

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
5/10/2021 12:31:32	Nicole Kaleta	<p>It is time to stop masking our kids. Masks are not effective and there are no controlled studies showing that they work, especially for children. We had less flu last year because of viral interference, not because of masks. Forcing masks on our kids is cruel. When you impose a requirement to wear masks then the burden of proof is on you to show that they work. Where is that proof? In the absence of that proof it should, at the very least, be up to us parents to decide if we want our kids in a mask for 7 hours a day.</p> <p>Masks are not without harm. Will you, the board, personally accept responsibility for any adverse reactions from masks? If you aren't willing to accept that liability they you should not be requiring masks.</p>
5/10/2021 15:58:24	Amy Wellman	<p>The quarantining and masking of healthy children need to be addressed. The guidelines you are following are just that: guidelines. Covid is not going away. The vulnerable population has had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Why continue to punish the children? The fact that our children are wearing masks outside playing sports and on the playground is ridiculous and I am shocked that our Board members are not pushing back on these guidelines and taking a stand. Masks should be optional especially outside! We are well beyond the 2 weeks to slow the spread and not overwhelm the hospitals. Instead of celebrating the fact that there is a vaccine for those that need it most you are making the children bear the brunt of what the IL agencies set as guidelines. Please stand up for our kids. They deserve better than this. Why is Covid different in other states? Why are other children allowed to be unmasked? The circular logic of blaming Dupage County or the CDC or the IDHP is wearing thin. These are the same agencies that thought remote learning was a substitute for in person learning when we all know that wasn't true. The masking of these kids after a vaccine is available to the at risk population I think is going to be the same story as remote learning. You have the ability to make a difference for these kids and they need your support and leadership now. Please consider doing the right thing for my child, your children, and all of the children in this community.</p>
5/11/2021 8:43:52	Carrie & Chris Keppner	<p>We are parents of two elementary students and one middle schooler. We are asking you to end close contact quarantine beginning day one for the school year 2021-2022. Our experience has been negative test results and or displaying no symptoms without testing. You are quarantining healthy children. This needs to stop. Healthy children belong in school learning. Healthy children must not be forced to learn remotely for 10 days. Nor should these healthy children lose 24 hours of education while their teacher(s) prepare for their absence. These quarantines are affecting children's mental health. Mental health crises are irreversible. Yes, there are coping mechanisms and medication. However, changes to mental health is life altering that remains with the child forever. It does not magically disappear. We have experience with this first hand, so we are educated on mental health. It is time to put the children first and decrease the risk of a mental health crisis in the first place. You, as the Board, can make this happen. The school has every precaution in place including masks, hand sanitizer and 3-6 feet distancing. The quarantines were initially put in place protect the vulnerable. We are now beyond that phase. Close contact quarantine does not need to remain in place. It is a guideline and you as a Board can make the decision to move beyond this guideline and keep our healthy children in school where they belong. Thank you.</p>
5/11/2021 11:15:15	Renee Dizillo	<p>I have 4 kids that attend Lincoln, bryan and york. My kids are broken. Tired. They are done with the mental abuse at the hands of district 205. They are done being prisoners at school. School is supposed to be a positive, enlightening experience. Now it is a horrible, negative place to be where you get verbally attacked when a piece of fabric falls below your nose. You get accused of putting others at risk when you just need to take a breath of fresh air. Kids are doing outdoor activities with masks on? Who actually thinks this is a good idea? What are you doing to these kids? Healthy kids are sent home to be quarantined for no reason. The mental abuse needs to stop. Let's get back to normal. What are you waiting for? All adults that want the vaccine have had the opportunity to get it. Fall better look normal or the mental abuse will continue and district 205 will continue to be a terrible disappointment.</p>
5/11/2021 13:25:14	Laurie Nourse Buzzell	<p>Please take action to return the Fall 2021-2022 school year to pre-Covid instruction and environment...no masks, no distancing, no quarantines. This ask or rather demand includes how extracurriculars are held.</p> <p>I'll get right to it. A big change in my D205 Sixth Grader, who has been active in Chess, is that he wishes to quit. He can't play with real pieces against an true opponent. He is in a room with kids on a computer. He hates it— and, he's played for FIVE years in clubs. What is the difference in playing any sport passing a ball?</p> <p>For my son, chess is his outlet for creativity, skill, and strategy, much like sports. There is a large void for kids who thrive in extracurricular activities. These activities create the same dopamine needed to inspire a true DESIRE and JOY that maintains mental health, focus, and the curiosity to develop meaningful relationships. Where is the support for these children? Are we going to let these kids disappear quite literally on the sidelines? Commit to return to pre-Covid normalcy this Fall. Have empathy and heart like he does. He would speak up for your rights before he spoke up for his own.</p>

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5/11/2021 14:49:48	Jen Rice	<p>The schools in the fall should be opened with no masks, unnecessary quarantines, zero saliva testing and no self certification. Stop making health decisions for our kids. stop sending out vaccine info. it is your job and your only job to educate our children and keeping them locked outside because of forgetting to self certify, sending them home for weeks because of the 0.27% chance they could catch a virus that has virtually zero impact on their health and forcing them to mask outdoors shows you want to exhibit more power than what you actually have. Nothing has changed and until you are willing to put our kids education and well being first this district will continue to be the laughing stock of IL. How many more pictures need to be shared with the media that shows you are creating an abusive learning environment for our children. THERE IS ZERO LAW that mandates anything you are doing. There are guidelines which ARE NOT LAW. A school district that has trust between its teachers, admins, Board and families is one working together for the education and well being and health of our children. Enough is enough.</p>
5/11/2021 15:27:18	Carmel Downey	<p>I was horrified to discover that if a child is deemed a close contact or has a positive saliva test, they are placed in a makeshift plastic, windowless room alone. This is absolutely unacceptable and traumatizing for our children! Who decided this was ok and why aren't parents aware of this absurd and protocol? It needs to change!</p>
5/11/2021 15:56:08	Jean Hogan	<p>Parents have the right to direct the education and medical care of their minor child. As you make plans for the 21-22 school year and Covid vaccines will be available to anyone 12+, please return the freedom of CHOICE and risk assessment to parents. Allow parents to decide what is best for our own children. Please continue to work with other districts to stand up to the unreasonable county and state "guidance". Close contact quarantines, social distancing theatre and masking should be discontinued next school year for the well being of our children. We cannot continue to live under state of emergency "guidelines" when there is no state of emergency. Vaccines are available and hospitals are not overburdened.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage you to let the children be unmasked outside at recess and PE starting RIGHT NOW. The risk of Covid transmission outside is almost non-existent. Experts such as Harvard Professor Joseph Allen and Dr. Tracy Hoeg have cited research that kids should not have to wear masks outside. For example, there was a study of 91,000 youth soccer players over last summer and only ONE transmission event suspected, the lead author says it is not known if the transmission was indoors or outdoors or actually from home. Next, a Hubei province study of 1,245 infected individuals, only ONE infected outdoors and no youth outdoor transmission. Last example, in the CDC Wood County in Wisconsin study of K-12 schools, there was minimal transmission in high community prevalence over 13 weeks, recess was held outdoors without masks and no transmission events traced to recess.</p> <p>As I have asked in almost every BOE meeting this year via written or live public comment, please put our children's best interests first. Stop asking the children to sacrifice unnecessarily for the adults who are vaccinated.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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5/11/2021 16:12:36	Elizabeth Thompson	<p>I would like to start by thinking Dr Yonke for being part of the advocacy with other superintendents to the state of Illinois to help change quarantine guidelines for our students. This type of leadership and advocacy is definitely appreciated and very much needed. We don't need to look any further than the d205 dashboard to see that only 0.27% of students who are quarantined go on to develop symptoms of possible Covid-19. Even then we are not certain it was contracted from school as students and their families engage in many more activities and contacts throughout the week. We need to allow healthy students to stay in the classroom, we need to stop disrupting their education, sports, and social lives. We need to stop hiding behind this is for their own health and safety because it is neither of those things. We still have a lot of work to do in d205. There are many things that we have the ability to change immediately in regards to the procedures of our schools. Why are elementary school kids being forced to sit outside inside hula hoops until their daily self-certification is complete? This exercise is becoming tiresome and has not been shown to prevent cases of covid-19 in schools. More importantly elementary school kids should not be deprived of further hours of education to complete this pointless exercise.</p> <p>Masks need to be taken off outdoors. Outdoor transmission is estimated to be less than 1/1000 cases. There is no data that links significant outdoor spread occurring from child play. Let our HEALTHY children be healthy children together. The mask mandate is for indoors only and is not for outdoor play. Outdoor masking is only a guideline that does not follow the science. You have the power to change this and I ask that it be done immediately for recess, PE class and any other time outside.</p> <p>Why are the middle schoolers walking one way in the hallway? I recognize that this was a recommendation last June by ISBE, however this doesn't actually make scientific sense. How is a child less likely to spread covid by passing someone in the hallway versus walking behind them for a full lap around the school? This does not make any logical sense and it makes the days in middle school burdensome for our students.</p> <p>These are only a few examples of the building procedures that I find lacking common sense and lacking focus on our students. Please reevaluate the things we are doing to our students and ask if they are logical and student focused. The answer to many of these things is no they are not student-focused, they do not have true bases in science or safety and they need to be stopped.</p>
5/11/2021 16:27:17	Michelle Shoemaker	<p>As I mentioned in my email to all of you, I will now make the topics of my emails public, either written or in person. I have many concerns to address with the administration on how we are handling school for our kids. I will get to that after I repeat here publicly my concerns regarding public comment. It is rude and disrespectful, something that we in the public are asked not to be when we come in to speak, that you limit public comments to 3 minutes each and a total of 30 minutes. It is also ridiculous that you no longer read the written comments that are submitted. Nothing, and I mean nothing, should be more important than listening to the members of this community who's kids you are responsible for educating. So the expectation of not being disrespectful really should work both ways. As for going forward and the handling of covid in this district, we continue to be rigid and extreme and over the top in our fear based schooling. We need to go into the next school year with a normal school environment for all kids k-12. This means masks being optional for those that want them. This means going back to handling a covid virus with a letter home, just like we do strep the flu and lice. This means never again quarantining a healthy child. Ever. This means not isolating kids in "bubbles" at Bryan (APPALLING) and not sitting kids in hula hoop circles to be alone. This means giving kids lockers. This means letting kids eat like normal human beings like kids do in states outside of Illinois. This means no more prison walks down the halls. This means no more playing an instrument in a mask, not even sure who thought that was a good idea. Get kids OUT of masks in sports and gym. This is unsafe and unhealthy. I am not inferring this is your fault as a BOE. But I am saying that the recommendations from this administration have been extreme from the beginning and I am saying that you can and should be standing up to the state and now. It is now a law. It is not a rule. And instead of being trailblazers you follow along out of fear of a lawsuit. You let insurance and lawyers guide our kids educational and extracurricular experiences and it is unacceptable. Outside of Illinois life goes on for kids. Our kids will be forever impacted by these decisions, they already are. And I am begging you to find courage and strength to go against the state and IDPH. Use logic and common sense and come out as heroes. LEAD THE WAY for Illinois. Be the town and the team that stood up and changed a very broken and yes, politically driven agenda at our kids expense. And if vaccinations work, why the masks? Why? It is time to take them off and give our kids left in 205 their lives back. Please be the time that is brave enough to do it. You have a LOT of people backing you on this, you are not in this alone</p>
5/11/2021 16:33:08	Trisha Fisher	<p>Please continue to urge Dupage county to not only change the quarantine requirement to 3 feet but to get rid of the quarantines all together! The data is showing us that it's completely unnecessary! We will never get back to normal if we're quarantining healthy kids every day!</p>
5/11/2021 16:43:57	Courtney Bowman	<p>Please point to the research that supports kids needing to wear masks while outside. Enough is enough. There have been a couple studies demonstrating that the chance of contracting Covid while outside is less than 1%.</p>
5/11/2021 16:50:53	Jennifer Sommer-Witruk	<p>Every adult that was either elected by the people or holds a position of power in our school administration should be advocating for our children with the IDPH to change these unnecessary guidelines or you are failing miserably. We cannot continue quarantining healthy children and masking them 7 hours a day next year. We need to stop the insanity and listen to the data regarding children along with the introduction of vaccination choice and get back to a sense of normalcy. We desperately need leadership with common sense and a child centered focus to lead us into a prosperous new school year. Stand up for our kids!!!!</p>

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5/11/2021 17:09:08	Iwona Nichols	I ask the board to stop the self certification nonsense that is forced on us parents. I can't see the point of filling up the form daily. It has no purpose and at this point a lot of people is just filling up without even reading. I also know for sure that very limited number of parents is actually checking the temperature of their children. Also the system that is put in place holding children in tents on the cement ground waiting for parents to certify them is wrong. Our children need to be put in the first place in this district. Ahead of everybody else. Not held hostage, unable to enter the building, kept on the cold ground. There will be no District 205 without our children and it's time to show our kids more respect they are deserve.
5/11/2021 17:27:35	Kate Feutz	Dear BOE, I'd first like to say thank you for your timely handling of the French issue. I appreciate the efforts made by Kara, who reached out to me immediately and also followed up. Still, I am concerned that an email like this even went out. I'm concerned the board was not aware of such a large issue, and I'm concerned about the lack of leadership at the building levels. I'm not sure how an email like this can go out, without a building principal expecting to field a few calls with questions such as; why was this decision made or how is this in the best interest of our children? I am concerned we have leaders at the building levels, making decisions that are NOT in the best interest of our children. I am concerned this email was written with the intention of flying "under the radar" in the hopes nobody would complain or even understand its confusing wording. It's these types of communications that make the parents distrust the leaders in this district. It's my hope that as we look to the 2021-22 school year, with new faces on the school board, and a wonderful new superintendent, the board can begin to mend it's relationship with this community of parents that, like you, care deeply about our children and the future of our district. Thank you for your time.
5/11/2021 17:35:25	Paula Lind	WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING "ISOLATED" in plastic tents at Bryan Middle School!? This is gross negligence by the adults and administration we are trusting with our children. I consider this child abuse. This practice must be stopped and persons responsible for it must be held accountable.
5/11/2021 17:35:57	Kristin Freeman	<p>Imagine you're in second grade and it's your birthday. Remember the days back when you were a kid and how incredibly special and exciting birthdays were? My son is a twin. Last Friday he celebrated his 9th birthday in quarantine. He had to sit home on a computer while his brother got to go to school to celebrate. It just so happened that his birthday fell on the 10th day of quarantine. He could not attend school. Not only did he end up testing negative for Covid, he did not display one symptom the entire time he was out. You know what he did display? Sadness, frustration, depression and a complete lack of learning.</p> <p>Each morning I have to drive my son across town to Hawthorne and my daughter to Timothy. My son is too young to stay home alone. I don't have anyone that can stay with him in the morning so he needs to come with me. He misses out on instructional time because it's not possible for him to be logged on to a computer when he is sitting in line at drop off with me. When parents are informed the night before, we have no time to prepare. We are given little to no information. Not only is the case with the parents, it seems to be the case with the teachers as well.</p> <p>Moreover, as a parent who has children attending both Hawthorne and Timothy Christian , I have been given a unique perspective. I was curious as to how many positive cases resulted from a student who has to quarantine for being in close contact with someone who tested positive, so I emailed Matt Davidson at Timothy Christian. According to Matt, " they have had approximately 400 kids in quarantine this year. Now can anyone guess how many of those kids tested positive for Covid? 7. Only 7 reported having symptoms-and they even admitted that it was possible that they could have been exposed outside of school. Matt Davidson also stated that his goal is to leave quarantine decisions up to the HOME next year, not the school. If you are going to make kids quarantine, then at least have the science to back it up. Have a plan in place so teachers are not scrambling to prepare 10 days of work for a student at a minutes notice.</p> <p>Lastly, my son is in special Ed. Have you considered the impact of quarantine on this vulnerable population? How is he supposed to be able to get the required services he needs when he is forced to stay home? Being on a computer till 1:15 was bad enough, but now he has to be on till 3. Not only is it difficult for the students, it's hard on the teachers as well. How are Special Ed teachers supposed to collaborate with the regular classroom teachers when they find out the day of that a student on their caseload is in quarantine?</p> <p>Once again the District has failed in my eyes. If you're going to implement something without providing scientific evidence and data, at least have an acceptable plan in place. Why are we masking and distancing if we are going to force kids to quarantine from exposure? It should be up to the parents if they want their child to go to school.</p>

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5/11/2021 17:55:29	Rebecca Harpster	<p>Dear D205 Board and Administration, First, thank you to the administration for taking first steps toward eliminating quarantines of healthy kids by 1) ending the saliva screening and 2) writing a letter to the ISBE advocating for the definition of a close contact to be three feet instead of six feet. Those are definitely great steps in the right direction.</p> <p>Second, I would like to express my disagreement with the use of the "quarantine bubble" at Bryan Middle School. This bubble, without a window, with a zippered entrance, and plastic taped to the floor, is complete overkill. Our children are human beings who deserve respect. Instead, our children are being treated like disease vectors and not being given the respect that any person should be given, much less one who is in your nurturing care for their personal growth and development. In fact, I think you should be held to a higher level as child advocates, as educators, and as caretakers of our most precious resource - our children! Please take that isolation room down and put a stop to the anxiety that kids at Bryan are feeling about it.</p> <p>Third, the self-certification process is a drain on families time and serves little purpose, as very few read each and every statement every morning. Other districts have done away with this and families just signed one certification that says you will continue to follow the rules. Please consider this for D205 in the future. Thanks, Becca Harpster</p>
5/11/2021 18:33:08	Kerri Armstrong	Do the right thing....MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL. It's time our board start advocating for our children. They should NOT be required to wear something covering their oxygen source for 7 hours straight. Us parents have had ENOUGH.
5/11/2021 18:51:22	Mia Allen	PLEASE make all the craziness stop!!! Have we no more common sense?? My 5th Grade Son was put in a time out at Lincoln Elementary on an 80 degree day when he was running around at recess. A time out?!?! Seriously now.....he's outside and who can possibly breath in a mask while getting exercise when outside?? He's trying to breath in some fresh air!!! Kids should be mask free period! All grade levels. Please make masks optional for the 2021/2022 school year. We all know study after study shows they are not affective. If some parents want their kids to wear them fine. However, for those of us that know it's so much more unhealthy for them to wear them let it be a choice. We never masked before for the flu and people do die from the flu. All Teachers & Staff should be vaccinated by now. So why on earth would everyone still be in masks? And I saw photos of the "bubble" at Bryan. I truly cannot believe the Administrations common sense has totally gone out the window and a contraption like this is even allowed. D205 should be ashamed of themselves. I know I sure am. Wake up! Enough is enough with all of this. Get our kids back to a normal life. Thank you
5/11/2021 19:02:21	Erin Danielson	Hello BOE. As planning begins for the 21/22 school year, please start from scratch with how COVID will be handled. Many of the policies from this school year- whether it's the ultra conservative quarantines, the isolation bubbles, the health screenings each day, the eating on floors and cold ground outside- need to be seriously reevaluated. Please go into the school year with a mindset for making things as normal as possible, and allowing our children the ability to enjoy a school setting that so many others in the area and country are afforded. Thank you.