

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
5/25/2021 9:49:30	Cecelia Grebs	Please move forward with making masks optional for all students. All students age 12-17 have access to the vaccine. Illinois has dropped the mask mandate. Vaccinated adults are allowed to go to most workplaces without a mask. Vaccinated children, the only group who is zero risk of covid, should be allowed to go to school mask free. Masks should also be optional for children under 12, since they are so low risk for covid complications or spreading it. The Covid School Response Dashboard actually shows higher transmission among students in elementary schools requiring masks versus those not. The Northwestern covid Dashboard now shows all numbers for Elmhurst in the minimal category, even cases per 100k. Masking children decreases their social emotional learning greatly, which many studies show is more important than academics to future success. We are raising the most antisocial generation ever thanks to social media, masking, and social distancing. Please move forward with masks optional for all students. Thank you!
5/25/2021 10:25:15	Iwona Nichols	We are asking the Board to change the rules for the next school year. Masks should be optional for children and vaccinated teachers. No more pointless self certification and disrespecting our children by placing them on the ground like animals to eat. Our kids should be treated with respect by district 205. Again there is no 205 without our children! No more eating outside on freezing ground. No more wearing masks outside in gym class while 90 degrees! No more isolation tents!! And most of all no more quarantine for healthy kids! Crazy rules has to change asap or 205 will loose more kids to private schools.
5/25/2021 10:27:10	Sarah Sata	Please make masks optional for all grade levels for the 2021/22 school year. Thank you.
5/25/2021 10:29:33	Nicole Kaleta	What is your plan for removing masks in schools? What metrics are you using? Why are we waiting for the state and county when we have the power to remove masks right now? Our kids deserve answers to these questions. Why are we continuing to abuse kids? Other countries don't do this and, more and more, other states are refusing to mask kids as well. D205 could be a leader in this area with regard to masks. Let's do the right thing for our kids.
5/25/2021 10:40:05	Jen Rice	No schools should be making it mandatory to vaccinate or be subjected to face masks. No schools should be spending classroom time passing out vaccine info. No schools should be crossing the line in to healthcare OR politics. Your job is to educate our children and our job is to decide their medical needs which yes, includes whether or not to mask our kids indoors on a virus that has been proved time and time again that children are NOT at a health risk and are not at risk for spreading the virus. Our kids have been faceless and demoralized all year long whether they were behind a screen with their cameras off or masked in the classroom or both. Kids have NK cells and T cells that are their natural immune response. If they have had Covid they have antibodies. Most of these kids do not need the vaccine or be eligible for the vaccine to remove the masks. And if they do have health issues they have the choice to wear it. We need leaders to stand up now and say, the IL mask mandates were removed and we are willing to do what's right by our students and make masks and vaccines OPTIONAL. Additionally, all the plans for fall 2021 should be laid out prior to August including sports expectations, vaccines, masks and quarantines. Parents deserve a right to know how the 2021/22 school year will be laid out. We already know the virus will be back in the fall with a million variants. The absolute risk reduction of these vaccines are around 1% and that's not statistically significant. Especially to wait for the "eligibility" for our younger kids who need to be free of masks more than anyone! Please, remove the mask mandates in D205, stop pushing vaccines and put the medical decisions back to the parents and their pediatricians. I implore you to follow Science. Thank you.
5/25/2021 10:47:46	Matt Baker	<p>We took my child out of public schools this year and she is now in a local catholic school. She has gone this entire year full time with limited covid cases in her school.</p> <p>We are debating putting her back in public schools as this was the only reason we moved to Elmhurst. However, she will not be returning until the public schools go mask optional for all students. The science and data support this.</p>

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5/25/2021 10:53:48	Lindsay Burrell	<p>2 things need to be seriously addressed for next school year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Making masks optional</li> <li>2. Eliminating quarantines.</li> </ol> <p>Making our children wear masks is something that should be up to the parents. As a parent of a special needs little girl, seeing her classmates/teacher's expressions and faces is very important to her development of her communication. She is losing so much by not seeing anyone's faces. The quarantines this year for exposure were unnecessary and horrible for my children. My 4th grader lost so much this year and sat home completely healthy for more than 2 weeks. (She had back to back exposure cases) Remote learning does not work for everyone and I saw a health risk to her mental health because of it. This should not happen! As parents, we should decide whether we want our children masked and if we want to keep our kids home for exposure. The present policies need to change ASAP!!</p>
5/25/2021 11:05:15	Kerri Armstrong	<p>It is time District 205 starts advocating for our children. The science and data are very clear. Children DO NOT need to be masked. As parents we complied this year. We will not in the fall. Masks NEED to be OPTIONAL. If not, 205 needs to be prepared to deal with parent that have had ABSOLUTELY ENOUGH of this nonsense. Shame on our district for not standing up for our children like their private school counterparts. We pay enormous amount of taxes and EXPECT MORE! Do Better 205 or we will leave and TAKE our money with us!!</p>
5/25/2021 11:14:14	Erica Fine	<p>Use your positions to challenge the health departments for clarifications and force them to review and update guidelines that were created when we knew very little about covid. Urge them as much as us parents urge you. The fall must be mask optional. Stop the child abuse. Show children they do, in fact, have freedoms to make great choices. Trust they will make great choices!</p> <p>Admit that the concerns about unmasking are more related to your liability than children's health at this point. Remember your calling — you started this pursuit of Board presence for the kids, so please finish this for the kids as well. Give families their freedoms back — freedoms that never should have been taken away in the first place.</p>
5/25/2021 11:24:15	Jennifer Sommer-Witruk	<p>Take the masks off of our kids!!! The data and science does not support this damaging rule. The high risk population has the option of a vaccine which should be leading to our children not sacrificing normalcy in their childhood. It is now time for parents to make choices based on what is best for their child in regards to masks, vaccinations or attending school in person. Seeing the kids playing outside in masks this past week in the heat is child abuse at this point. Utterly ridiculous! This cannot continue into the fall! We will be heading into a 3rd school year of these kids' academic and social development being sacrificed. Decisions by this board and administration have continually been made this past year that have not been in the children's best interest. The majority of families in this community share this belief and we deserve better!!</p>

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5/25/2021 11:41:16	Melissa and Chris Lamek	<p>I would like to start by reminding the D205 board of its mission and vision.</p> <p>Four belief statements support the District Mission of accelerating learning for all students. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All students must learn and grow.</li> <li>2. We accept shared responsibility for student growth</li> <li>3. We make decisions based on what is best for students</li> <li>4. We are a future-focused community of learners.</li> </ol> <p>These are indeed noble, student centered statements, worthy of respect and admiration that everyone can support.</p> <p>I was encouraged to hear that the board had discontinued saliva testing and hoped we were headed in the right direction of returning to some form of normalcy for our children, particularly when it came to the planning for the 2021-2022 school year. Unfortunately, this encouragement was short lived.</p> <p>I cannot help but feel let down by the boards' continued requirements to have students wear masks at all times, throughout the day (even when outside) despite the state's reversal of the mask mandate. The continuation of over quarantining healthy students, and now promoting an experimental drug that has not been studied long enough to know the long-term effects on our growing children. So I ask the board: are these decisions based on what is best for students?</p> <p>What does a future-focused community of learners look like to the members of this board? Does it look like young faces, covered by masks straining to talk and breath freely even when outdoors? Does it look like another year of unnecessarily quarantining healthy children when your own data shows that the transmission rate is less than 2%? Does it look like the segregation of children whose parents have questioned an experimental drug and chosen not to have it administered to our growing children? It looks to me like a small number of the population continues to be paralyzed by fear, which is guiding the decision-making process for our students.</p> <p>When the school board mandates masks be worn for protection, even though this is contrary to evidence that school aged children are at little to no risk for contracting and passing COVID-19, we are inhibiting our students' ability to learn and grow.</p> <p>When the school board promotes the notion that the Covid vaccine is a safe and viable thing to get the schools to return to normal, it ignores the fact that the vaccines have not been clinically studied to determine what, if any negative risks it may pose to children. This is not a future-focused cause.</p> <p>When the school board defers its decision-making authority to unelected officials of the state or county board of health, you are not making decisions based on what is best for students. Rather, the board is hiding from its responsibilities and accountability to the citizens of Elmhurst.</p> <p>I implore the school board to regain the trust of the community and make decisions on behalf of our students that promote a maskless learning environment, a quarantine free school year, and allows parents the freedom to make the health choices regarding vaccinations.</p> <p>It is time for the board members to show that their vision statements are more than just lofty ideas printed and hung on a banner. Put these visions into practice.</p>

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5/25/2021 12:36:05	Crystal Godfrey	As a parent of a soon to be 2nd grader, as well as a child entering Kindergarten, I beg you to consider masks optional for this upcoming fall. I have recently spoke with several child psychologists who told me how important it is for children this young to be able to see facial expressions to be able to learn from one another as well as their teacher. Even if you are unable to provide masks optional for 100% of the day, then there are better options than having to wear it at recess and at gym. I beg you to consider other options that are available to us.
5/25/2021 13:40:36	Caroline Heflin	First of all thank you to the board for publicly opposing HB2789! Bravo for standing up for our children! I'm asking today to please lift the mask mandate for children in D205 schools in the fall. There is no reason for them to be masked next fall- vaccinated or not! Teachers all have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and people can choose to mask up if they desire. But for the love of God stop making it mandatory- let us make our own choices for our families. Masks are filthy and unhealthy, and at this point, completely unnecessary. Please stop forcing them on our children! Thank you. Caroline Heflin
5/25/2021 15:30:19	Sherry Romano	Please make masks optional. Trust parents and their judgement
5/25/2021 16:04:53	Katie Larsen	Please make masks optional for our D 205 kids next year. We will have had plenty of time for adults who want to be vaccinated to do so. The CDC is not requiring those individuals to wear masks indoors. Our children are not super spreaders and they need to get back to as much of a normal pre Covid life as possible. We owe it to our communities kids.

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5/25/2021 16:37:05	Maria Karamitsos	<p>I ask you respectfully to stop the vaccine push for kids, to make masks optional, and to eliminate the practice of unnecessary quarantines.</p> <p>I'm deeply troubled that our district is now in the business of peddling vaccines for students. I'm dismayed by the barrage of emails, and usage of school facilities to vaccinate kids. I'm not anti-vaccination, but I'm disturbed by this district's hard push to vaccinate students with a vaccine that hasn't yet been tested on children. These are decisions that parents must make without outside pressure or fear.</p> <p>First, the risk of death or major illness in children is statistically negligible. Tracy Hoeg, MD, PhD recently revealed the following:</p> <p>With adult vaccinations, US kids Covid cases have decreased by 45% in the last 4 weeks. Infection rate among kids is now .07%. Chance an asymptomatic kid will infect another kid and a severe outcome will occur is approx <math>0.0007 \text{ (prev)} \times 0.007 \text{ (asympt transm)} \times 0.00008 \text{ (Covid hospitalization rate in kids)} = 0.00000004\%</math>.</p> <p>Note: the number Tracy is using for asymptomatic spread (0.007) was among close, unmasked, household contacts of asymptomatic positive "cases." This data is assuming no masks on children.</p> <p>It's already been proven that schools are not super spreader sites. Teachers are vaccinated. And teachers did not have to disclose their vaccine status due to HIPAA laws. In reading the registration info, it can be construed that this district is posturing to make this vaccine mandatory and even possibly deny unvaccinated students access to education. What happened to HIPAA? Isn't a proper education mandated?</p> <p>COVID vaccines for kids is a huge topic in the medical community. There are no studies, no data to work with, which means there are too many unknowns. Many medical professionals are concerned that giving this vaccine to kids could disrupt puberty, potentially retard growth, and even cause infertility. The CDC is now looking into several hundred reports of kids developing myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle that decreases the heart's ability to pump blood normally) following vaccination. I don't think the district wants to put itself in a position of liability should something occur due to coerced vaccination with an untested vaccine.</p> <p>Medical professionals are now looking at more and more data that's showing that asymptomatic spread doesn't exist. The data is showing that one must be sick with symptoms to spread. This is evolving, yes. Which means, the district must step back, wait for the data—and let parents decide.</p> <p>The Children's Health Defense has revealed that any mandate to take an experimental vaccine (or even "strongly encourage") is a violation of federal law.</p> <p>"Under the Nuremberg Code, the foundation of ethical medicine, no one may be coerced to participate in a medical experiment. Consent of the individual is 'absolutely essential.' No court has ever upheld a mandate for an EUA vaccine... Children's Health Defense urges U.S. employers, universities and other institutions to respect and uphold the rights of individuals to refuse EUA COVID-19 vaccines."</p> <p>This district should remove itself immediately from the vaccination business. These are very personal and private (HIPAA!) decisions that families must make in conjunction with their medical professionals. NOT because a school district is pressuring them.</p> <p>I'm also aware of discussions about segregating kids by vaccination status, and any such talks should be halted immediately. These practices are a huge overreach, stomping all over our civil liberties. This district should be concentrating on academics, how to make up lost days of education, and the incredible anxiety and emotional damage inflicted on these kids due to school closures, unnecessary quarantines, saliva testing, and masking.</p> <p>Speaking of masks, they're mandatory in this district, however, The Children's Health Defense also maintains that masking is part of a medical experiment and mandating them is also in violation of federal law, as referenced earlier.</p> <p>They also state:          "In a letter dated April 24, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration stated that authorized face masks must be labelled accurately and prominently with information that distinguishes the product with intended uses from unauthorized products, and the presence of..."</p>

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5/25/2021 16:41:35	Kolleen Mooren	Please make masks optional for the 2021-2022 school year. People who are eligible and want the vaccine will have had it by then and the risk to healthy children is so low it should be at the discretion of the parents. The mandates have changed and we need to allow for a choice on masks vs. making them mandatory.