

**From:** [Andri Kofmehl](#)  
**To:** [DOH WSB0H](#)  
**Subject:** COVID Vaccine Requirement for WA Schools  
**Date:** Friday, August 6, 2021 11:10:54 PM

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External Email

Hi,

As a parent of 6-year old twins, I am concerned about the return to in-person instruction in a month amidst a surge in COVID infections. While required safety protocols and masks should avoid some infections, a requirement to get vaccinated for those who are eligible seems to be missing. I learned from an expert today, that roughly 1 in 10,000 cases in kids results in death, and that the number might be 1 in 5,000 for the delta variant. The number of kids who get severe illness or have lasting COVID symptoms will be much higher. So, at roughly 1 million schoolchildren in WA, if 10% of them get infected in school year 2021-22, there may be 20 tragedies and many more children with lasting trauma or other COVID-related issues, not to mention the disruption to education when having to deal with outbreaks. We should do everything to prevent these things from happening.

In light of this situation, it seems irrational not to issue a vaccination mandate for all eligible students and staff in schools. We have [required vaccination against a whole list of less prevalent or dangerous diseases](#) for school children and staff in WA, so including COVID in this list should be a top priority.

Please consider issuing stronger guidance as soon as possible to minimize the burden of COVID on children, parents and educators.

Andri Kofmehl

**From:** [Liha Rinehardt](#)  
**To:** [DOH Secretary's Office; Fehrenbach, Lacy M \(DOH\); Reykdal, Chris \(DOH\); Tennille Jeffries-Simmons \(OFM Guest\); michaela.miller@k12.wa.us; Nishida, Nasue; Wicker, Kelly \(GOV\); Phillips, Keith \(GOV\); Thomas, Jamila \(GOV\); Spitters, Christopher \(DOH\); Frederick, Shawn \(DOH\); Furness, Nancy \(DOH\); Pamela Aguilar; Reykdal, Chris; jav@javinslee.com](#)  
**Cc:** [DOH WSBOH](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Schools  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 1:33:04 PM

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External Email

Here is an excellent presentation done by a doctor, including the references: [Hancock County Patriots : Dr. Dan Stock's Presentation to the Mt. Vernon School Board in Indiana Over The Futility of Mask Mandates and Covid-19 Protocols](#)

Stop this fear mongering nonsense.

Liha Rinehardt

On Thu, May 6, 2021 at 11:41 AM Liha Rinehardt <[lrinehardt@gmail.com](mailto:lrinehardt@gmail.com)> wrote:

Please read and consider the information contained in this open letter addressed to the UofW by a doctor/professor.  
[https://informedchoicewa.org/news/open-letter-from-a-phd-to-uw-president-regents/?fbclid=IwAR1OA\\_56d4dUrwcz-hlTmeLdWpE8pN4jsvXK0sIONYqbLq\\_Xk30l-O\\_Brc](https://informedchoicewa.org/news/open-letter-from-a-phd-to-uw-president-regents/?fbclid=IwAR1OA_56d4dUrwcz-hlTmeLdWpE8pN4jsvXK0sIONYqbLq_Xk30l-O_Brc)

Thank you!

Liha Rinehardt

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**From:** Liha Rinehardt [mailto:[lrinehardt@gmail.com](mailto:lrinehardt@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2021 10:14 AM  
**To:** 'Liha Rinehardt'; '[secretary@doh.wa.gov](mailto:secretary@doh.wa.gov)'; '[lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov)'; '[superintendent@k12.wa.us](mailto:superintendent@k12.wa.us)'; '[tennille.jeffries-simmons@k12.wa.us](mailto:tennille.jeffries-simmons@k12.wa.us)'; '[michaela.miller@k12.wa.us](mailto:michaela.miller@k12.wa.us)'; '[nasue.nishida@k12.wa.us](mailto:nasue.nishida@k12.wa.us)'; '[kelly.wicker@gov.wa.gov](mailto:kelly.wicker@gov.wa.gov)'; '[keith.phillips@gov.wa.gov](mailto:keith.phillips@gov.wa.gov)'; '[jamila.thomas@gov.wa.gov](mailto:jamila.thomas@gov.wa.gov)'; '[cpitters@snohd.org](mailto:cpitters@snohd.org)'; '[sfrederick@snohd.org](mailto:sfrederick@snohd.org)'; '[nfurness@snohd.org](mailto:nfurness@snohd.org)'; '[paguilar@snohd.org](mailto:paguilar@snohd.org)'; '[chris.reykdal@k12.wa.us](mailto:chris.reykdal@k12.wa.us)'; '[jay@javinslee.com](mailto:jay@javinslee.com)'  
**Subject:** A German mask analysis

<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/8/4344/htm?fbclid=IwAR0hhVdUJmjRmIhuc6INkSzSSLZizIVYS8UyS4ZRO78hQ0dow-gqeYXfafM>

Remove the mask mandate

Liha Rinehardt

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**From:** Liha Rinehardt [mailto:[lrinehardt@gmail.com](mailto:lrinehardt@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** '[secretary@doh.wa.gov](mailto:secretary@doh.wa.gov)'; '[lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov)'; '[superintendent@k12.wa.us](mailto:superintendent@k12.wa.us)'; '[tennille.jeffries-simmons@k12.wa.us](mailto:tennille.jeffries-simmons@k12.wa.us)'; '[michaela.miller@k12.wa.us](mailto:michaela.miller@k12.wa.us)'; '[nasue.nishida@k12.wa.us](mailto:nasue.nishida@k12.wa.us)'; '[kelly.wicker@gov.wa.gov](mailto:kelly.wicker@gov.wa.gov)'; '[keith.phillips@gov.wa.gov](mailto:keith.phillips@gov.wa.gov)'; '[jamila.thomas@gov.wa.gov](mailto:jamila.thomas@gov.wa.gov)'; '[cpitters@snohd.org](mailto:cpitters@snohd.org)'; '[sfrederick@snohd.org](mailto:sfrederick@snohd.org)'; '[nfurness@snohd.org](mailto:nfurness@snohd.org)'; '[paguilar@snohd.org](mailto:paguilar@snohd.org)'; '[chris.reykdal@k12.wa.us](mailto:chris.reykdal@k12.wa.us)'; '[jay@javinslee.com](mailto:jay@javinslee.com)'  
**Subject:** New Stanford University study

““In addition to hypoxia and hypercapnia, breathing through facemask residues bacterial and germs components on the inner and outside layer of the facemask. These toxic components are repeatedly rebreathed back into the body, causing self-contamination. Breathing through facemasks also increases temperature and humidity in the space between the mouth and the mask, resulting a release of toxic particles from the mask's materials" <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7680614/>

Remove the mask mandate!!!!

Liha Rinehardt

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**From:** Liha Rinehardt [mailto:[lrinehardt@gmail.com](mailto:lrinehardt@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:50 PM

**To:** 'secretary@doh.wa.gov'; 'lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov'; 'superintendent@k12.wa.us'; 'tennille.jeffries-simmons@k12.wa.us'; 'michaela.miller@k12.wa.us'; 'nasue.nishida@k12.wa.us'; 'kelly.wicker@gov.wa.gov'; 'keith.phillips@gov.wa.gov'; 'jamila.thomas@gov.wa.gov'; 'cspitters@snohd.org'; 'srfrederick@snohd.org'; 'nfurness@snohd.org'; 'paguilar@snohd.org'; 'chris.reykdal@k12.wa.us'; 'jay@jayinslee.com'

**Subject:** Opening of schools

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon..

Since the CDC has now reduced the social distancing guidelines to 3 feet (instead of 6 feet) and the majority of teachers are vaccinated, it is time to fully open the schools. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0319-new-evidence-classroom-physical-distance.html> Why in the world is it OK to sit on an aircraft right next to someone for hours, yet not be allowed to in school?! Data and real world experiences show that children are not as affected by COVID nor are they super spreaders.

Regarding the masks, my son came home from his first day of in person learning (a whopping 2.5 hours) and immediately let me know that his mask was soaking wet and I needed to wash it. Masks are not proven to work. The fact that mask breaks are given – only verifies that mask breaks are NEEDED. They reduce oxygen levels and trap bacteria and viruses right against a person's nose/mouth. Bacterial pneumonia, strep throat, staph infections are all on the rise. If masks are no longer required for running cross country due to struggling to breathe and the fact that they become wet, it only proves that they are not healthy for anyone! Volleyball, soccer, baseball - - even a student sitting in a classroom. [https://www.registerguard.com/story/sports/high-school/2021/03/17/prep-cross-country-off-and-running-but-mask-mandate-slowing-everyone-down/4709186001/?fbclid=IwAR2-Rwuz7s\\_Bk5tcHT9YTB2b\\_QZPUFPPWbyBv5JZwIfg3J1f1l6XyqRdyc](https://www.registerguard.com/story/sports/high-school/2021/03/17/prep-cross-country-off-and-running-but-mask-mandate-slowing-everyone-down/4709186001/?fbclid=IwAR2-Rwuz7s_Bk5tcHT9YTB2b_QZPUFPPWbyBv5JZwIfg3J1f1l6XyqRdyc) Many studies and real world experiences detail that wearing a mask does nothing to curb the spread of COVID.

Please, stop punishing the children. Suicide, mental health etc are becoming an astronomical problem due to these baseless mandates. It's time to start addressing the fear that has been created with some real facts and data. ""Covid - National Schools Survey Update"

Notice the inverse correlation in the table below... despite the fact that more students are IN school, there are fewer cases in students and staff.

This should sound familiar... School environments are the safest environments in the country.

And they have been since April of 2020.

Any school that doesn't want to return to full-time, in-person learning has priorities other than the welfare of their students.”  
[https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?fbclid=IwAR0lZp\\_LUBSEyOQSC7sKT76bKzxo1jendp8p7YwwapZBO4QqHyaQiVNDc4#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page\\_c0595a5e-9e70-4df2-ab0c-14860e84d36a](https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?fbclid=IwAR0lZp_LUBSEyOQSC7sKT76bKzxo1jendp8p7YwwapZBO4QqHyaQiVNDc4#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page_c0595a5e-9e70-4df2-ab0c-14860e84d36a)

Please... it's way overdue. Open the schools!

Liha Rinehardt

**From:** [Cyndi Sparre](#)  
**To:** [DOH WSBOH](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine mandates  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 7:52:45 PM

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External Email

To Whom it May Concern,

As a Washington state parent with school-age children, I want to give my opinion on covid vaccine mandates. I am absolutely 100% opposed to a mandate for any child in Washington state. If the covid vaccine is added to the list of vaccines to get for school, I am 100% in support of ALL types of exemptions: Medical, Religious, and Personal. These vaccines are far too new and the risk for children is extremely low.

Sincerely,  
Cyndi Sparre  
Deer Park, WA

**From:** [Lorana Hoopes](#)  
**To:** [DOH WSOBH](#)  
**Subject:** For public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:32:11 AM

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External Email

I would like this posted on the website under public comment and I want the board to look at this evidence on the harms of masks and give parents the choice.

My name is Lorana Hoopes. I am a teacher and a mom of three. I'm here to talk about masks and why they should not be mandated in school

Let me start with my children. Every day, they complained about the masks. My oldest said they gave him headaches and he had trouble concentrating. My middle son has a habit of chewing on his shirts and he transferred this to his mask, so his masks were often wet and dirty when he came home. My daughter had a hard time keeping hers on and had a hard time understanding her teacher when she was instructing. This made learning to read much harder. These kids were forced to wear their masks even outside at recess. The only time they took them off was when they ate snack or lunch. Now, here's the kicker. They ate snack and lunch in the same classroom they sat in all day. So, does Covid take a break during snack and lunch? Of course not. So wearing masks all day was pointless when they all breathed in the same air mask free during lunch and snack.

I just watched a tear-filled video of an 11 year old named Emily. She stated that the masks made it hard to breathe. It increased her anxiety because she couldn't understand the teacher's muffled voices and she couldn't see the faces of her friends. She stated how she was yelled at for taking her mask down for a few minutes at orientation because she couldn't breathe. We are crushing our children's souls and depriving them of human contact. And, for what?(1)

I've read through a lot of the studies on masks both for them and against them. What is very clear is that the science behind the benefit of masks is sketchy at best. Even the WHO says that masks are insufficient to stop the virus. In addition, the WHO has a long list of how masks should be cared for including: Washing hands before putting on a mask, not touching the mask while wearing it, washing your hands if you do touch it, replacing the mask when it becomes damp (which is after about 20 minutes), not wearing the mask around your chin or your arm, keeping it in a plastic bag, and washing cloth masks at least once daily among other things. The WHO goes on to say that not following this list not only makes masks less effective but can make them dangerous to the wearer. I'm here to tell you not even my high school students used masks correctly. In fact, most adults don't follow these procedures correctly.(2)

So, what are those dangers? Well, the first one is Mask Mouth. The Washington Post reported that dentists are seeing mask mouth in over 50% of their patients. This is leading to gum issues and can have devastating consequences including heart attacks and strokes. Second, is the amount of bacteria found on masks.(3,4) Parents in Florida sent their kids' masks to be analyzed and after just one day of use they found 11 dangerous bacteria on the masks including Pneumonia, tuberculosis, meningitis, sepsis, encephalitis, blood stream infections, UTIs, food poisoning, lyme disease, diptheria, and Legionnaires' disease. Several of these diseases have high morbidity rates and are resistant to antibiotics.(5)

Another recent study through the PDMJ found over 100000 bacteria colonies on masks worn by commuters. They also found mold and yeast. Some of these bacteria included Staph, Penicillin, and Aspergillious. This paper also reminds that the majority of the deaths from Spanish Flu of 1919 died mainly from bacterial pneumonia infections. The same type of infections our students face breathing in these bacteria for 8-10 hours a day. In fact, Dr. Meehan states that staph bacteria can be found in the nose of healthy people but can get into their lungs from wearing masks all day and cause deadly infections, and the Mayo clinic agrees that deadly staph infections among healthy people are on an alarming rise. Considering the fact that children have less than 1% chance of severe Covid and are proven not to transmit at the same rate as adults and that masks have little benefit, why would we take the chance of infecting them with these other illnesses that have a much larger chance of taking their lives?(6)

Masks also affect their social and mental capabilities. As a teacher last year, I was exhausted teaching in a mask and so were the students. They were less engaged and more listless. In fact, an April study from the NIH states that oxygen deprivation from masks may result in additional nonphysical effects such as confusion, decreased thinking ability and disorientation. Why would we want to do this in schools?(7) And why were masks required in the first place? Because we were told that asymptomatic people could spread Covid. However, a new study from China shows that is not the case. This study followed ten million people and found no positive cases from asymptomatic people in 96.4% of the communities and the positive rate for asymptomatic students was .124/10000. In addition, the Covid 19 School Response board actually showed that Covid incidences were higher in schools that mandated masks than in those who didn't.(8) Considering all this information, why would we choose to harm our children with mask mandates when the evidence for their benefit is so small but the evidence for their harm is off the charts and growing every day? Masks should be optional.

1. <https://www.facebook.com/melanie.king.94/videos/140839081527526>
2. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/337199/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC\\_Masks-2020.5-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/337199/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.5-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

3. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/mask-mouth-dentists-warn-prolonged-use-of-masks-leading-to-poor-oral-hygiene>
4. <https://orawellness.com/mask-mouth/>
5. <http://www.ronpaulinstitute.org/archives/featured-articles/2021/june/17/a-group-of-florida-parents-cultured-their-children-s-masks-and-found-dangerous-bacteria/>
6. [https://pdmj.org/papers/masks\\_false\\_safety\\_and\\_real\\_dangers\\_part2/](https://pdmj.org/papers/masks_false_safety_and_real_dangers_part2/)
7. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8072811/>
8. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19802-w>
- 9.