

August 19, 2020

Dear Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees,

I am writing to you on behalf of our children. I am a Pennsylvania resident, a mother, artist and independent researcher. I reviewed the testimony the PA House Committee received thus far regarding safely reopening schools in the fall, and I can tell you that you are getting inaccurate and incomplete data. The guidelines created by Tom Wolf, Rachel Levine and the Department of Health for reopening schools, are not only unnecessary and ineffective, but are physically and psychologically harmful to our children.

There are many peer reviewed articles proving that face masks are harmful and ineffective in stopping the spread of illness. **Face masks reduce the flow of oxygen, which is an immediate danger to life and health.** Human beings must breathe oxygen to survive. According to OSHA, humans begin to suffer adverse health effects when the oxygen level of the air they are breathing drops below 19.5%. An oxygen level less than 19.5% is a violation of OSHA regulations. In some cases, the effects, like brain damage, are irreversible. It is very dangerous to be operating machinery, driving or doing labor while wearing a mask. Restricting the flow of oxygen stresses the body, which increases heart rate and suppresses the immune system.

Masks also cause the inhalation of high levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which can be life threatening. Hypercapnia (carbon dioxide displacement toxicity) can also cause headache, vertigo, double vision, inability to concentrate, tinnitus (hearing a noise, like a ringing or buzzing, that's not caused by an outside source), seizures, or suffocation due to lack of air. Masks were not designed to be worn all day long by the general public. People, especially children, don't wear them correctly. They are constantly touching their faces, taking them off and on, and wearing the same one for days, increasing the spread of infection.

There is ZERO conclusive evidence provided by the CDC that supports effectiveness of healthy or "asymptomatic" individuals wearing a mask to prevent the spread of illness. The Covid-19 virus particle size average is 0.125 microns. The N95 mask only filters particles 0.3 microns, blocking few, if any particles. Other surgical and homemade cloth masks and kerchiefs block even less. All masks become warm and damp as they are worn, creating the perfect environment for cultivating bacteria that get embedded in it. Wearing masks for hours at a time can cause pleurisy, an infection of the outside lining of the lungs. Even the New England Journal of Medicine states, "We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.

These "guidelines" are also unnecessary to safely reopen schools. According to the CDC, the COVID case rate of children under the age of 18 is 0.004% and the death rate is 0.00004%, which is essentially 0%. Child to adult transmission also appears to be very uncommon. The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics states that "children are not significant drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Forcing students and teachers to wear masks crucial non-verbal and social-emotional communication and connection and will have a mental and emotional impact on our children. Being able to recognize facial expressions and leaning to recognize them is critical to children's social & emotional development and indefinite masking will interrupt that process. Being able to see facial expressions is what makes us human and develops connectedness and empathy. Even being behind plexiglass creates an emotional

barrier and set a tone of fear, fear of other and fear of human connection. This will inevitably increase anxiety and create chronic stress in both students and educators alike.

Imposing one way traffic patterns in hallways, markings on the floor creates further isolation and removes free will and choice. The cancellation of field trips, sporting events, and extracurricular activities and enforcing distance during social times at lunch and at recess, further isolating students from each other, instilling fear. According to the CDC director, there have been more suicides and more drug overdoses among the high school students than deaths from the coronavirus. These mandates are doing more harm than good already.

We are meant to be connected and socially interact. We are even meant to pick up viruses and bacteria from each other and in doing so STRENGTHEN our immune systems. If enforced, masking and social distancing will negatively impact our children for years to come.

I implore you an elected official to act in the best interest of our children and do not enforce these inhumane and unconstitutional mandates when schools reopen this fall.

Sincerely,
Laura Basso
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Sources:

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Oxygen Mask Test: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D76jbLsf0&feature=youtu.be>

Masks may increase the risk of coronavirus infection. The virus can get trapped in the material and cause infection when the wearer breathes in. <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20200315/Wearing-masks-may-increaseyour-risk-of-coronavirus-infection- expert-says.aspx>

According to Russell Blaylock, MD, By wearing a mask, the exhaled viruses will not be able to escape and will concentrate in the nasal passages, enter the olfactory nerves and travel into the brain.

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-thehealthy/>

The Risks vs. Benefits of Face Masks- Is There an Agenda? This source contains many source references:

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CDC Director Reveals 'Substantial' Cost of Closed Schools as Suicides Eclipse COVID Deaths

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