**IMPORTANT:** This letter was written by two parents for a specific school board in South Carolina. It contains references specific to that school district as well as policies specific to South Carolina that will need to be edited or deleted to accommodate your unique situation. However, much of this information was retained in the hopes that it helps you formulate important talking points that are relevant to your district or state. While the information specific to the original district and state are primarily confined to the introduction and conclusion sections, please carefully review the entire letter to ensure it is pertinent to your specific circumstances and make changes as necessary. Direct references to that school district have been replaced with <Your School District>. These references will need to be changed to reference your district as applicable. Finally, it was last edited on April 30, 2021 and will not reference the latest research or noteworthy news events.

Please note that there is a list of endnote references on the last page of the document as well as a graphic on the second-to-last page.

We hope it helps you end the abusive tyranny pushed upon your children! Please share this template with anyone who may find it useful to that end.

**From:** <Parents or Group>

**To:** <Your School Board>

Dear Board Members,

First, allow us to give credit where it was due and express our thanks and appreciation for steadfastly *keeping schools open* once you returned to full, in-person instruction this fall.  We recognize that oftentimes doing what's right isn't always the easiest thing to do, so we appreciate your leadership.  We understand from the February and March Board Meetings, plus Governor McMaster's press conference with Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman the first week in February, that only about a third of districts (27 out of 72 as we recall) were fully in-person at the time.  We are grateful that even with the rise in cases late this fall and early winter (which the data clearly show were due to natural seasonal patterns and not holiday gatherings), **<Your School District>** remained open.

Second, we would humbly request, given the unfathomable pandemic response and the unprecedented impact it has had on our children, that you include COVID-19 updates and information as a regular topic during Board meetings.  In fact, if COVID-19 is so devastating that we must radically alter our children's lives, COVID-19 response and planning should be the first topic discussed at every meeting.  As long as our children cannot properly interact with their classmates and receive behavior marks for forgetting to put their masks on while at their desk, socially distant, and surrounded by plexiglass, we would appreciate the Board treating COVID-19 with a solemn urgency at each and every public meeting.  To do otherwise is to give the impression that it is just business as usual which is a great disservice to the parents, students, and teachers of **<Your School District>**.

Third and most important, as parents of children in **<Your School District>**, and as taxpaying residents of **<Your County>**:

* It is imperative that you commit to unmasking the children of **<Your School District>** for the 2021-2022 school year by the *next board meeting*. There is absolutely no justifiable reason why the Board cannot provide parents and students with a proper vision for next year NOW.  If the Board refuses to provide the necessary leadership, parents will.  Our children will not wear masks at the beginning of next school year.  The time to end these draconian and capricious policies is NOW.  Let us give our children a summer break filled with hope and optimism for the upcoming school year!

**There is overwhelming scientific evidence to support the unmasking of our children.**  **To keep our children's beautiful faces covered by masks is tantamount to child abuse**.  We encourage you all to stand up and show strong, bold leadership to allow our children to breathe freely as children should.  Our traditional, faith-based communities in **<Your School District>** should lead the charge and set the example for trusting in God and returning our children to "normal" immediately.  There is no moral or ethical reason to create a culture of fear about this disease in our young children!

We have been told by school administrators that **<Your School District>** children have been "**resilient**" in dealing with the untenable environment foisted upon them, and with respect to our own children, this is true, in no small part due to the work we as parents have done at home to arm our children with facts and instill in them faith, not fear.  In fact, we are proud of the leadership our children have demonstrated to their classmates on a daily basis.  However, this is not true of all students, and it misses the entire point: By continuing these policies, long after they have been proven to be unnecessary and ineffective, implies that these severe actions are justifiable, if not noble, and part of a normal, healthy response.  We instill in our children and the future of our community a sense of neurotic fear whose consequences cannot be easily measured and will persist long after this current pandemic wanes.  Masks and plexiglass may allow some adults to satisfy their urge to see "something being done", but that false virtue comes at a great price to our youth and the costs are long-lasting.

When you receive a medical diagnosis, the first thing you do is **get a second opinion**.  Dr. Fauci, the CDC, and SC DHEC are **not the only** authorities on COVID-19, much less the proper response to it.  That being said, we will note that Dr. Fauci and the CDC adamantly denied masks were effective at preventing viral spread in March of 2020.  What changed?  They will tell you "the science," but the data prove that to be untrue.  There **are** other, well-respected opinions, many of which are being silenced or suppressed.  In these unprecedented times, when our inalienable rights are being revoked, it is our responsibility as parents and school administrators to do our homework and seek this information out to **put our children first**.  We strongly encourage each of you to listen to/read opinions by other doctors as other leaders are doing.

The following material is lengthy but provides plenty of information to support our position.  We strongly encourage you to review the material in this email.  We are made in God's image and do not believe that we should be restricting our children's breathing or covering their beautiful smiles.  **God entrusts us with an immune system that is far more resilient than we have been led to believe the past year, especially in the case of children**.  We must put our faith in Him by giving healthy individuals the right to strengthen their immune systems naturally.  This is especially critical for developing children, who need to be naturally exposed to viruses and bacteria in order to produce a resiliency that will stay with them during their adult years, exactly as God had intended.

**Research Challenging Mask Efficacy and Safety**

Most critically, a brand new study about to be released uses information from the **National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard**[[1]](#endnote-1).  Summarized, **the data show LOWER student and staff cases in schools that don't mandate masks.**In fact, according to the graphs on this link, the higher the rate of community transmission/spread, the greater the difference in inverse correlation between masked and unmasked schools - that is, the spread in schools was higher where there was a mask requirement than in schools where there was no mask requirement.

A recent study[[2]](#endnote-2) by the **CDC** indicated that teachers, not students, were the drivers of COVID transmission in schools. Indeed, even the **UK** - with strict lockdowns - says[[3]](#endnote-3) that primary school students shouldn't wear masks.

A comprehensive review of the available scientific research regarding the harmful impacts of prolonged facemask usage across the spectrum of users from healthcare workers to schoolchildren, compiled by a distinguished physical scientist from Canada, was recently deleted by ResearchGate.net. Fortunately, we secured a copy before it was purged and will share it as an attachment. Additional resources summarizing additional research can be found from the **American Institute for Economic Research**[[4]](#endnote-4) and **America's Frontline Doctors**[[5]](#endnote-5).

Late last fall, a journal article reviewing mask efficacy and safety, written by Stanford cardiologist Baruch Vainshelboim, was published on the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH)[[6]](#endnote-6) website.  This article is also available offline due to censorship concerns and will be shared as an attachment.  The article summarizes the science as follows:

*"The existing scientific evidences challenge the safety and efficacy of wearing facemask as preventive intervention for COVID-19. The data suggest that* ***both medical and non-medical facemasks are ineffective to block human-to-human transmission of viral and infectious disease such SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19****, supporting against the usage of facemasks. Wearing facemasks has been* ***demonstrated to have substantial adverse physiological and psychological effects****. These include hypoxia, hypercapnia, shortness of breath, increased acidity and toxicity, activation of fear and stress response, rise in stress hormones, immunosuppression, fatigue, headaches, decline in cognitive performance, predisposition for viral and infectious illnesses, chronic stress, anxiety and depression.* ***Long-term consequences*** *of wearing facemask can cause health deterioration, developing and progression of chronic diseases and premature death."*

**Research Challenging Significant Transmission of COVID-19 in Children**

Data[[7]](#endnote-7) from Sweden **last spring** (2020!) examined almost **2 million** school-aged children, who attended school with no masks.  Only 15 required hospitalization, and no deaths occurred!

A similar study[[8]](#endnote-8) in Norway found minimal transmission in maskless schools.  "***Use of face masks is not recommended in schools in Norway***" that study stated.

Another study[[9]](#endnote-9) in Germany released April 18 "***could not find evidence for relevant asymptomatic spread***" and that "***childcare and educational settings do not play a crucial role in driving the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic***".  Significantly, "***there was no recommendation for childcare workers or children to wear masks***" during the study.

These and other studies are summarized in an article[[10]](#endnote-10) by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

In December, the **Journal of the American Medical Association** (JAMA) Network did a review[[11]](#endnote-11) and meta-analysis of 54 other peer-reviewed studies and found that **household indoor transmission rates by asymptomatic COVID carriers was 0.7%.**  Again, **household** indoor asymptomatic transmission rates!  No masks, no plexiglass!  Outdoor (symptomatic or asymptomatic) transmission rates were 0.1%.  On surfaces it was 0.1%.  It's not that chances of COVID-19 spreading in these ways is small.  It's EXTREMELY small.  People are not getting COVID-19 by asymptomatic transmission.  People are not getting COVID-19 by being outside.

In fact, as a result of the widespread research supporting a maskless student population, epidemiologist Dr. Sunetra Gupta argued[[12]](#endnote-12) that **last September** was the time to **start schools maskless to achieve herd immunity among our children** because of their incredibly low risk and their ability to absorb sufficient amounts of the crucial vitamin D in the late summer and early fall months.

**Regarding Mask Impacts on Personal Hygiene**

Children (and adults alike) are constantly fidgeting with their masks, pulling them up and down, taking them off and on.  They are wearing them into the bathroom where toilets are flushed, so now microscopic fecal particles are on them.  How well do children *really* wash their hands after using the bathroom?  They are dropping them on the ground where other children step on them, then the masks are promptly picked back up and put back on their faces (yes, our 4th grader has reported seeing this multiple times). We are seeing children and coworkers wear the same masks for days and in some cases weeks at a time, and over time, these masks become breeding grounds for bacteria, affecting skin, mouth, and dental health.  **How is this sanitary; how is this effective?**

Indeed, we would hypothesize that *if* there has been any spread of COVID in the schools, it has been *because* of the masks and these unsanitary practices.  Also, the masks are the ONLY "medical device" in widespread use that is COMPLETELY unregulated.  They are not properly fitted.  No one knows how often they are cleaned.  Even toys have to pass certain safety standards, and school surfaces are sanitized daily (if not multiple times a day), but masks that are against our children's mouths and noses all day - and any air they breathe has to pass through and around these masks - are completely unregulated and no one knows how often they are washed/sanitized/reused/replaced.  Are we the only ones who think this is absolutely NOT okay?  Why has DHEC, SC Department of Education, and the CDC just conveniently ignored the cleanliness issue of the masks?

Encouraging the children to wash their hands as often as possible (or sanitize when hand-washing isn't possible) and to avoid touching their face are strong mitigating factors and sufficient on their own to reasonably reduce transmission of germs, bacteria, and viruses.  Restricting their God-given freedom of expression and locomotion does nothing to stop viral transmission.

**Regarding Mask Impacts on Mental Health**

Consider as well **permanent physical deformities.** A team of Italian plastic surgeons released an article[[13]](#endnote-13) with concerns about the elastic of the masks and how it might permanently cause protruding ears as children grow.  Red, swollen, protruding ears have become all too common in our community when masks are being worn.

But it's more than just children's physical health.  It's about their **mental health** too.  A 2010 paper[[14]](#endnote-14) from Harvard observed the damage that can be caused by exposing children to endless fear and anxiety: "***Ensuring that young children have safe, secure environments in which to grow, learn, and develop healthy brains and bodies is not only good for the children themselves but also builds a strong foundation for a thriving, prosperous society***," wrote the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child for Harvard University. "***Science shows that early exposure to circumstances that produce persistent fear and chronic anxiety can have lifelong consequences by disrupting the developing architecture of the brain.***"

**We are raising a generation of antisocial children**, where children are learning to fear not just smiles and seeing people's faces, but touch and closeness.  Our kindergartner says that she's not allowed to hug her teacher!  We of course don't have any concerns for our daughter, but 10-15 years down the road, the fear of others that is being instilled in children now by teaching them others are "unclean" could be setting us up for serious cultural, antisocial, psychological, possibly psychotic issues down the road.  **What are we doing to our children?  The time to stand up and say "Enough!" is NOW!**

**On the Overall Importance of Unmasking Children**

**Florida Governor Ron DeSantis hosted a COVID-19 roundtable discussion**[[15]](#endnote-15) in March with several notable doctors. Mask safety and efficacy for children was an important topic and began about 16.5 minutes into the discussion.

Here are some notable quotes:

"*We should open every school in the United States immediately with no restrictions.*"

"*Forcing [children] to wear masks...is in direct violation of our social contract.*"

"*Children don't need face masks; they don't need it for their own protection and they don't need it for protecting other people either.*"

"*How do you teach a child with a mask?  I think it's developmentally inappropriate and it just doesn't help on the disease spread. It's just absolutely not the right thing to do.*"

"*In terms of masking children it is obvious that it is psychologically deeply damaging.*"

"*There's no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in in schools.*"

This roundtable was **instantly censored** by big tech and the current administration.  Why?  As scientists ourselves, we are appalled that scientific debate would be censored and labeled as "misinformation".  Is this not the United States of America?   Are we truly interested in pursuing data-driven science or politically motivated agendas?

An excellent article[[16]](#endnote-16) regarding the censorship of the roundtable was written by one of the invited experts, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, professor of medicine at Stanford University. Dr. Bhattacharya also wrote a more comprehensive article[[17]](#endnote-17) on how mask mandates for children do more harm than good.

Concerned parents across the country are speaking up and taking the initiative to gather the overwhelming evidence against mask mandates for children and share their concerns with school administrators. Emily Burns, founder of The Smile Project, is one such parent. Her four-part series[[18]](#endnote-18) on this critically important topic should be essential reading for all school administrators. Other parents, such as Courtney Ann Taylor from Gwinnett County, Georgia, have provided powerfully emotional pleas[[19]](#endnote-19) [[20]](#endnote-20) [[21]](#endnote-21) to school boards across the country to end this insanity.

**Bold COVID-19 Leadership from Schools Near and Far**

When challenges to our inalienable rights arise, and long-standing philosophical, spiritual, and scientific best practices are swiftly and radically challenged, it is imperative, in fact it is our duty to push back against these forces, even if it jeopardizes our careers, our reputations, our prosperity, our very way of life. The response to COVID-19 has revealed to us that the time for bold leadership is NOW. Thankfully, school districts across the country are beginning to show that needed leadership on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. We believe **<Your School District>** can be one such shining example.

For example, one rural school district in Texas[[22]](#endnote-22) demonstrated the bold and courageous leadership we believe can be replicated in **<Your School District>**.   Additional school districts in FL[[23]](#endnote-23), TX[[24]](#endnote-24), and AZ[[25]](#endnote-25) have decided to save their children as well. The number of districts making the right decision is increasing every week.

Perhaps an ultimate display of the courageous leadership all children urgently need is occurring at private schools like **Spartanburg Christian Academy** **(SCA) in Boiling Springs, South Carolina,** **where masks were never mandated this academic year and no case outbreak occurred!**  Several families left public schools to homeschool or enroll in private schools like SCA because of the public school mask mandates; their children were having anxiety attacks because of the masks and distance learning and the quality of their education and, ultimately, their childhood, was in serious jeopardy. Since they have found their freedom to learn without obstruction, they are thriving in the home-/private-school environment where they can breathe freely and socialize properly. We personally know of several parents with this experience.

However, as public school administrators are quick to point out, **public schools welcome ALL students**, not just those with parents of means or the resources to send them to private schools.  In the absence of needed school choice reforms, this is quite true. Therefore, in light of this observation, will you continue to subject those more vulnerable or low-income students to forced masking and **deprive them of the rights** that students who have left **<Your School District>** are currently enjoying?  We are often reminded that public schools have a responsibility to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves. In fact, it is partially because of the love of our community that we write this letter on behalf of all parents and children in **<Your School District>**. Our concerns for the community would not change if we were to place our children in a private school.

Finally, a school district[[26]](#endnote-26) in Idaho has rescinded their mask requirement and has instead gone to "strongly recommended". While the phrase “strongly recommended” continues to accept the false premise that masks work, it is a small step in the right direction. However, this position is ultimately weak and insufficiently effective over the long-term because there will be a time when draconian mask policies will be pushed again. The time to debate and resist the pseudo-science is NOW. At an absolute minimum, school districts should declare masks are optional. Ideally, school districts must take the bold, but accurate and necessary position that masks are ineffective and damaging and that they will “never again” participate in this social experiment.

**The Null Hypothesis and God’s Awesome Immunological System**

In the scientific method, it is incumbent upon the scientist to *disprove the null hypothesis* (or that there is no relationship between masks and transmission), not to suggest a new hypothesis as fact and require the null hypothesis to be proven right.  Over the past year, the scientific method, and scientific integrity, has been sacrificed at the altar of false virtue and agenda-driven politics.  This will inarguably have long-lasting implications.  Up until last March, the null hypothesis based on previous data was that masks are not necessary, and lockdowns make the situation worse.  **Despite overwhelming mask mandate compliance, all states saw surges in COVID cases last fall beginning *before Thanksgiving* (late October).**  Figure 1 compares case data from the World Health Organization with mask compliance numbers, demonstrating the veracity of the original null hypothesis.

The scientific method also requires a **control group** (group separated from the rest of the experiment), which schools like Spartanburg Christian Academy conveniently provided for us. This control group also supports the original null hypothesis.  What IS scientifically proven is that **with decreasing humidity in the fall months, the aerosols and virus particles are able to travel farther rather than being pulled out of the air by water droplets.  As a result, all respiratory illnesses see surges during the winter for this reason, and masks did not stop it in this case either**.  Cases began dropping in mid-January, before vaccinations reached a critical mass.  We have "herd immunity" and the well-known seasonality of viruses to thank, not masks.  Once again, God's awesome immunological system has proven to be more effective than human intervention.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, thank you again for your time, and again we sincerely appreciate that **<Your School District>** steadfastly remained open during the time that the peak number of COVID cases were reported!  It made a world of difference to us and our children.  But please, we implore you to display the Servant Leadership that Christ embodied by prioritizing our children and **removing all mask and plexiglass mandates, giving parents the freedom to do what is best for their unique children**.  Let parents be the ones to choose to continue to mask their children if they wish.  Allow the rest of us to follow "the science," understanding the overlap of 1) *extremely* low asymptomatic transmission rates in general, 2) *extremely* low transmission rates from child to adult, and 3) a child's *extremely* low relative risk of COVID, weighed against the potential long-term mental, physical, psychological, and spiritual damage during these critical developmental years.  **Please give our children their freedom back and give them a summer break filled with the joy of knowing their 2021-2022 school year will be mask and plexiglass free!**

Sincerely,

**<Your Name or Group Here>**

**Acknowledgement:** We need to recognize Daniel Horowitz, Senior Editor at The Blaze Media, who has done a remarkable job compiling COVID-19 data over the past year. Many links and references are from his essential articles. Thank you Daniel.

**CC:**

* Your County Councilmen
* Your State Representatives
* Your State Governor
* Your State Department of Education



**Figure 1.** Mask Compliance and Daily New Cases (source Twitter [@ianmSC](https://www.twitter.com/ianmSC); <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/us>)

1. <https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page_ffb4dc52-5543-46b2-8126-2b7229fd1b17> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [www.charlotteobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article249430480.html](https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article249430480.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965446/Face_coverings_in_education_-_March_2021.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.aier.org/article/the-cdcs-mask-mandate-study-debunked/> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors.com/custom_videos/mask-myths/>  [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7680614/> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.26.1.2002011> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.16.21255616v1> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.city-journal.org/masking-children-unnecessary-and-harmful> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774102> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.city-journal.org/achieving-herd-immunity> [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7302120/> [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Persistent-Fear-and-Anxiety-Can-Affect-Young-Childrens-Learning-and-Development.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. [https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-18-21-roundtable-discussion-on-public-health](https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-18-21-roundtable-discussion-on-public-health/) [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. [https://www.wsj.com/articles/masks-for-children-muzzles-for-covid-19-news-11618329981](https://www.wsj.com/articles/masks-for-children-muzzles-for-covid-19-news-11618329981?st=02iux9w2blk6afb&reflink=article_copyURL_share#comments_sector) [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. [https://www.theepochtimes.com/mask-mandates-for-children-mostly-harmful-professor-of-medicine\_3785980.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/mask-mandates-for-children-mostly-harmful-professor-of-medicine_3785980.html?utm_campaign=socialshare_twitter&utm_source=twitter.com) [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.thesmileproject.global/post/un-masking-children-part-1-of-4-the-role-of-children-in-covid-19-transmission-in-schools>.   [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. <https://twitter.com/ErrolWebber/status/1385180596058550279> [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/georgia-mom-school-board-kids-covid-face-mask-requirement> [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. <https://www.theblaze.com/news/fed-up-mom-school-board-mask-mandate> [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. <https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2021/03/08/rural-peaster-isd-texas-masks-distancing-students-academically/> [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. <https://alachuachronicle.com/masks-will-be-optional-for-summer-and-fall-in-alachua-county-public-schools/> [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. <https://www.argyleisd.com/apps/news/article/1426352> [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. <https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2021/04/23/mesa-school-district-to-phase-out-mask-policy-others-keeping-theirs/> [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. <https://cdapress.com/news/2021/apr/20/mask-requirement-rescinded/> [↑](#endnote-ref-26)