

116 responses



Accepting responses



Summary

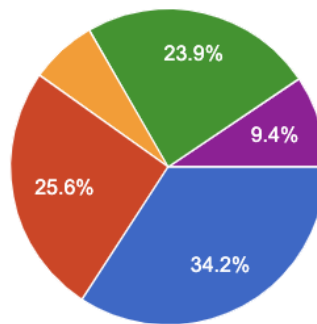
Question

Individual

Which option do you most support in terms of masking?



117 responses



- CDC guidance ("Strongly recommended")
- Universal masking PreK - 12
- Universal masking PreK-8, Strongly Recommended 9-12
- Universal masking PreK-12 when Oxford County is in substantial or high transmission rates
- Other (please describe in question 2)

Explain "other" from question 1 if applicable.

16 responses

The individuals choice

I believe it should be the choice of the person wearing the mask or not.

Parents choice completely on weather to maske their kids or not. The school should not make take that choice away from the parents

I trust the science

No mask most mask only 15% to 20% affective and believe wearing all the time people will have breathing problems in the future

Universal Masking PreK - 12, in addition to other mitigation protocols, such as social distancing when possible (one way hallways, no large-group in-person meetings, spreading out cafe/classroom/bus seating, etc) and pool testing.

Having the same all know what doing...kids, parents teaching staff!

Be our and parents choice

Universal masking for kids who aren't eligible to get a vaccine. The elementary school is a mess right now.

No mask It's really not effective and it'll create health issues down the road

no mask's

Parent's Choice

It should be optional if you had the vaccine.

I hope we can avoid masks at all costs.

none

Mask not necessary

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Please note anything else you feel the board needs to hear:

39 responses

With this option anyone has the ability to wear a mask if they so choose.

Masking and vaccinations are the most effective tools we have against slowing the spread of Covid, and slowing the development of variants. In the absence of mandated vaccination, we are left with masking. It is our responsibility as the educational center of our community to model and employ responsible measures to protect the community.

As much as I hate wearing masks, I am very concerned about the children I teach. Parents expect us to keep their children safe at school and without masks AND hand sanitizing we are being neglectful. We can all bicker about our Rights, Conspiracy Theories etc. but kids can't vote. I don't want to be responsible for a child's death.

I believe we need to have a more comprehensive district plan for infectious disease response in place so we can stop flip-flopping with the political winds.

Universal masking keeps the most students in schools due to not having to quarantine

In the k-8 level... we do not know (and can not logistically track) which students are expected by parents to mask. We do our best to remind and encourage, but ultimately its on the kids. Thats a lot to ask of a young kid, especially when their peers may not be wearing them.

I have sent notes home to parents to ask them (if they wanted to share) their preference for if their child wears a mask at school. Surprisingly the majority of parents have said they DID want their child to at least part of the day... however that is NOT what kids were doing in our classroom.

I feel it is easy to wear a mask to take care of people!!!

I do not like masks, but I do not like kids being home on quarantine even more. As a parent the decision to not be universally masked makes it more likely that my child will have to learn from home, which is not highly effective.

I am disappointed that our school board has decided to allow families to choose masking where I work with a population that have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. The numbers in Oxford County are up. We must vaccinate and mask and socially distance ourselves to take control again of Covid.

The older students have younger siblings and ride on the bus all together....the vaccine isn't 100%.....better to be safe then sorry.....we don't want ANYONE to go through having covid if we can prevent it...everyone wore masks last year and did well with it

At minimum we should have universal masking when our county is "yellow" or "red", along with other feasible mitigation strategies.

I will personally pass on any other comments I have for the board.

As educators, we should be good examples of how to be productive members as part of a collective society. This means, we mask (even if it is uncomfortable) when recommended. Schools that started in August are seeing staff/teachers getting Covid and dying from it. If this occurs at RSU 56, it will negatively impact the students/staff/community, cause the community to lose trust in its school board, and we are at risk of losing insurance or incurring increased insurance costs due to medical expenses/hospitalizations.

I feel the students and staff hang out outside of school in close contact without masks and many of the students opt not to wear masks at school. It feels ineffective to have people wear masks for a small portion of the time they spend together.

I use a fan to have a slight draft in the room. My understanding from all scientific evidence I'm aware of is that this greatly reduces the risk of contagion, and I would recommend it to all teachers. I don't wear my mask when lecturing several feet from the first-row students and when the room is ventilated in this way. I put it on when I work one-on-one with students. I would recommend fans that can be placed on the window sill (best those that can be held in place between the window and the window sill) to blow air out.

If we mask again, we may want to consider the Covid schedule from last year.

We have a lot of staff/students in our district that have health issues and if Covid hits our staff/students it will have a definite impact on learning. Our goal needs to be keeping people healthy as possible.

I went to my sons specialist and they are super concerned that our district is mask optional. Immune compromised students are at high risk and the break through even if we are vaccinated. I am very concerned for our community and our students. I don't want kids to get sick just because we aren't masking, last year kids did great with masks.

I am a staff member who had COVID and I DON'T want it again! I am masking regardless.

Keep the students in the schools as much as possible:)

If we mandate universal masking, then our students can continue to come to school on a regular basis.

If the board is unwilling to put in a mask mandate across all grade levels, a mandate should at the absolute least be placed PreK-8. Those kids cannot be vaccinated yet, and they are being put at risk, and by extension putting our entire community at risk. It's not fair to them. We are still in a pandemic, whether we like it or not, and our current rules (or lack thereof) will only exasperate our situation until the community is overwhelmed. Our current ruling keeps people comfortable in the short term without considering the (potentially deadly) long term ramifications that this can and will have if we continue on our current path. This is not about the comfort of a few, this is about the health and safety of all.

Masks optional is not keeping kids in school. According to a DES Facebook post, there is an entire class in quarantine at the elementary school, not to mention several individual kids. The board needs to decide what's the higher priority, kids in school, public safety, or parents get to choose masks or no masks? How many kids in quarantine or actually sick with COVID-19 does it take to mask up? How many does it take to send a school (or the district) fully remote? Are we making ourselves liable as a district to wrongful death if, god forbid, someone actually dies because they caught covid at school?

I don't think that making masks optional , even if it's strongly recommended, is effective. Masks aren't fun, I don't like wearing it, the kids don't either, and I still wear it all day. But masking is one of the most effective ways to reduce Covid transmission and I think it's critical in keeping the community safe and healthy. I also think that the board has an obligation to do anything it can to make sure that the learning environment is optimal for all students. Getting sick or having to learn from home is definitely not optimal.

Although I did agree with this option when it was presented I do feel like it will be harder for kids at the elementary level to go back and forth, depending on the transmission rate. (Especially kids that struggle with masks to begin with.)

I do not believe that universal masking will be any more effective than strongly recommended. The types of masks we wear are only 20-40 percent effective in perfect conditions, which we know school is not. Kids touch their masks and then other things and people all the time. I also believe that student learning and behavior are affected when students can only see your eyes and not your whole face.

The Covid 19 cases are up this fall just as they were with mask last year. Is there anyway to show the number of kids in person and positive cases from last year and also the number of kids in person this year and the cases to date? Its important to show the number of kids in person this year! Thank you

Wearing masks is a challenge and not exactly what anyone WANTS to do, but being IN school for IN PERSON learning is MORE important. As a district, we did amazing things last year and were able to be IN PERSON FAR more than surrounding school and districts. That is because we did what we had to in order to stay in school. I personally do not love wearing the mast and teaching with it all day is far more challenging than just having it on, but I will do it if it means being in person with my students and giving them the best possible education. We have to remember to remind ourselves that there are always things in life that we do not like but sometimes must do for the best outcome, in this case, it comes back to doing what is best for our students.... which is being IN school.

Breathing issues, asthma , headaches etc... are concerns when wearing mask.

Our COVID numbers right now are similar to the numbers we had back in January, yet there are very few safety precautions in place. Although masks are strongly recommended for everyone indoors (regardless of vaccination status), there is only one child and myself wearing a mask during the day in my classroom. I don't feel as though this is setting us up to be proactive about keeping kids in school, especially since we already have one whole classroom that is quarantined at DES on the 5th day of school.



Many classroom settings are small and full of students. In a typical, non-Covid year, this makes for an intimate and connected learning environment. During a time when the delta variant is raging, this setting feels unsafe and uncomfortable; it feels like a ticking time bomb. Not only are we putting children at risk, we are also doing nothing to protect staff, not to mention community members. Many of us love, enjoy visits with and care for elders in our community, and without a mask mandate, we are unable to continue with this care, as we would be putting them at significant risk. Many of my colleagues and I have chosen the safer, yet heart-wrenching choice to not see or hug loved ones or attend significant life events of others to minimize exposure. We must do what experts recommend when inside: universal masking, social distancing and diligent hand-washing.

I feel it should be up to the individual

Children now represent 26.8% of the weekly Covid-19 cases according to recent data noted in this article: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/08/health/us-coronavirus-wednesday/index.html>

PLEASE USE CDC RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE YOUR POLICY DECISIONS, INSTEAD OF ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE FROM THE CROWD. THINK ABOUT HOW YOU ARE GOING TO JUSTIFY YOUR DECISIONS WHEN SOMEONE DIES.

I feel as though throughout the pandemic the school board has not considered the safety of RSU56 staff. We have been doing our best through tumultuous circumstances: making the classroom accessible remotely, reworking activities so they abide by CDC guidelines, balancing live and virtual classes simultaneously, etc. We were able meet face to face last year because of these tireless efforts. And so, when board discusses how COVID doesn't effect children and fails to think about the population of staff who would be, it becomes incredibly disheartening. Moving forward, masking should be reinstated universally. It keeps everyone safe, students and staff. Masking doesn't effect mental health - not being able to be in the classroom does. Not being able to make connections does. We all have a responsibility to keep our community safe - that is how we remain in person, and see this pandemic through to the end.

I don't feel safe at work. I have 1 out of 14 students who wears a mask, in addition to myself. I am afraid I will get sick, or my 2 children who attend school will get sick. This would result in me needing a sub. I would also need a sub if either one of my children had to quarantine. I have no daycare options that would take them in a situation like that. I feel the chances of staying healthy would be greater with masking.

If we are all masking then the day should be shorter like last year. Kids are going to struggle with masking for a full school day. Kids haven't been practicing all summer and this will be an important step to them getting back into it.

PreK - 8 students are not eligible to be vaccinated so they are the greatest at risk.

As a person with a higher risk condition, I have spent the first weeks of school in a constant state of alert. As an individual, I have made many sacrifices throughout the pandemic— I have not attended weddings, funerals, or other gatherings of groups. I do not eat indoors— at restaurants or with people outside of my family. By not requiring universal masking, I fear that I can no longer protect myself to the levels I need to be protected. I wear my mask— doubled when I can make them fit properly— but the science has shown masking is most effective when everyone participates in this public health measure.

I feel that many people do not understand that if we are all following universal masking that we wouldn't need to have whole classes out on quarantine. I have seen many comments on social media that state " why mask if we will have to quarantine anyway" "we wore mask last year and still had entire classes out". I think the board needs to address this. I also feel like we as a district need to do a better job at social distancing.