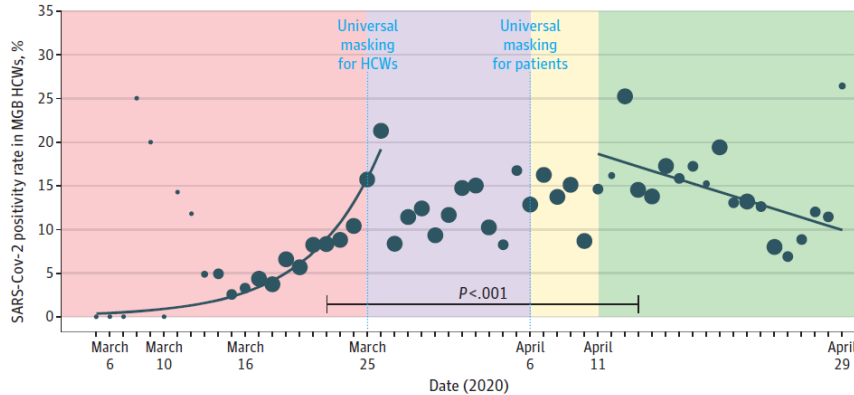
Karaivanov et al. 2020, National Bureau Of Economic Research; Working Paper 27891, <http://www.nber.org/papers/w27891>.

Hatzius et al. 2020, Goldman Sachs Research report <https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/face-masks-and-gdp.html>.

Chernozhukov et al. 2020, *medRxiv*: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.27.20115139>.



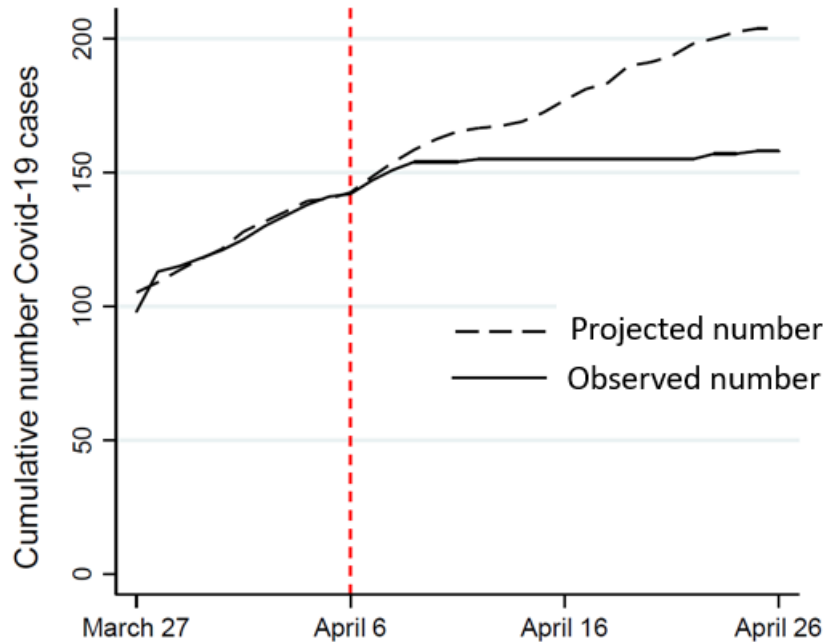
# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking



- MGB required masking for all health care workers (HCW) followed two weeks later by required masking for all patients and visitors
- Despite interventions locally and within the MGB system (see bars below figure)
  - New diagnoses among HCWs first started to decline within ~1 week\* after implementation of full masking mandate

\* Median incubation period is 4-6 days

# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking



- Political leaders mandated universal community masking in the city of Jena (Germany) on April 6, 2020
- New diagnoses leveled off starting about 10 days later\*
- Cumulative decline in number of new diagnoses of about 25% within 20 days
  - >50% for persons aged  $\geq 60$  years
- Other interventions had already been introduced (e.g., social distancing, hand hygiene)

\* Median incubation period is 4-6 days

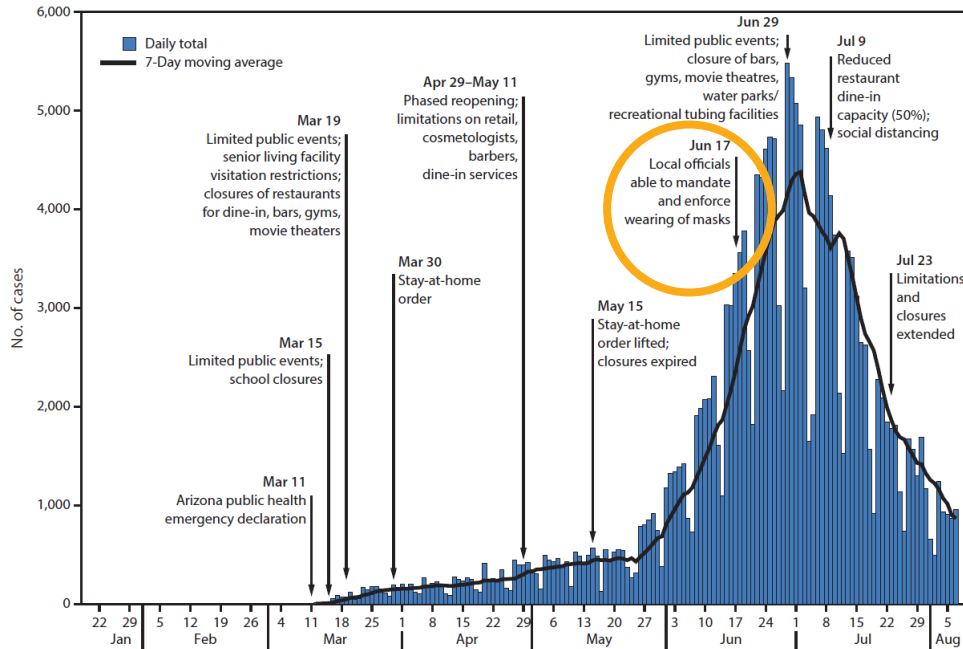
Adapted from Mitze et al. 2020, Institute of Labor Economics Report; DP No. 13319, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp13319.pdf>.

Valid as of November 16, 2020





# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking



- Arizona mandated masking on June 17
- Decline in number of new cases began about 12 days later\*
- Further interventions applied June 29
  - These interventions were coincident with the start of the decline
  - Their effect could not have been instantaneous
  - This observation suggests start of decline was due to earlier masking mandate

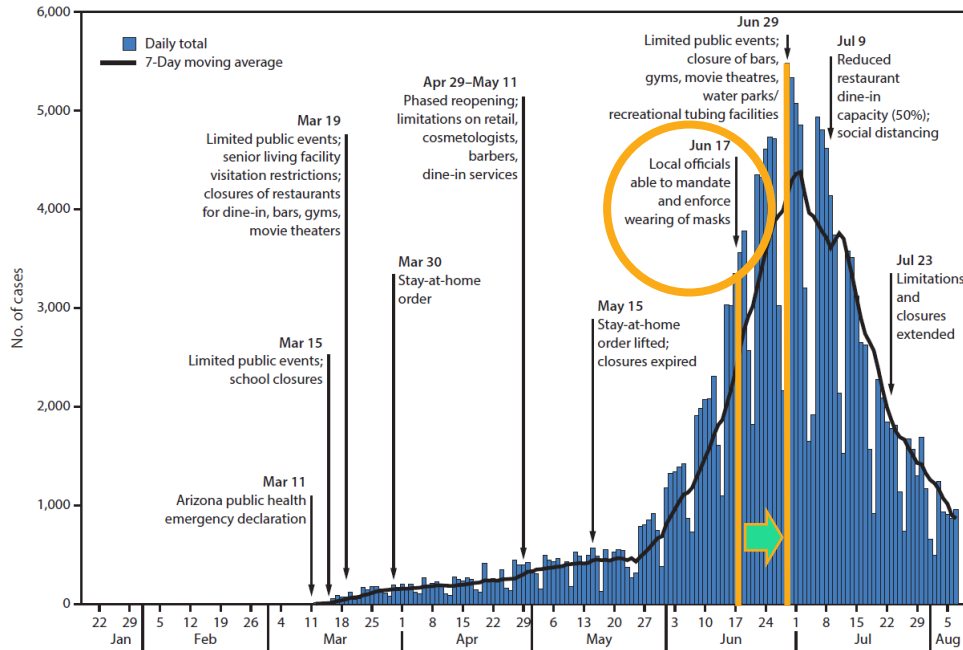
Gallaway et al. 2020, [MMWR](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6940e3); 69(40):1460-1463.10.15585/mmwr.mm6940e3.

\* Median incubation period is 4-6 days

Valid as of November 16, 2020



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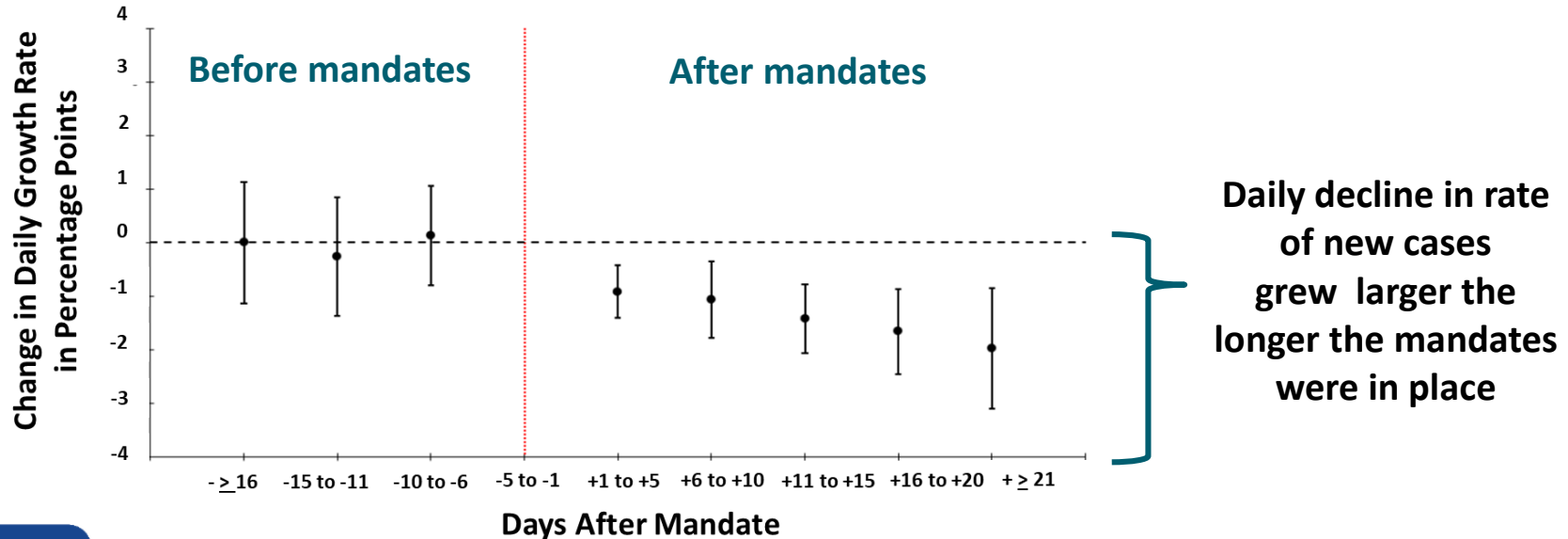
\* Median incubation period is 4-6 days

Valid as of November 16, 2020



# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking

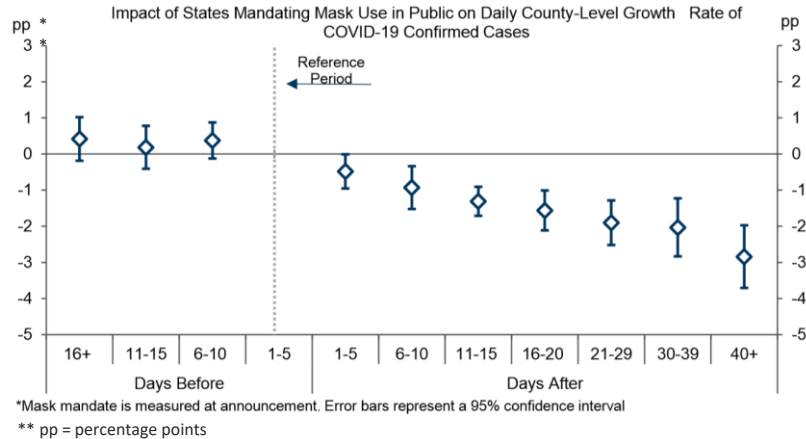
- Masking mandates in 15 states led to 2% decline in rate of new diagnoses by 21 days\*
- Rate of decline steadily increased with time after mandate, doubling by 21 days



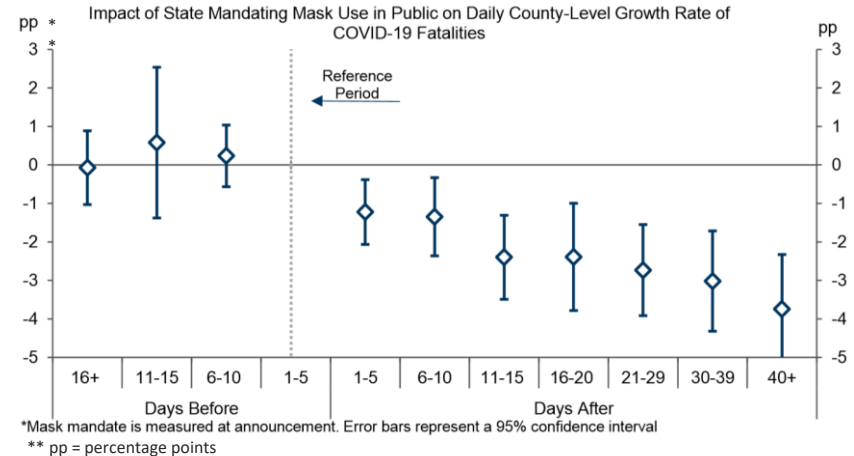
# Jurisdictional Declines in New Diagnoses Associated With Organizational/Political Leadership Directives for Universal Masking

- Mandatory masking prevented both infections and deaths; could avert more lockdowns
- With 15% increase in masking, estimated potential GDP savings of \$1 trillion (5% GDP)

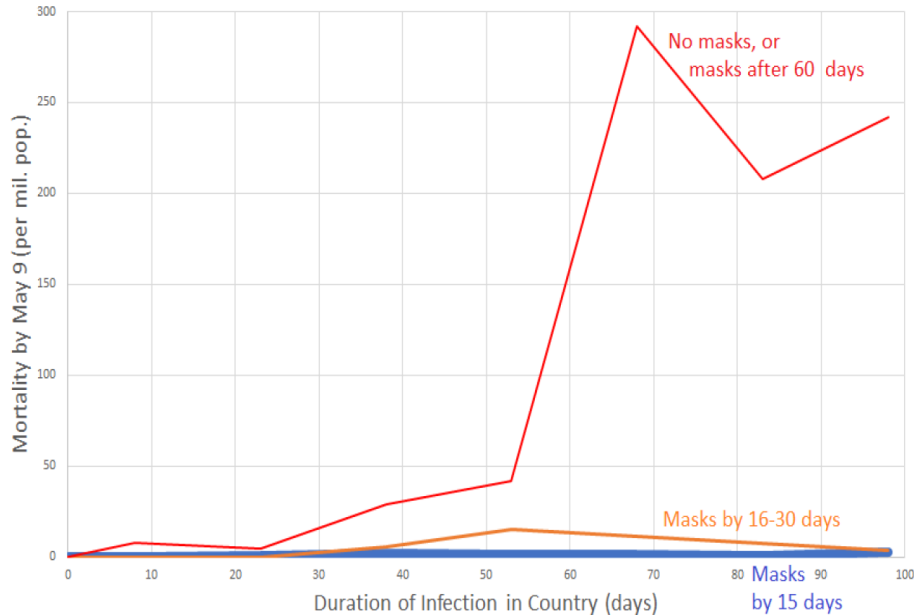
## Daily Average Case Rate



## Daily Average Fatality Rate



# Country-Level Declines in Deaths Associated With Timing of Universal Masking Adoption or Mandates



- Evaluated mortality rates stratified by time
  - From date of first diagnosis to date masking was mandated or otherwise universally adopted in 200 countries (including U.S.) through May 9, 2020
  - Used 3 strata based on time since infection first identified in country
- During each week without masks, mortality increased 59%



# The Science of Masking to Control COVID-19: Summary

- **Cloth masks reduce community exposure to SARS-CoV-2**
- **Cloth masks offer both source control and personal protection**
  - The relationship is likely complementary and possibly synergistic
  - Community benefit derives from the combination of these effects
  - Individual benefit increases with increasing community mask use
- **Wearing masks by both the infected and uninfected person gives the uninfected person the most protection**
  - “Masking can protect you and works *best for you* when *everyone* does it”
  - “When you wear a mask, you protect others as well as yourself”
- **Universal masking policies can help avert the need for shutdowns**
  - Especially if combined with other non-pharmaceutical interventions such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and adequate ventilation



## Appendix: Additional References

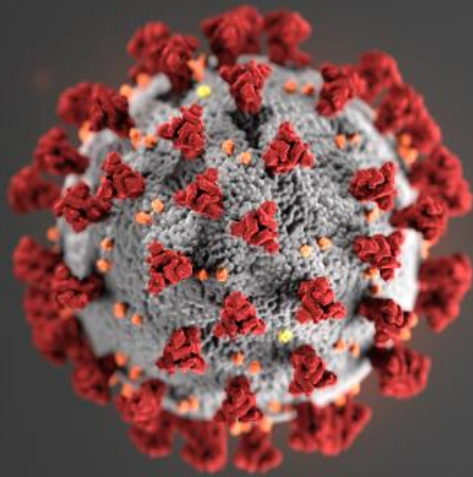
### Slide 7: Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Source Control

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### Slide 8: Laboratory Assessment of Cloth Masks Effectiveness: Filtering Protection

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





# Masks Don't Work: A Review of Science Relevant to COVID-19 Social Policy



Masks and respirators do not work.

There have been extensive randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies, and meta-analysis reviews of RCT studies, which all show that masks and respirators do not work to prevent respiratory influenza-like illnesses, or respiratory illnesses believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosol particles.

Furthermore, the relevant known physics and biology, which I review, are such that masks and respirators should not work. It would be a paradox if masks and respirators worked, given what we know about viral respiratory

diseases: The main transmission path is long-residence-time aerosol particles ( $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ), which are too fine to be blocked, and the minimum-infective dose is smaller than one aerosol particle.

The present paper about masks illustrates the degree to which governments, the mainstream media, and institutional propagandists can decide to operate in a science vacuum, or select only incomplete science that serves their interests. Such recklessness is also certainly the case with the current global lockdown of over 1 billion people, an unprecedented experiment in medical and political history.

*(From [Words from the Publisher](#): "We pledge to publish all letters, guest commentaries, or studies refuting [Rancourt's] general premise that this mask-wearing culture and shaming could be more harmful than helpful. Please send your feedback to [info@rcreader.com](mailto:info@rcreader.com)." )* **[UPDATE: August 12, 2020 [Still No Evidence Justifying Mandatory Masks](#)]**

## Review of the Medical Literature

Here are key anchor points to the extensive scientific literature that establishes that wearing surgical masks and respirators (e.g., "N95") does not reduce the risk of contracting a verified illness:

**Jacobs, J. L. et al. (2009)** "Use of surgical face masks to reduce the incidence of the common cold among health care workers in Japan: A randomized controlled trial," *American Journal of Infection Control*, Volume 37, Issue 5, 417 – 419. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19216002>

N95-masked health-care workers (HCW) were significantly more likely to experience headaches. Face mask use in HCW was not demonstrated to provide benefit in terms of cold symptoms or getting colds.

**Cowling, B. et al. (2010)** "Face masks to prevent transmission of influenza virus: A systematic review," *Epidemiology and Infection*, 138(4), 449-456. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/article/face-masks-to-prevent-transmission-of-influenza-virus-a-systematic-review/64D368496EBDE0AFCC6639CCC9D8BC05>

None of the studies reviewed showed a benefit from wearing a mask, in either HCW or community members in households (H). See summary Tables 1 and 2 therein.

**bin-Reza et al. (2012)** "The use of masks and respirators to prevent transmission of influenza: a systematic review of the scientific evidence," *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* 6(4), 257–267. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1750-2659.2011.00307.x>

"There were 17 eligible studies. ... None of the studies established a conclusive relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection."

**Smith, J.D. et al. (2016)** "Effectiveness of N95 respirators versus surgical masks in protecting health care workers from acute respiratory infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis," *CMAJ* Mar 2016

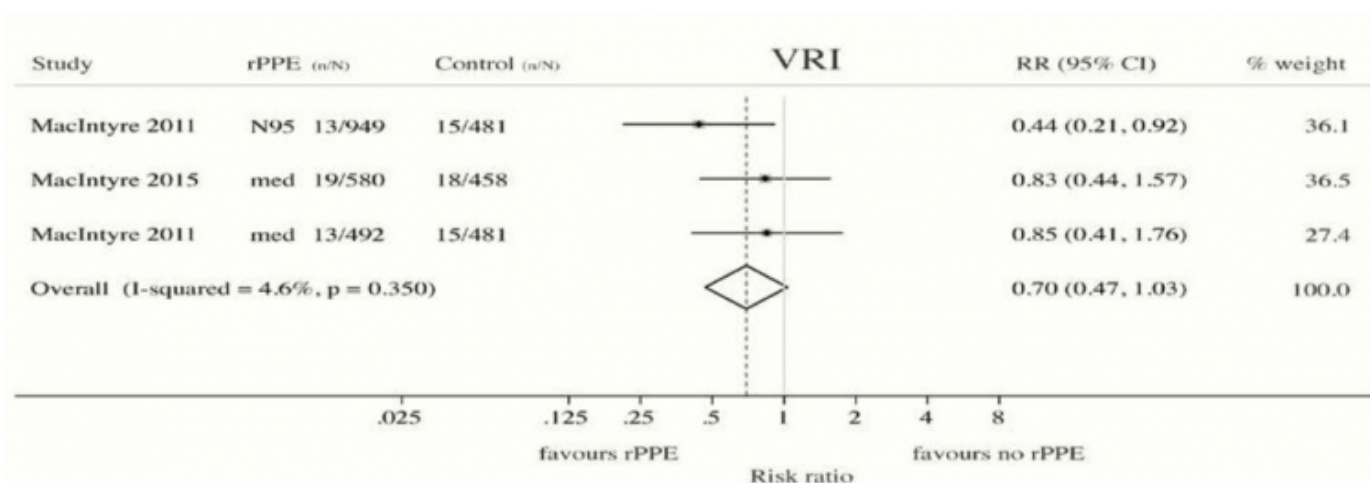
<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567>

"We identified six clinical studies ... . In the meta-analysis of the clinical studies, we found no significant difference between N95 respirators and surgical masks in associated risk of (a) laboratory-confirmed respiratory infection, (b) influenza-like illness, or (c) reported work-place absenteeism."

**Offeddu, V. et al. (2017)** "Effectiveness of Masks and Respirators Against Respiratory Infections in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Volume 65, Issue 11, 1 December 2017, Pages 1934–1942,

<https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/65/11/1934/4068747>

"Self-reported assessment of clinical outcomes was prone to bias. Evidence of a protective effect of masks or respirators against verified respiratory infection (VRI) was not statistically significant"; as per Fig. 2c therein:



**Radonovich, L.J. et al. (2019)** "N95 Respirators vs Medical Masks for Preventing Influenza Among Health Care Personnel: A Randomized Clinical Trial," *JAMA*. 2019; 322(9): 824–833.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2749214>

"Among 2862 randomized participants, 2371 completed the study and accounted for 5180 HCW-seasons. ... Among outpatient health care personnel, N95 respirators vs medical masks as worn by participants in this trial resulted in no significant difference in the incidence of laboratory-confirmed influenza."

**Long, Y. et al. (2020)** "Effectiveness of N95 respirators versus surgical masks against influenza: A systematic review and meta-analysis," *J Evid Based Med.* 2020; 1- 9.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jebm.12381>

"A total of six RCTs involving 9,171 participants were included. There were no statistically significant differences in preventing laboratory-confirmed influenza, laboratory-confirmed respiratory viral infections, laboratory-confirmed respiratory infection, and influenza-like illness using N95 respirators and surgical masks. Meta-analysis indicated a protective effect of N95 respirators against laboratory-confirmed bacterial colonization (RR = 0.58, 95% CI 0.43-0.78). The use of N95 respirators compared with surgical masks is not associated with a lower risk of laboratory-confirmed influenza."

## **Conclusion Regarding That Masks Do Not Work**

No RCT study with verified outcome shows a benefit for HCW or community members in households to wearing a mask or respirator. There is no such study. There are no exceptions.

Likewise, no study exists that shows a benefit from a broad policy to wear masks in public (more on this below).

Furthermore, if there were any benefit to wearing a mask, because of the blocking power against droplets and aerosol particles, then there should be more benefit from wearing a respirator (N95) compared to a surgical mask, yet several large meta-analyses, and all the RCT, prove that there is no such relative benefit.

Masks and respirators do not work.

## **Precautionary Principle Turned on Its Head with Masks**

In light of the medical research, therefore, it is difficult to understand why public-health authorities are not consistently adamant about this established scientific result, since the distributed psychological, economic, and environmental harm from a broad recommendation to wear masks is significant, not to mention the unknown potential harm from concentration and distribution of pathogens on and from used masks. In this case, public authorities would be turning the precautionary principle on its head (see below).

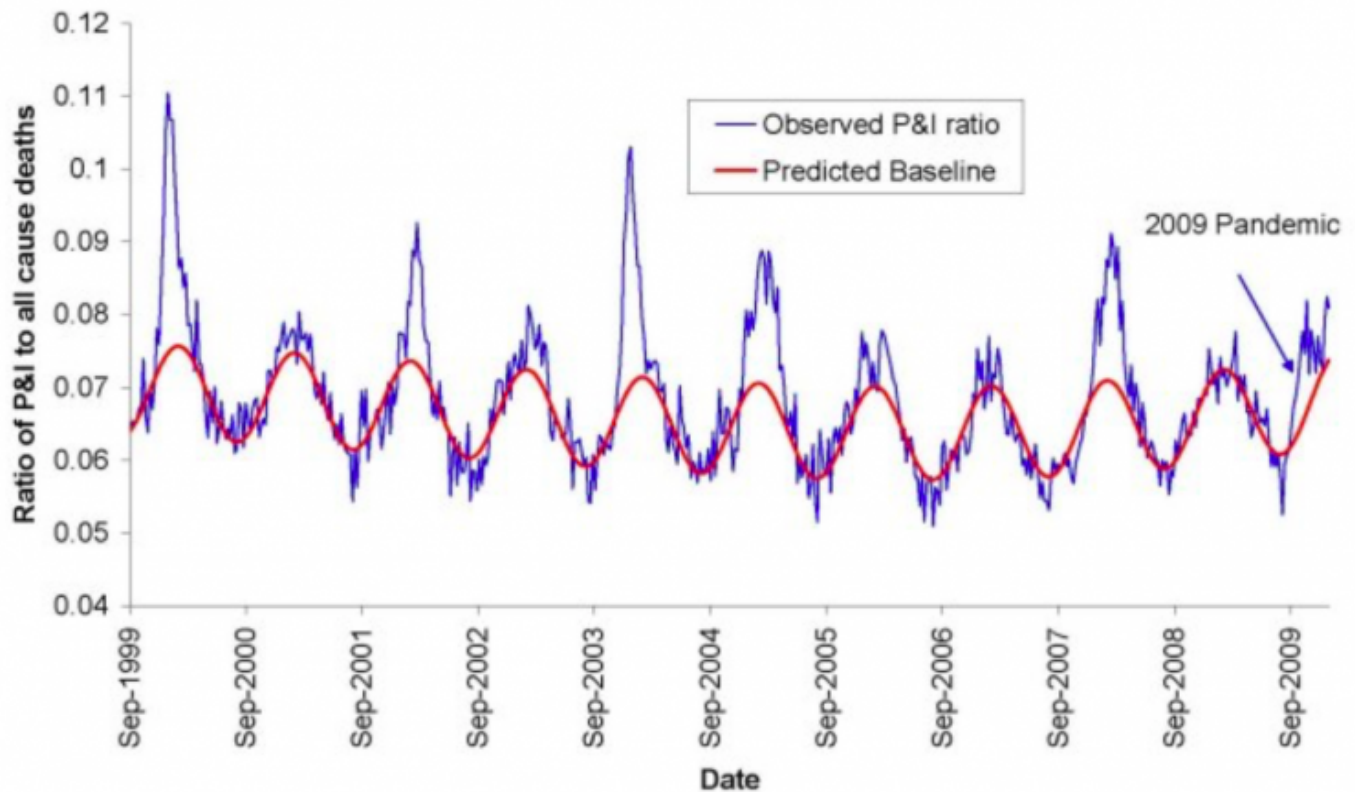
## **Physics and Biology of Viral Respiratory Disease and of Why Masks Do Not Work**

In order to understand why masks cannot possibly work, we must review established knowledge about viral respiratory diseases, the mechanism of seasonal variation of excess deaths from pneumonia and influenza, the aerosol mechanism of infectious disease transmission, the physics and chemistry of aerosols, and the mechanism of the so-called minimum-infective-dose.

In addition to pandemics that can occur anytime, in the temperate latitudes there is an extra burden of respiratory-disease mortality that is seasonal, and that is caused by viruses. For example, see the review of influenza by Paules and Subbarao (2017). This has been known for a long time, and the seasonal pattern is exceedingly regular. *(Publisher's note: All links to source references to studies here forward are found at the end of this article.)*

For example, see Figure 1 of Viboud (2010), which has "Weekly time series of the ratio of deaths from pneumonia and influenza to all deaths, based on the 122 cities surveillance in the US (blue line). The red line represents the expected baseline ratio in the absence of influenza activity," here:

## 122 cities weekly P&I mortality data



The seasonality of the phenomenon was largely not understood until a decade ago. Until recently, it was debated whether the pattern arose primarily because of seasonal change in virulence of the pathogens, or because of seasonal change in susceptibility of the host (such as from dry air causing tissue irritation, or diminished daylight causing vitamin deficiency or hormonal stress). For example, see Dowell (2001).

In a landmark study, Shaman et al. (2010) showed that the seasonal pattern of extra respiratory-disease mortality can be explained quantitatively on the sole basis of absolute humidity, and its direct controlling impact on transmission of airborne pathogens.

Lowen et al. (2007) demonstrated the phenomenon of humidity-dependent airborne-virus virulence in actual disease transmission between guinea pigs, and discussed potential underlying mechanisms for the measured controlling effect of humidity.



The underlying mechanism is that the pathogen-laden aerosol particles or droplets are neutralized within a half-life that monotonically and significantly decreases with increasing ambient humidity. This is based on the seminal work of Harper (1961). Harper experimentally showed that viral-pathogen-carrying droplets were inactivated within shorter and shorter times, as ambient humidity was increased.

Harper argued that the viruses themselves were made inoperative by the humidity ("viable decay"), however, he admitted that the effect could be from humidity-enhanced physical removal or sedimentation of the droplets ("physical loss"): "Aerosol viabilities reported in this paper are based on the ratio of virus titre to radioactive count in suspension and cloud samples, and can be criticized on the ground that test and tracer materials were not physically identical."

The latter ("physical loss") seems more plausible to me, since humidity would have a universal physical effect of causing particle/droplet growth and sedimentation, and all tested viral pathogens have essentially the same humidity-driven "decay." Furthermore, it is difficult to understand how a virion (of all virus types) in a droplet would be molecularly or structurally attacked or damaged by an increase in ambient humidity. A "virion" is the complete, infective form of a virus outside a host cell, with a core of RNA or DNA and a capsid. The actual mechanism of such humidity-driven intra-droplet "viable decay" of a virion has not been explained or studied.

In any case, the explanation and model of Shaman et al. (2010) is not dependent on the particular mechanism of the humidity-driven decay of virions in aerosol/droplets. Shaman's quantitatively demonstrated model of seasonal regional viral epidemiology is valid for either mechanism (or combination of mechanisms), whether "viable decay" or "physical loss."

The breakthrough achieved by Shaman et al. is not merely some academic point. Rather, it has profound health-policy implications, which have been entirely ignored or overlooked in the current coronavirus pandemic.



In particular, Shaman's work necessarily implies that, rather than being a fixed number (dependent solely on the spatial-temporal structure of social interactions in a completely susceptible population, and on the viral strain), the epidemic's **basic reproduction number** ( $R_0$ ) is highly or predominantly dependent on ambient absolute humidity.

For a definition of  $R_0$ , see HealthKnowledge-UK (2020):  $R_0$  is "the average number of secondary infections produced by a typical case of an infection in a population where everyone is susceptible." The average  $R_0$  for influenza is said to be 1.28 (1.19–1.37); see the comprehensive review by Biggerstaff et al. (2014).

In fact, Shaman et al. showed that  $R_0$  must be understood to seasonally vary between humid-summer values of just larger than "1" and dry-winter values typically as large as "4" (for example, see their Table 2). In other words, the seasonal infectious viral respiratory diseases that plague temperate latitudes every year go from being intrinsically mildly contagious to virulently contagious, due simply to the bio-physical mode of transmission controlled by atmospheric humidity, irrespective of any other consideration.

Therefore, all the epidemiological mathematical modeling of the benefits of mediating policies (such as social distancing), which assumes humidity-independent  $R_0$  values, has a large likelihood of being of little value, on this basis alone. For studies about modeling and regarding mediation effects on the effective reproduction number, see Coburn (2009) and Tracht (2010).

To put it simply, the "second wave" of an epidemic is not a consequence of human sin regarding mask wearing and hand shaking. Rather, the "second wave" is an inescapable consequence of an air-dryness-driven many-fold increase in disease contagiousness, in a population that has not yet attained immunity.

If my view of the mechanism is correct (i.e., "physical loss"), then Shaman's work further necessarily implies that the dryness-driven high transmissibility

(large  $R_0$ ) arises from small aerosol particles fluidly suspended in the air; as opposed to large droplets that are quickly gravitationally removed from the air.

Such small aerosol particles fluidly suspended in air, of biological origin, are of every variety and are everywhere, including down to virion-sizes (Despres, 2012). It is not entirely unlikely that viruses can thereby be physically transported over inter-continental distances (e.g., Hammond, 1989).

More to the point, indoor airborne virus concentrations have been shown to exist (in day-care facilities, health centers, and on-board airplanes) primarily as aerosol particles of diameters smaller than  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ , such as in the work of Yang et al. (2011):

"Half of the 16 samples were positive, and their total virus  $\text{m}^{-3}$  concentrations ranged from 5800 to 37 000 genome copies  $\text{m}^{-3}$ . On average, 64 per cent of the viral genome copies were associated with fine particles smaller than  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ , which can remain suspended for hours. Modeling of virus concentrations indoors suggested a source strength of  $1.6 \pm 1.2 \times 10^5$  genome copies  $\text{m}^{-3} \text{air h}^{-1}$  and a deposition flux onto surfaces of  $13 \pm 7$  genome copies  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$  by Brownian motion. Over one hour, the inhalation dose was estimated to be  $30 \pm 18$  median tissue culture infectious dose (TCID<sub>50</sub>), adequate to induce infection. These results provide quantitative support for the idea that the aerosol route could be an important mode of influenza transmission."

Such small particles ( $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) are part of air fluidity, are not subject to gravitational sedimentation, and would not be stopped by long-range inertial impact. This means that the slightest (even momentary) facial misfit of a mask or respirator renders the design filtration norm of the mask or respirator entirely irrelevant. In any case, the filtration material itself of N95 (average pore size  $\sim 0.3\text{--}0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) does not block virion penetration, not to mention surgical masks. For example, see Balazy et al. (2006).

Mask stoppage efficiency and host inhalation are only half of the equation, however, because the minimal infective dose (MID) must also be considered. For example, if a large number of pathogen-laden particles must be delivered to the lung within a certain time for the illness to take hold, then partial blocking by any mask or cloth can be enough to make a significant difference.

On the other hand, if the MID is amply surpassed by the virions carried in a single aerosol particle able to evade mask-capture, then the mask is of no practical utility, which is the case.

Yezli and Otter (2011), in their review of the MID, point out relevant features:

1. Most respiratory viruses are as infective in humans as in tissue culture having optimal laboratory susceptibility
2. It is believed that a single virion can be enough to induce illness in the host
3. The 50-percent probability MID ("TCID<sub>50</sub>") has variably been found to be in the range [100–1000](#) virions
4. There are typically 10 to 3rd power – 10 to 7th power virions per aerolized influenza droplet with diameter 1 μm – 10 μm
5. The 50-percent probability MID easily fits into a single (one) aerolized droplet
6. For further background:
7. A classic description of dose-response assessment is provided by Haas (1993).
8. Zwart et al. (2009) provided the first laboratory proof, in a virus-insect system, that the action of a single virion can be sufficient to cause disease.
9. Baccam et al. (2006) calculated from empirical data that, with influenza A in humans,"we estimate that after a delay of ~6 h, infected cells begin producing influenza virus and continue to do so for ~5 h. The average lifetime of infected cells is ~11 h, and the half-life of free infectious virus

is ~3 h. We calculated the [in-body] basic reproductive number,  $R_0$ , which indicated that a single infected cell could produce ~22 new productive infections."

10. Brooke et al. (2013) showed that, contrary to prior modeling assumptions, although not all influenza-A-infected cells in the human body produce infectious progeny (virions), nonetheless, 90 percent of infected cell are significantly impacted, rather than simply surviving unharmed.

All of this to say that: if anything gets through (and it always does, irrespective of the mask), then you are going to be infected. Masks cannot possibly work. It is not surprising, therefore, that no bias-free study has ever found a benefit from wearing a mask or respirator in this application.

Therefore, the studies that show partial stopping power of masks, or that show that masks can capture many large droplets produced by a sneezing or coughing mask-wearer, in light of the above-described features of the problem, are irrelevant. For example, such studies as these: Leung (2020), Davies (2013), Lai (2012), and Sande (2008).

## **Why There Can Never Be an Empirical Test of a Nation-Wide Mask-Wearing Policy**

As mentioned above, no study exists that shows a benefit from a broad policy to wear masks in public. There is good reason for this. It would be impossible to obtain unambiguous and bias-free results [because]:

1. Any benefit from mask-wearing would have to be a small effect, since undetected in controlled experiments, which would be swamped by the larger effects, notably the large effect from changing atmospheric humidity.
2. Mask compliance and mask adjustment habits would be unknown.
3. Mask-wearing is associated (correlated) with several other health behaviors; see Wada (2012).
4. The results would not be transferable, because of differing cultural

habits.

5. Compliance is achieved by fear, and individuals can habituate to fear-based propaganda, and can have disparate basic responses.
6. Monitoring and compliance measurement are near-impossible, and subject to large errors.
7. Self-reporting (such as in surveys) is notoriously biased, because individuals have the self-interested belief that their efforts are useful.
8. Progression of the epidemic is not verified with reliable tests on large population samples, and generally relies on non-representative hospital visits or admissions.
9. Several different pathogens (viruses and strains of viruses) causing respiratory illness generally act together, in the same population and/or in individuals, and are not resolved, while having different epidemiological characteristics.

## **Unknown Aspects of Mask Wearing**

Many potential harms may arise from broad public policies to wear masks, and the following unanswered questions arise:

1. Do used and loaded masks become sources of enhanced transmission, for the wearer and others?
2. Do masks become collectors and retainers of pathogens that the mask wearer would otherwise avoid when breathing without a mask?
3. Are large droplets captured by a mask atomized or aerolized into breathable components? Can virions escape an evaporating droplet stuck to a mask fiber?
4. What are the dangers of bacterial growth on a used and loaded mask?
5. How do pathogen-laden droplets interact with environmental dust and aerosols captured on the mask?
6. What are long-term health effects on HCW, such as headaches, arising from impeded breathing?
7. Are there negative social consequences to a masked society?
8. Are there negative psychological consequences to wearing a mask, as a

fear-based behavioral modification?

9. What are the environmental consequences of mask manufacturing and disposal?
10. Do the masks shed fibers or substances that are harmful when inhaled?

## **Conclusion**

By making mask-wearing recommendations and policies for the general public, or by expressly condoning the practice, governments have both ignored the scientific evidence and done the opposite of following the precautionary principle.

In an absence of knowledge, governments should not make policies that have a hypothetical potential to cause harm. The government has an onus barrier before it instigates a broad social-engineering intervention, or allows corporations to exploit fear-based sentiments.

Furthermore, individuals should know that there is no known benefit arising from wearing a mask in a viral respiratory illness epidemic, and that scientific studies have shown that any benefit must be residually small, compared to other and determinative factors.

Otherwise, what is the point of publicly funded science?

The present paper about masks illustrates the degree to which governments, the mainstream media, and institutional propagandists can decide to operate in a science vacuum, or select only incomplete science that serves their interests. Such recklessness is also certainly the case with the current global lockdown of over 1 billion people, an unprecedented experiment in medical and political history.

*Denis G. Rancourt is a researcher at the Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA.ca) and is formerly a tenured professor at the University of Ottawa, Canada. This paper was originally published at Rancourt's account on ResearchGate.net. As of June 5, 2020, this paper was removed from his*

profile by its administrators at [Researchgate.net/profile/D\\_Rancourt](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/D_Rancourt). At Rancourt's blog [ActivistTeacher.blogspot.com](http://ActivistTeacher.blogspot.com), he recounts the notification and responses he received from ResearchGate.net and states, "This is censorship of my scientific work like I have never experienced before."

The original April 2020 white paper in .pdf format is available [here](#), complete with charts that have not been reprinted in the Reader print or web versions.

**RELATED COMMENTARY: [An Unprecedented Experiment: Sometimes You Just Gotta Wear the Stupid](#)**

### **Endnotes:**

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