

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
4/13/2021 9:00:13	Amy Wellman	<p>I'm concerned about the quarantine policy for healthy children and would like more information on how many of these quarantines result in positive COVID cases. We are told "masks work". Yet a child wearing a mask is required to quarantine for 14 days for being "exposed" to another masked child who was positive for COVID. If masks work then why the quarantine? If quarantines work where are the numbers showing how many who were quarantined ended up testing positive for COVID? We cannot continue like this in the fall. I really hope once all adults have the chance to be vaccinated that these quarantines can end.</p>
4/13/2021 15:00:28	Michelle Shoemaker	<p>Being back to school, full days is a great step in the right direction. We do, however, have a long way to go to get our kids back to the school day normalcy that they deserve and that it is safe to have. I am terrified that we will enter 21-22 the SAME way we are now and that is in absolutely no way acceptable for my kids day to day educational experience. I do not want my kids in masks. I do not want my HEALTHY kids being told they have to quarantine. I do not want my kids unable to sit near their friends and socialize at lunch. I do not want my kids to have to walk down the hall in some prison type line. I do not want my kids unable to use their school locker. These standards are rigid and lack all logic and common sense. I am fully aware that as an administration and board you have County and State directions regarding protocol and safety. That being said, I am writing to you to ask that you as a collective team, make the decision to be LEADERS in the fight against the absurd, rigid and over the top direction coming from our governor and therefore IDPH. It is time to stand up for our kids once and for all. It is time to demand that we stop quarantining healthy kids that we say are exposed to covid positive students. We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that transmission is not happening in these asymptomatic kids at school or in school activities. HEALTHY kids should NEVER be asked to stay home. How anyone thinks this is smart is beyond me. It is time that we stop such rigid measuring and contact tracing. Why on earth would we hire more contract tracers? This is in no way needed. It is time to stand up to the IDPH and tell them we cannot and should not keep healthy kids out of school and sports. Take away absurd bathroom break procedures. it is time to tell Illinois that like many other states, it is time to get kids out of masks while in school for an entire day. It is time to let the kids eat normally, with their friends, socializing, having fun, without wearing a mask. It is time for the leaders of 205 to take charge and fight back to this state that is playing everyone that listens to them for nothing but fools. The teachers that chose to be vaccinated, are. The people that have fears are welcome to keep right on masking. But for the rest of the students please be their leader and let's work to get our 21-22 school year back to what school can and should be for these kids. It is long past time to begin living like other states have been, showing clearly that it can be done. Let's get on board and get to work with a CAN DO attitude. Action is needed now, August is a very short 4 months away....</p>

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
4/13/2021 17:36:57	Jean Hogan	<p>A friend was speaking with Matt Davidson, Superintendent of Timothy Christian, and Matt asked who at D205 was advocating for our kids. This is great question. I realize all the Covid restrictions and rules that D205 enforces are due to IDPH/CDC/ISBE, however, I am hoping that the BOE and our Administration understand that these measures will not end in an appropriate time frame unless we all come together to advocate for the well being of our children.</p> <p>As of Monday, everyone in Illinois 16+ is eligible for a Covid 19 vaccine if they want one. By August, everyone will have had the opportunity to get vaccinated if they choose. Does our district have an off ramp for all the Covid restrictions and logistics that our children have to comply with in school? What is the plan to get back to normal for the 21-22 school year?</p> <p>Whether it's 7 hours of mask wearing indoors and outside (even during exercise), quarantining healthy children, mandating saliva screening, not allowing middle school to use lockers, timing student's bathroom usage, kids sitting alone at lunch to ensure social distancing, kids being told to use their phones at lunch to avoid socialization and more....if you say you care about our kids, you know these measures aren't healthy and we need to get back to normal for next school year</p> <p>I ask the BOE to go visit the schools. Spend the day in masks, carry a 20 pound backpack, hear the kids being reprimanded for trying to breathe or for trying to be close to peers. I ask the Administration to please reach out to their contacts at IDPH, ISBE and the DCBH. Ask to see data that shows masks aren't harmful and actually make any sort of difference is protecting people from Covid-19. Ask them if they are tracking if close contact quarantines become isolations. If quarantines exist next year, then remote learning will also have to exist. If masks are not optional, there will be learning loss associated with language, reading, speech, communion and social/emotional, not to mention health issues arising from constant mask wearing for children (fatigue, headaches, increased exposure to bacteria, self contamination, and more).</p> <p>I don't think our students can take another year of this. I don't think our teachers can take another year of this. Let's return to our social contract in the 21-22 school year. Being human means we are not guaranteed a zero risk life. We used to be a society that measured risk vs. benefits. Smiles matters, connection -and not protection from each other- matters. Our kids have sacrificed for a year and it's time that we advocated to the county and state for a return to normal for next school year.</p>

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
4/13/2021 17:50:11	Elizabeth Thompson	<p>It has been great to see the students of D205 return to full days at school. Seeing my son have his daily schedule including specific time for science, social studies and an increase in specials is well overdue. But we are not done. Children need mask breaks and should not be required to wear masks outdoors. Outdoor play is a very low risk activity and there is no science to support the need for masks outdoors. Children need to see each other's faces and engage with each other.</p> <p>I am also concerned by the definition of a close contact and how the district is monitoring the time students are in contact. Outdoor time, passing in hallways, being in the same bathroom are ridiculous times to implement close contact tracing. Student should not live in fear that the next time the door opens it will be someone to remove them from their classroom. School based spread with masks on is extremely limited. This has been shown by Ohio State health department among others. In Ohio the number of students that needed to isolate after quarantine came in 0.45%. The contact tracing and quarantine measures that are being implemented by this district are overly restrictive and quite frankly harmful to children. We need to use more common sense and put kids first. They deserve to be in the schools not being constantly tracked. What true benefit is this even providing? We cannot stop examining and questioning these practices. I ask the BOE and administration to take a close look at these rules and really assess what benefit to safety or health is actually being provided? All I see is that it is adding to students anxiety.</p>
4/13/2021 17:58:11	Laurie Nourse Buzzell	<p>If the District does not allow all students to remain five full days this Spring and next year, and those kids don't get an equitable education AGAIN, there will be new and deeper consequences that will last. This should include that teachers and children be allowed to teach and be taught and play sports without disruption due to quarantines.</p> <p>The District presently has plenty of data to understand its population compared to those outside of our City and our State to set protocols in place that are proactive yet thoughtful and forward-thinking. This means that quarantine procedures be reevaluated now. And, realize our future will continue to be based on how we support our children. They need to be in classrooms and with their peers to be successful adults. If you can't put our children first now, you are doing not only them a disservice, but you are doing yourself a disservice. Keep kids in school. Reevaluate quarantine procedures.</p>