

Re: [External Email] Re: [External Email] Mask mandate extension

External

Inbox

J

Jonathan Budd

6:16 PM (2 minutes ago)

to Monika, me

You are welcome. BOE members, please see below the e-mail from Monika she's asked me to forward to you. Marsha, would you please also place this as Correspondence for tonight's meeting?

Thanks,

Jonathan

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Woodbridge, CT School District
jbudd@woodbridgeps.org
203-387-6631

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On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 6:14 PM Monika Kaczmarczyk <kacz_monika@hotmail.com> wrote:
Please...if it's not too much of a burden. I'm in transit and could not easily populate all the recipients' emails when I was sending it.
Thank you.
Monika

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2022, at 5:50 PM, Jonathan Budd <jbudd@woodbridgeps.org> wrote:

Thank you, Monika. Would you like me to forward this to all BOE members? And/or have it posted as Correspondence for tonight's BOE meeting? Thanks, Jonathan

On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 5:38 PM Monika Kaczmarczyk <kacz_monika@hotmail.com> wrote:
Dear Beecher Road School Board of Education Members,

I'm writing in favor of extending the mask requirement at school for the following reasons:

1. There has to be a verifiable mitigation policy in place in indoor settings, especially in crowded indoor settings where social distancing is difficult

2. As of now, a large proportion of the population does not follow quarantine and self isolation times as recommended by the CDC
3. Low vaccination rate among 12 and under age group
4. We need to consider asymptomatic carriers as well as vulnerable community members, including administrators, teachers, students, bus drivers etc
5. The lack of standardized reporting of home test positivity to the State, which will create a challenge in gauging community spread during the next wave

The lessons we've learned since the beginning of the pandemic are:

1. The virus is here to stay and continuously produces variants
2. Mitigation tools, such as mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, and vaccination provide some protection when applied individually but are more effective when used together
3. Different environments and different circumstances necessitate unique mitigation strategies. As such, masks must be required at school, where large number of children spend many hours in close proximity

If we elect to end masking at school, we send a message that we learned nothing in the past two years. As responsible adults, we can't afford to set such example to the next generation. Living with the virus does not mean to end community mitigation practices but rather to choose and employ the ones that best suit the circumstances. School is a crowded indoor setting where masks must be worn to provide added protection against the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Monika Kaczmarczyk
Newton Road, Woodbridge

Sent from my iPhone

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Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Woodbridge, CT School District
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Re: [External Email] psycho/social/developmental data

External

Inbox



Jonathan Budd

5:49 PM (32 minutes)

to Abby, me

Thank you very much. Marsha, would you please post this as Correspondence for tonight's BOE meeting? TH

On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 4:24 PM Abby Santamaria <abby.santamaria@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Budd,

I understand that a number of parents are writing to you to suggest that decisions around the mask mandate driven, rather than dictated by dates. I know that those parents are speaking about COVID case counts, hospital deaths when they refer to "data." I agree that those data points are important to consider. But there is another remains outstanding: we have little-to-no data about the long term psychological/social/developmental impact in kids. There are many implications we can't possibly know right now, and by continuing to indefinitely mandate gambling on our kids' future well-being. We just don't know. For instance, will daily mask usage--not seeing the expressions of classmates and teachers during formative early childhood or adolescence -- impact rates of depression or suicide in teens? We can't know right now. My son is in speech therapy, and his progress is slow due to mask. What will be the long term implications? We don't know.

It's all a great experiment, and, as such, should be optional.

Especially given the high vaccination rates in our community, please give us the option. If there is another spike in cases, the situation can be re-evaluated, or parents can opt to resume masking.

Sincerely,

Abigail Santamaria

www.abigailsantamaria.com

www.biographybydesign.com

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Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Woodbridge, CT School District

jbudd@woodbridgeps.org

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