

Position Statement

We, the citizens of Exeter Township School District, assert that the primary responsibility for a child's health and welfare lie with the child's biological or adoptive parent or legal guardians. We affirm that children belong first to their parents and families—not to any government, community, or school district.¹ We further believe that “in loco parents,” the federal law which grants schools districts authority to act on parents' behalf while children are in school, *does not* replace or overrule parental authority.²

Therefore, we urgently request that Exeter Township School District *immediately and fully* revoke its policy that children must wear masks (also called face coverings) in order to attend and/or while attending school; while being transported to and from school; and while participating in school events (including but not limited to concerts, sporting events, and clubs).

We cite the following evidence against the use of masks on our children:

1. As stated above, we assert that the school district's child masking requirement infringes upon parental rights. We believe that this undermines parents' authority granted under natural law.
2. Masks do little to nothing to protect children's health.³ Medical literature shows that virus particles can easily pass through a surgical mask or cloth face covering.⁴ Masks manufacturers acknowledge that their products are designed for the surgical environment.^{5 6 7} This raises a question: Have they even been tested for use on children in the school setting? Moreover, we assert that requiring children to wear masks is unnecessary given the very low numbers of children contracting covid-19 and the near-zero risk of them dying from it.⁸
3. Masks harm children's health. Covering a child's nose and mouth with a mask can reduce airflow.⁹ The media and medical professionals alike are now documenting incidents of low

¹ <https://academic.oup.com/ajj/article-abstract/59/2/197/105774?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277238819_Natural_Law_Parental_Rights_and_Education_Policy

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/127UF1DP7wNQpSTEF4-LUGvblTJbq0av/view>

⁴ <https://www.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?doi=10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.4221>

⁵ <https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/What-does-OSHA-say-about-masks.pdf>

⁶ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/127UF1DP7wNQpSTEF4-LUGvblTJbq0av/view>

⁷ <https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/3M-Document-Limitations-of-Surgical-Masks.pdf>

⁸ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed2def13f9b045eda9f7d22dbc9b500e>

⁹ <https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/What-does-OSHA-say-about-masks.pdf>

For a copy, visit www.pppc.me (Pennsylvania Parents Protecting Children, May 2021).

oxygen levels, passing out, and injury/concussion among student athletes who were required to wear masks during physical exertion.^{10 11} Medical professionals also note that lack of oxygen because of masking can exacerbate children’s health conditions (diagnosed or undiagnosed), including asthma, immune diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and diabetes.¹² Alarming, “interfering with the breathing of a child” is one indicator of child abuse.¹³

4. Children are in danger of social and emotional harm due to masking.^{14 15 16} Masks are a tool for “social distancing,” which medical literature clearly equates to social isolation—a human rights violation used on prisoners of war.¹⁷ Research shows that children need to “read” faces in order to communicate and bond with others.¹⁸ Mental health professionals also acknowledge that social isolation (which includes masking) is a risk factor for suicide in children and adolescents.¹⁹ ²⁰ Children who are identified as anxious, sensitive, or unable to articulate their wants/needs may be especially harmed by mandatory masking;²¹ and yet adults have coaxed, conditioned, bribed, and forced²² these students to wear masks.

¹⁰ <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/05/17/central-oregon-school-masks-requirement-athlete-collapse/>

¹¹ <https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/education/2021/05/04/group-presses-new-mexico-change-student-mask-policy/7390861002/>

¹² <https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/What-does-OSHA-say-about-masks.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&t1=23&div=0&chpt=63>

¹⁴ <https://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/mask-harms-kids-68-parents-report-alarming-problems-first-its-kind-study-preprint1>

¹⁵ <https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Attorney-Letter-Masks-in-School.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/16/health/new-cdc-mask-guidance-anxiety-wellness/index.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.citizens-rights.org/resources-1> (See “Letter to County on Harms of Mandatory Masking”)

¹⁸ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2772135>

¹⁹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2772135>

²⁰ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2779300?resultClick=1>

²¹ <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/strong-center-developmental-disabilities/resources/masks-toolkit.aspx>

²² <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>

For a copy, visit www.pppc.me (Pennsylvania Parents Protecting Children, May 2021).

5. Students' academic achievement has been curbed after a year of learning in masks, according to published and anecdotal evidence from teachers, teacher organizations, and parents.^{23 24 25} Students cannot fully hear and/or see their teacher or others through masks.²⁶ More than a year into masking, we have begun to collect data that children are having difficulty acquiring language and learning to read. For special education children or those who are English language learners, masks especially impede access to curriculum. This is a direct violation of "least restrictive environment" under the special education law.²⁷

In summary, evidence is mounting that mandatory masking is a poor policy decision²⁸ for the health and welfare of our children.^{29 30} Requiring this medical intervention—which has never been proven effective for curbing the spread of a virus for children in the school setting—makes this school board liable for the abuse and harm to the children it serves. The burden is on you, the board, to prove that masking children is beneficial. This board has not done so.

For these reasons, we urge this school district to immediately and fully revoke its mask requirement for children. We, the undersigned, look forward to seeing the maskless, smiling faces of children returning to Exeter schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

²³ https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-how-to-contend-with-pandemic-learning-loss/2020/05?s_kwid=AL!6416!3!486544088589!b!!g!!&utm_source=goog&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=ew+dyna mic+recent%20&ccid=dynamic+ads+recent+articles&ccag=recent+articles+dynamic&cckw=&cccw=dynamic+ad&gclid=CjwK CAjwy42FBhB2EiwAJY0yQm2bzZWzcChbFP1EAeXO0rydv7FDXe1GSyCX9Cw8ILB3PJHabS2ImxoCucQQAvD_BwE

²⁴ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/05/27/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-student-achievement-and-what-it-may-mean-for-educators/>

²⁵ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2021/04/02/summer-school-changes-covid-federal-money-learning-loss/4808079001/>

²⁶ <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/fabric-face-masks-speech-sound-comprehension-teachers-classroom-covid19#:~:text=Masks%20tend%20to%20muffle%20consonants,students%20talking%20in%20the%20room.>

²⁷ <https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/PACode/Pages/LeastRestrictiveEnvironment.aspx>

²⁸ https://pppc.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Stanford_Mask_Study.pdf

²⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaS6Ms4fC20>

³⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl1Pbe_Ej5I&t=132s