

Board Resolution on Mask-Choice for K-12 Schools

WHEREAS, numerous studies and the CDC confirm that children are at an incredibly low risk of severe disease, long-term side effects and death from COVID-19, with a mortality risk substantially less than from influenza or common activities such as riding in a car or swimming; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies found low case rates in countries where schools did not require masks, and studies published by the CDC and the COVID-19 School Response Dashboard found no difference in case rates between schools with and without student mask mandates; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that mask wearing can impact a child’s language development, emotional development, interpersonal communication, and overall physiological and psychological health; and

WHEREAS, Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) parents should be able to send their children back to school in full confidence that their children will be able to learn mask-free and be able to engage in mask-free communications with their educators

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board establishes the following goals:

- Advocate in writing to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for parental choice in masking should CDPH choose to recommend another masking mandate.
- Commit to parental choice in masking children in public schools.
- Ensure that mask mandates will NOT return to CUSD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board is committed to assisting schools in returning to normalcy in the classroom, including the commitment to oppose mask mandates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board will transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: Superintendents for all school districts within the county, the County Department of Public Health, the County Department of Education, California Congressmembers, the California Governor, the California Department of Public Health, and any other entities the Board deems appropriate for this resolution.

Adopted this ___ day of _____ in 2022.

Motion made by: Second made by: Members voting “aye”: Members voting “no”: Members abstaining: Members not present:

CITATIONS

1. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Face-Coverings-QA.aspx>
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3. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR21-214.aspx>
4. <https://maps.schools.covid19.ca.gov/public.html>
5. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/146/2/e2020004879>
6. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2771181>
7. <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/05/study-number-of-kids-hospitalized-for-covid-is-overcounted.html>
8. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/29/exclusive-long-covid-has-minimal-impact-children-studies-show/>
9. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/24/most-children-with-post-covid-disease-recover-within-six-months-study-finds>
10. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2782164>
11. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>
12. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41390-021-01590-8>
13. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>
14. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/2019-2020/2019-20-pediatric-flu-deaths.htm?web=1&wdLOR=cFF98CDC7-76A9-482E-995F-4BF669C8B244>
15. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/18/briefing/kids-covid-and-delta.html>
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18. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e1.htm>
19. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1>
20. <https://www.contagionlive.com/view/comparing-covid-19-and-influenza-course-in-hospitalized-children>
21. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/05/25/997467734/childrens-risk-of-serious-illness-from-covid-19-is-as-low-as-it-is-for-the-flu?sc=18&f=1001>
22. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/05/26/its-time-children-finally-get-back-normal-life/>
23. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Is-it-safe-to-fully-reopen-California-schools-16224689.php>
24. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/vinay-prasad/93453?trw=no>
25. <https://about.burbio.com/school-mask-policies-by-state/>
26. [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
27. <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19>