

# Public Input - August 9, 2021

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Email \*

lorazims@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Lora

Last Name: \*

Zimmer

Address: \*

W4236 Del Rose Lane

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54913

Subject: \*

Following CDC and AAP recommendations

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Public Comment for Publication \*

I am strongly in favor of the AASD following CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations with regard to masking in schools. My children attend the AASD school with the lowest vaccination rate of any in-person school in the county. It is clear that students at this school are at particular risk for spreading and becoming infected with COVID due to parents' attitudes about vaccination. Requiring masks, consistent with CDC and AAP recommendations, is such a small step to take to help keep our kids, and our community, safe from a global pandemic. I ask that you please listen to the experts and follow their recommendations.

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Email \*

meyerpaula84@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Paula

Last Name: \*

Meyer

Address: \*

3226 E Gazebohill Road

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54913

Subject: \*

Thank you for mask optional protocols

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Public Comment for Publication \*

I am writing to thank you for approval of the protocols put together by our district team, lead by Polly VandenBoogard. The district team that put together the recommendations for OUR district used OUR data to make decisions for OUR students, OUR kids, in OUR schools. Thank you for trusting the people that OUR district put in place to make the best decisions for OUR district.

As I stated in my letter prior to the previous board meeting, 70-90% of communication is non-verbal. As a Spanish teacher, I rely on facial expressions in the classroom to gauge comprehension, and am looking forward to seeing smiles on my students' faces again. Students rely on seeing my face as they learn new vocabulary and comprehend the Spanish spoken in the classroom. I look forward to more active conversational participation this year. I understand you will be receiving many other communications, and I thank you for taking the time to read them.

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Email \*

olsonsfamilydaycare@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Katie

Last Name: \*

Olson

Address: \*

1720 W Reeve ST

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54914

Subject: \*

Please Require Masks in school!

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Public Comment for Publication \*

Since the delta variant is causing the COVID-19 virus to continue to spread rapidly, I urge the AASD school board to require masks this school year. I appreciate everything that was done last year to mitigate the spread. Thanks to the measures you put in place, parents had the option to keep their children at home or to send them to school masked. This year we are not being given a virtual option through AASD. Therefore, there will likely be even more students in school buildings than there were last year. For this reason, we must be extra diligent to ensure that our school buildings continue to be spaces that are as safe as possible during this pandemic. [https://www.wpr.org/school-districts-arent-requiring-masks-put-worried-families-tough-spot?](https://www.wpr.org/school-districts-arent-requiring-masks-put-worried-families-tough-spot?fbclid=IwAR2OvHAu90KIGpGJ5_mbNdNRvaXB9VX394rTlh3x49_vtKYHGnJCIwaG77k)

[fbclid=IwAR2OvHAu90KIGpGJ5\\_mbNdNRvaXB9VX394rTlh3x49\\_vtKYHGnJCIwaG77k](https://www.wpr.org/school-districts-arent-requiring-masks-put-worried-families-tough-spot?fbclid=IwAR2OvHAu90KIGpGJ5_mbNdNRvaXB9VX394rTlh3x49_vtKYHGnJCIwaG77k)

The easiest way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is to require that everybody be masked while indoors. I believe it is in our best interest to follow the CDC's current mask guide (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>). Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet counties all have substantial or high community spread of COVID-10 (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>).

Since the current AASD mask guidelines were approved prior to the CDC's latest recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>), I believe that AASD guidelines must be updated on August 9, 2021 to state that masks are required. This is the best way to protect our children who are too young to be vaccinated.

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Email \*

britishamericanmum@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Jennie

Last Name: \*

Barclay

Address: \*

2002 N Harriman St

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton

Subject: \*

Please Keep Masking Optional

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Public Comment for Publication \*

I would like to thank Dr. Baseman for the mask optional proposal at the last board meeting. I would also like to thank the school board members that voted to approve this proposal to not require masks. I very much appreciate the choice to decide what is right for my three children. Please do not back down from this decision due to pressure. Please look at data from within our local schools - many of which were open in person all last school year - and then see how this new school year goes in the AASD. I like your plan to adjust at a smaller level, using data from within the schools, rather than a district wide policy of masking all children based on case numbers. I know many families unenrolled children last year, including myself, and it would be sad to see enrollment drop again.

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Email \*

loriberncich@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Lori

Last Name: \*

Augustine

Address: \*

803 N BayRidge Rd

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, Wi 54915

Subject: \*

Optional Masking

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Public Comment for Publication \*

As I visited the Appleton Mile of Music this weekend and saw the 1000s of people downtown, closely standing around stages, in tents, walking crowded streets, huge huge lines of people standing in line to enter the local establishments, I could count on 1 hand the people wearing masks. I saw elderly, handicapped, Security, owners, adults, and children. Now all of these people are well aware of the increasing numbers of the virus , varient or flu and 99% of them were choosing NOT to wear a mask.... they were well aware of the risks and the risks they were taking by not masking and possibly bringing that virus back to their families....but still chose not to wear mask!!!

So, I ask that we as adults, parents, continue to make our own decisions on whether we want our children to wear a mask at school.

Our children need normalcy now more than ever, they are and have been exposed to 99% of people not masking all summer and singeling them out to wear a mask at school would be detrimental to their mental health.

I am not against masking, I just want the opportunity to choose whether my child wears a mask or not. Please keep masks optional.

Thank you.

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Email \*

vlvechart@me.com

First Name: \*

Vicky

Last Name: \*

Vechart

Address: \*

5009 N Silentwind Way

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54913

Subject: \*

Masking

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Public Comment for Publication \*

Thank you for making masks optional for students and allowing parents along with their children to make informed decisions as to what is best for them.

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Email \*

loriberncich@gmail.com

First Name: \*

LORI

Last Name: \*

Augustine

Address: \*

803 N BayRidge Rd

City, State, Zip: \*

APPLETON

Subject: \*

Optional Masking

---

### Public Comment for Publication \*

Please see the FDA information on PPE , REGARDING MASKING. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-surgical-masks-and-face-masks>

Especially:

While a surgical mask may be effective in blocking splashes and large-particle droplets, a face mask, by design, does not filter or block very small particles in the air that may be transmitted by coughs, sneezes, or certain medical procedures. Surgical masks also do not provide complete protection from germs and other contaminants because of the loose fit between the surface of the mask and your face.

Surgical masks are not intended to be used more than once. If your mask is damaged or soiled, or if breathing through the mask becomes difficult, you should remove the face mask, discard it safely, and replace it with a new one. To safely discard your mask, place it in a plastic bag and put it in the trash. Wash your hands after handling the used mask.

So, once again , please keep masking optional for our kids, since they do not prevent spread anyway, as we know kids dont wear them properly, nor do they change them regularly.

Thank you for supporting optional masking.

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Email \*

sheri.hartzheim@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Sheri S

Last Name: \*

Hartzheim

Address: \*

3929 E Benvally Dr

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54913

Subject: \*

Please Do Not Change Your Minds

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## Public Comment for Publication \*

Dear Board Members and District Leadership,

I write today to beg you to stay the course on your current masking policy for our children in schools this fall. PLEASE do not let a letter supposedly signed by 100+ "area health experts" with dubious "factual references" OR the City of Appleton's recent masking mandate in city buildings without the benefit of a replacement full-time Health Officer OR the Appleton Public Library's arbitrary "all kids age 2-12 must mask" policy based solely on "some parents complained" to library leadership OR the CDC or WI DHS latest guidance based on a miniscule population "outbreak" in a Massachusetts town sway you from keeping your masks-optional policy for the start of the upcoming school year in place. You owe it to our children and families -- if just this once, since you did them and us no favors all last school year -- to keep this in mask-optional policy place to begin the school year.

You must know by now that masking is and has been unsuccessful in curbing respiratory viruses throughout history. If not, please listen to this short presentation (one of countless examples of logical reason presented in this politically charged mask debate): <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1272909066477287>. The scientific backing referenced in this presentation can be found here:

1. SARS-CoV2-Transmission Among Marine Recruits during Quarantine:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18vEhVb\\_x0b5r7Ow\\_ylwLio\\_scdKeoFPs/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18vEhVb_x0b5r7Ow_ylwLio_scdKeoFPs/view)
2. Longitudinal analysis shows durable and broad immune memory after SARS-CoV-2 infection with persisting antibody responses and memory B and T cells:<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33948610/>
3. Vitamin D for prevention of respiratory tract infections: A systematic review and meta-analysis:<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3543548/>
4. Facemasks in the COVID-19 era: A health hypothesis: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7680614/>
5. CDC assessment of non-pharmaceutical influenza methods: [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article)
6. Federalist cases/mortality mask comparison: <https://thefederalist.com/2020/10/29/these-12-graphs-show-mask-mandates-do-nothing-to-stop-covid/>
7. Heritage Foundation Study - In fact, mask use during the pandemic has been recommended by The Heritage Foundation's Coronavirus Commission guidelines. However, our findings do suggest that public health strategies relying predominantly on mask mandates are inadequate, and thus other initiatives, in addition to mask wearing, should have been a component of policies aimed to limit the spread of the disease: <https://www.heritage.org/government-regulation/report/statistical-analysis-mandates-and-mask-usage-kansas>
8. Declaration of Great Barrington- The Great Barrington Declaration- As infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection. Over 60,000 medical experts have signed this declaration: <https://gbdeclaration.org/>
9. Covid-19 Breakthrough Infections in Vaccinated Health Care Workers:  
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2109072>
10. Calcifediol Treatment and Hospital Mortality Due to COVID-19: A Cohort Study:<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/13/6/1760>

11. Experimental Assessment of Carbon Dioxide in Inhaled Air With or Without Face Masks in Healthy Children: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743>

12. Calcifediol treatment and COVID-19-related outcomes: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34097036/>

13. "Effect of calcifediol treatment and best available therapy versus best available therapy on intensive care unit admission and mortality among patients hospitalized for COVID-19: A pilot randomized clinical study": [https://drive.google.com/file/d/17RdM\\_hSLQrQr-pjlcCRAhwCnRUgpOxKI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17RdM_hSLQrQr-pjlcCRAhwCnRUgpOxKI/view?usp=sharing)

14. Effectiveness of Adding a Mask Recommendation to Other Public Health Measures to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Danish Mask Wearers: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33205991/>

15. Community Use Of Face Masks And COVID-19: Evidence From A Natural Experiment Of State Mandates In The US: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818>

16. Face-Masks in the COVID-19 era: A health hypothesis: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7680614/>

17. Infection Fatality Ratios for COVID-19 Among Non-Institutionalized Persons 12 and Older: Results of a Random-Sample Prevalence Study: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7505013/>

18. Open Schools, COVID-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity in Sweden: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20092668/>

19. Face-Masks to prevent transmission of influenza virus: a systematic review: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20092668/>

20. Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Including COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections, Associated with Large Public Gathering- Barnstable County, Massachusetts, July 2021: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e2.htm>

21. Short term, high-dose vitamin D supplementation for COVID-19 disease: a randomized, placebo-controlled, study: <https://pmj.bmj.com/content/early/2020/11/12/postgradmedj-2020-139065>

22. Rapid Expert Consultation on the Effectiveness of Fabric Masks for the COVID-19 Pandemic (April 8, 2020): <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK556964/>

I beg you to reject the narrative (and the omnipotent feeling you might get as powerful members of the school board) that we mere humans can do anything to stop the spread of this virus. We cannot. The best we can do is try to take care of the health of our children as best we know how... and making masks OPTIONAL for our children is the best way for you to do so.

Please stay the course without bowing to pressure based only on a political argument. Let parents do what we know is best for our children and our families.

Sincerely,

Sheri S Hartzheim

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Email \*

hallett.heather@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Heather

Last Name: \*

Hallett

Address: \*

3117 Shady Hollow Ct

City, State, Zip: \*

APPLETON, WI 54913

Subject: \*

Please mandate masks in schools this fall

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Public Comment for Publication \*

I urge the school board to consider mandating masks in schools this fall. The CDC on 8/5/21 issued "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools". Among other considerations, this guidance states: "Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status."

It's not good enough to give kids the choice of wearing a mask, to effectively prevent the spread of the Delta variant, everyone in the schools must still mask.

Please protect our kids and our community by mandating masks.

I would also like to see the case numbers from summer school this year, please make that information public.

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Email \*

msbay75@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Matt

Last Name: \*

Bay

Address: \*

N9223 Christopher Ln

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, WI 54915

Subject: \*

School masking

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Public Comment for Publication \*

As a parent of 3 children in the district and also working in the medical field, I am strongly opposed to mandating the wearing of masks for students. Studies have shown that the adolescent population as a whole do not suffer severe health risks from covid, with exceptions of a very small percentage of children with significant medical comorbidities. Also adolescents do not contract or spread it at the same rates as older population. Everyone over the age of 12 that is at an increased risk of negative side effects, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. The social trauma and negative side effects of forcing children to wear masks, often incorrectly, therefore depriving them of all important aspects of appropriate interaction with their peers, is more detrimental than the risk of the vast majority of children getting significantly ill from the disease. Leaving to the parents to decide what's best for their own children, who still have the opportunity to elect to mask if they choose, is the best for our children, society, and preserving individual freedoms in the short and long term.

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Email \*

benwhallett@gmail.com

First Name: \*

Benjamin

Last Name: \*

Hallett

Address: \*

3117 Shady Hollow Ct

City, State, Zip: \*

Appleton, Wisconsin, 54913

Subject: \*

Support mask requirements in ALL AASD elementary schools

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## Public Comment for Publication \*

Dear Appleton School Board Members,

A safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine has been available to the general public at various Fox Cities locations for roughly 5 months now. The overwhelming majority of healthcare and scientific communities, and the evidence published in numerous studies (for more information see the CDC website), deem this the best and safest way to combat a deadly virus that, in its dominant Delta variant, is easily spread between unvaccinated people in enclosed spaces such as school classrooms, far more easily than the strain of COVID-19 that spread in our community in 2020 and early 2021. This vaccine, however, is not available to all community members. The most vulnerable (immunocompromised people) and youngest (children under 12) do not have a safe and effective vaccine to protect them and their immunocompromised family members from transmission of Delta variant COVID-19 in school classrooms.

Earlier this summer, the school board voted to disallow requiring masking in school settings. The US Center for Disease Control and the Wisconsin Department of Health, two of many evidence-based nonpartisan scientific public institutions, have stated that the unvaccinated should be wearing masks indoors and in crowds ("If you are unvaccinated, wear one in all indoor spaces that are not your home, as well as enclosed or crowded outdoor spaces"-- direct quotation from the Wisconsin Department of Health's main homepage). Since no children under 12 (which corresponds to nearly ALL students in AASD elementary schools) qualify for a safe and effective vaccine, they should be masking indoors in AASD elementary schools to protect their fellow unvaccinated students. Clearly many parents and children themselves are confused or misinformed about the effectiveness of this safety measure and the danger of continuing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our community is critical to providing the best in-person education AASD can provide. Keeping students, teachers, and AASD staff safe and healthy, and free of transmissible COVID-19 virus is the most important way to provide this education by keeping our schools open and in-person. This can be accomplished by supporting mask requirements in all elementary schools.

As elected school board members, your responsibility is to stand up for these most important community members (our children) and help keep them safe. K-6 students returned to in-person schooling in winter 2021 and navigated school with a mask requirement in place in indoor school settings. They understand the importance of this safety measure and continuing this practice is not an infringement on the freedoms of young children, when they are unable to protect themselves in this setting. They are entitled to a quality public education and safety is part of this.

Please do not be swayed by misinformed vocal groups who go against evidence-based scientific recommendations from our public institutions. Vote to follow the recommendations of the US CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health regarding masks in indoor settings for all (presently unvaccinated) children under 12 in AASD schools. Your leadership can best keep our children safe and keep in-person school open for 2021-2022. You may also help save lives by protecting vaccine hesitant or immunocompromised family members of unvaccinated students who are less likely to come into contact with asymptomatic COVID-19 positive children due to masking in elementary schools.

Thank you for your contribution and your time.

Dr. Benjamin Hallett  
3117 Shady Hollow Court  
Appleton, WI 54913

