

## 6-2-21 Written Public Comment-rev.1

| Timestamp         | First and Last Name | Please enter your comment   |
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| 6/1/2021 12:11:37 | Christine Bishof    | <p>Dear Elmhurst D205 Board,</p> <p>Masks need to stay on kids and adults while inside or when distancing cannot be maintained outside as long as the CDC and local public health departments advise. Their recommendations are made based on the latest epidemiologic information we have during an evolving pandemic and provide for the greatest health and safety to all our students and families. I have seen several public comments referring to the vision and mission of the district, including: ALL students must learn and grow; we accept shared responsibility for student growth; and we make decisions based on what is best for students. Yes! ALL students deserve to learn and grow, and we need to do what is best for ALL students, including those who cannot be vaccinated. Currently, children under 12 cannot be vaccinated, and there are children who may not be able to get vaccinated or who may be immunocompromised and not get as much protection from the vaccines. We make classrooms peanut free for children with allergies, so why can't we have our children wear masks to help protect those who cannot be vaccinated or who may be immunocompromised and not be as well protected by the vaccines? Do those children not deserve a public school education? Wearing a mask is a small inconvenience to responsibly reduce the spread of COVID-19 among children, who are fast becoming the only reservoir for the virus as more adults get vaccinated. There is NO evidence that masks are harmful to the mental or physical health of children and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends the universal use of face masks in schools for adults and all children above the age of 2 years. If the public schools move to remove the mask mandate, there are NO OPTIONS for unvaccinated and immunocompromised children to be in-person. As a physician, I can attest to the fact that we are seeing more cases of COVID-19 in children, some with serious acute and long term consequences. Frankly, I'd just rather my children didn't get COVID-19, and I think masks are a small price to pay to avoid it. We will be first in line to get them vaccinated as soon as it is available to younger children. But, until we are confident that community spread is vanishingly low and herd immunity is achieved, my children are strong enough to wear a mask to help protect those at risk. They know how to think about others before themselves, just like they know not to bring peanuts into a "peanut free" classroom.</p> <p>Sincerely,<br/>Christine P. Bishof, MD, MPH, FACEP</p> |