

FAX

Date: 02/17/2022

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NOTE:

Please give a copy to the school board-TAKE AN EMERGENCY VOTE AND
 GIVE US CHOICE to UNMASKOURCHILDREN
 NOW>>>>NOW>>>>NOW>>>>NOW>>>>NOW>>>>NOW>>>>NOW!!!!

2/17/2022

Dear <<School Board and Superintendent>>

PLEASE READ THIS AS MY COMMENT IN THE Next MEETING UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT correspondence: I am a parent and I am urging you to allow my child to have the option to go mask less at school once the K-12 guidance changes on February 28th. CA's indoor mask mandate expired at midnight on Feb 15. While CDPH will make a decision on February 28th about when the mask mandate for schools is lifted, I am imploring you to abide by that guidance and not require our districts' schools to continue to mask beyond the date given. As you are aware with much of my correspondence, I have asked you to stop multiple times. I consider this abuse and disrespect. I have lost my patience and respect for you all. Your lack of leadership is disgusting. Give us CHOICE!!! Children are the least likely to suffer serious outcomes from Covid, but face the most potential harm from prolonged masking. Students learning to speak and read are unable to see how their teachers pronounce sounds and words and are experiencing speech delays at historic levels. Children under 5 are unable to see teachers' and peers' faces, which helps them learn to understand emotions.

One-way masking works when a well-fitted, high-quality mask is worn. Any staff members or students who wish to continue wearing masks should have the option to do that. But those who wish to not wear a mask, based on their individual level of risk, should also have that option, as they will have in almost all other indoor settings now

Where is the equity in allowing adults to unmask while children are forced to wear masks all day? Regardless of their vaccination status, children are at less risk from Covid-19 than vaccinated adults, so kids should be the first to unmask, not the last.

Schools continue to be the safest place for children and adults, including the thousands of schools across the country and in Europe which never required masks. Our kids are tired of being treated like 2nd-class citizens and disease vectors. They desperately need a return to normalcy.

Masks should be optional in schools and daycares as soon as CDPH allows

Parents lose patience over school mask mandate

BY JOE HONG FEBRUARY 15, 2022

“I really started thinking, why aren’t we talking about the masks coming off?” said Dr. Will Sheldon, an Oakland parent and a family medicine doctor. “There was no discussion of what the off-ramps are going to be.” “I really started thinking, why aren’t we talking about the masks coming off?” said **Dr. Will Sheldon, an Oakland parent and a family medicine doctor**. “There was no discussion of what the off-ramps are going to be.” “All they did was announce that they’re having another press conference in two weeks,” said Sheldon. “It felt like they were just kicking the can down the road.”

Concerns over education quality Parents and educators interviewed by CalMatters said the social and emotional harms of long-term masking need to be weighed against what appear to be the minimal benefits of masking amid rising vaccination rates and receding case numbers. Sheldon said his daughter has had a harder time making new friends because masks cover her facial expressions. But of greater concern, he said, are the kids he sees in his clinic who are deaf or have other language delays and rely on reading lips to learn speech and reading. "I think they were a good idea early in the pandemic," Sheldon said. "At this point, I'm more than ready for them to change. **I think we've gone to an extreme.**"

"I want my son to **feel excited and connected,**" said Patricia Johnson, an Oakland parent of a first grader. "That's what I've wanted from school all along. I want him to love school."

Some teachers are also calling for an end to the mask mandate. Bevin Abbe, a vocal music teacher at Santa Susana High School in Simi Valley, said masks have been stifling her students' creative expression for too long. She worries that more introverted students are hiding behind their masks, delaying their social development.