

While I have not had time to read through the entire Re-Opening Draft and process all of my concerns, I would like to address a couple areas of concern that I have as a parent and an educator in another district. The Beecher Road School plan states that students, teachers, and staff must wear face coverings or masks, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. First I would like to say that I have not seen any studies proving that mask wearing for extended periods of time is safe for children. No such study exists to my knowledge. I understand that this is part of the state plan and that the Woodbridge BOE is required to follow their guidelines. However, I strongly hesitate to send my children to school as guinea pigs for a prolonged mask wearing study.

In addition, there must be a plan in place within the school to protect the staff and students who cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions from being bullied, ostracized, or discriminated against during the school year. I have already read a multitude of comments on social media from parents and educators that are discriminatory against students with medical conditions who cannot wear masks. It is not appropriate for ANY community member to judge whether or not a teacher, staff member, or student is medically able to wear a mask. That is a discussion between patient and doctor. There is so much division regarding this issue already, and it would be heartbreaking to hear of a child being bullied because they are medically unable to wear a mask. I urge the Board of Education to discuss an appropriate response to being inclusive of all for the social and emotional well-being of our community during this already challenging and difficult time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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