

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Kristin Lillie Holmes Terr Whitman	No masks
Tara Head 673 Main St	I believe this should be a parents choice.
Wendie Morgan 474 N. Bedford Street, EB (school choice)	Remote and hybrid learning was such a burden for WH students, staff, and families. If masks keep everyone face-to-face, let's do it! Also, the rising numbers support a shift to indoor masking.
Joshua Gray 100 Whiting Ave Whitman	I support following the guidelines presented by DESE and DPH. I appreciate the complexity of the situation enforcing mask guidelines but do not want my vaccinated children to be required to wear masks. One of my children is not yet eligible for the vaccine and he will be wearing a mask to school until he is vaccinated.
Victor Tsveybel 103 Webster street Whitman	I strongly disagree with mask mandate and its affects on child development.
Lauren Poulin 7 Butternut Lane, Whitman	I would prefer masks not be mandated. I they they are a distraction. My 3rd grader last year had major anxiety over her mask and I do believe it impeded her learning.
Kerrin Miniutti 164 Holmes Street	I believe if a child is vaccinated then they should be allowed to be unmasked. Also, if a child is vaccinated and they are in proximity of a child that tests positive will they need to still quarantine from school?
Jessica Keegan 915 Monponsett Street	Masks should be recommended per CDC guidelines however not mandatory. The decision should be left to the parents and children to decide.
Tyara Martin 65 kenwood drive	I agree with the guidelines. My 6th grader will be vaccinated in December but it makes sense to keep the whole grade masked.
John McDermott 41 Pearl St.	I do not feel that it is necessary for my children to wear masks in school.
Lisa Hrono 75 Arlene Street Hanson	Follow state guidelines my child is vaccinated but we need to keep our kids safe.
Carolyn Greene 52 Russell Road	I agree masks should be worn.....
Brooke Shaw 20 short street hanson	No masks for the kids!!!! They are young and need to build immunity!! COVID is not going anywhere. Kids are not dying from it!! NO MASKS
Kristin Stafford Temple St., Whitman	Since the delta variant is so contagious and is transmissible from both unvaccinated as well as vaccinated it seems to make sense to either mandate masks for all students or allow parents individually decide if masking is appropriate for their family or not moving forward.
Kerri Ruggiero 39 rose way Whitman	Please make it a parent choice! Kids have been at sleepovers, pool parties, bday parties all summer. Please leave this up to the parents. My children understand and respect the reason some children may be wearing masks but we know what is best for our family.
Parent Washington st Whitman ma	Haven't we already established that masks do not protect against COVID? After the veil got pulled away regarding the CDC mandates, how is this even a conversation.
William Clements 501 high street Hanson MA	Kids should not be wearing Masks Period . enough is enough and the damage is Done to these children that have very little risk of getting covid . If anything it all should be the Parents Kids Choice . How do you attend this meeting
Kimberly Somerville 38 Rye Hill St	I think if the child is Vaccinated than No mask is needed

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Michael Minicucci 200 Indian Head Street Hanson	Please keep masks off our children. They have been through too much and continuing to require masks for all kids is detrimental to the physical and emotional health of our children. There will be fierce opposition to any members that vote for any mask mandates. This should be a choice made by individual parents.
Maura McKenna 92 Old Mansion Ln	I feel masks should be worn in schools by staff and students despite vaccination status.
Minnie Traynor 17 high street	Although I do feel it should be each individual's family's choice to mask or on mask, vaccinate or not. I do feel kids can be very mean I feel there will be opportunity for teasing and bullying both sides I think it should be the same all around to minimize the teasing etc. These children have all already been through enough and I think it is unfair to put them at risk for additional and unnecessary stressors
Julie McCann 433 Main Street Hanson	I feel the students and teachers should wear masks to school
Michelle Woerdeman 71 Chandlers Mill Road	I believe it should be up to the families to decide whether or not they want their child to wear a face mask. I do not support mandating it for children. I don't think that it fair at all. We deserve to have a say in whether or not we want our children to wear a mask all day. Leave it up to the families and not mandate it.
Michelle Cole 45 Kendrick St	I am opposed to any and all mask mandates regarding our children. Children are at a low risk for severe infection from Covid. Furthermore, the fabric masks most people are wearing are minimally effective at best. My personal opinion is that people who feel the need or want to wear a mask are welcome to, but mandating masks for people at minimal risk or who are comfortable with their risk level is inappropriate. I will have to reconsider whether the public school system is still a place I want my child enrolled if mask mandates are put into place.
Stacie Williams 725 Auburn St Whitman MA	My son will be entering 10th grade and is fully vaccinated. I am hoping this school year brings a different type of HS experience for him since freshman year was not the best due to the pandemic. The wearing of a face mask was necessary last school year, but I feel it should be up to the parent to decide if they want their child to attend school wearing a mask. I believe vaccinations for this age group should be required, however, mask wearing should be voluntary for those that are fully vaccinated.
Kim McCoy 71 Cushman Street Hanson	My daughter is vaccinated but I think for simplicity and to prevent bullying, all students should be mask mandated while indoors.
Donald Teague 70 Joanne Drive, Hanson	We have a high school senior, and lan 8th grader, and a 6ty grader in the district for the 2021-2022 school year. Our children will be wearing masks for the upcoming school year in school. Our 6th grader is 11 and is not able to be vaccinated. I am immunocompromised due to medication I take for arthritis. We do have concerns about our children being mocked for wearing masks, and believe the District should have a mandated mask policy for the safety of the families in the District. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.
Laura Sheehan 541 Maquan St	If some students are going to wear mask and others are not due to whatever reason. It should be parents choice as to if their child should wear a mask or not. I am against having children wear a mask in school all day long again: they have been through enough as it is. Let them go back to some type of normalcy. I also am ok with other parents who feel they should wear them. Parents/student choice!
Noemy Santos 63 Webster St, Whitman MA	I agree with wearing masks.
Suzanne Bouffard 160 E Washington Street Hanson	Please, please require masks of all students and staff. If we just commit for a short time, we can get over this hump too. The administration definitely needs to enforce the policy - whatever is decided. We know of several teachers and students that were not compliant with the wearing of masks in the spring. This is why we kept our son home for the remainder of the school year. Kids are resilient. It's the parents who are making things difficult.
Jim briggs 679 Auburn st	All kids should wear masks. My wife has an incurable form of cancer and has no immune system. My son is vaccinated, but wears his mask because you never know who's got what. It's common sense to wear it. I want to see 100% compliance. It's a quality of life and safety issue

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Khari Roulhac Sr. 232 Raynor Ave Whitman	Follow the advice of DESE, CDC and DPH.
John Keegan 18 Elm pl. Hanson	No Masks Mandates. It is a choice
Glen DiGravio 180 Gray Ln	Children should never be muzzled! Nor should they ever be the victims of political games! Studies and statistics have shown that masking children has had little to no benefit! It's time to end this charade!
Kristin Lindstrom 685 Washington Street	In general, I don't think children should be required to wear masks in schools. I absolutely don't think that 6th graders should wear masks while they are sharing a school with 7th and 8th graders. In addition to the stress and anxiety of starting in a new school, they will have the added stress of wearing masks while 7th and 8th graders do not. They will stand out at a time when they may be feeling incredibly self-conscious and prefer to blend in with the crowd.
Evangelyn McElaney 33 Central St Whitman	No masks. My child has spent all summer doing extracurricular activities inside and out without a mask. Why would they announce no masks for next year and now change their minds? They should not have announced anything at all.
Andrew Smith 360 high st whitman	No mandatory masks
Katherine Dugan 6 Lyons Lane Whitman	I feel that masks should be mandated for our children and staff when they are inside Children are unable to be vaccinated at this time and the numbers of children who are getting COVID 19 are increasing, with more children having more serious disease. The children were all wearing masks last year without issue. How many children will we have contracting Covid this year from school if get rid of the masks? How many more children will be quarantined? School is so vital for children and they should be protected with masks while at school. Staff should also be protecting the children with masks. Since the long term side effects of contacting Covid are unknown, we should do all we can to prevent transmission. I strongly urge the committee to mandate masks for all.
Elisa O'Keefe 14 Deer Hill Road	As the parent of a senior high schooler we have been required to provide vaccination records every school year. I see COVID 19 as no different. If you are vaccinated then you shouldn't have to wear a mask and those that chose not to be should be on a list that the high school monitors for mask wearing in school.
Christina DeLorenzo 350 School Street	I do not feel that anyone should be required to wear a mask, vaccinated or unvaccinated. I feel it should be up to each individual and each child's parent.
Matthee Anderson 39 Sullivan Terrace whitman	Masks should be mandated for all students and staff. With the variant impacting youth and vaccinated adults it would be counterproductive to send students back without safety guidelines to protect themselves, their families, and their teachers.
Kim Tasney 569 Holmes St	Masks should be mandatory for all elementary schools, and the middle school at a minimum. Masks should be required for any person regardless of age or vaccination status. This includes the bus!
Kristin Ross 49 Bell Drive Whitman	As long as the kids will be in school I'm fine if they have to wear masks. My son is vaccinated but I know others that can't for medical reasons or due to their age. We need to come together and protect all. A piece of cloth isn't going to distract their ability to learn and socialize. Good luck at the meeting.
Ryan O'Rourke 56 Loring Ave	Do not make our kids suffer another year of wearing masks! You can go to a concert or football game and not wear a mask! Our kids shouldn't have to be put through this!
Heather Sedgeman 247 captain Nathaniel drive	I would prefer no mask mandate for middle school, it should be a parent choice.
Jennifer Ciano 3 Danecca Drive	Yes, I think masks should be mandated in schools. With the higher prevalence and transmission rate of the Delta variant — combined with a higher severity of illness in children, and the fact that even those who are vaccinated can still both get sick and shed the virus — masking will help protect our children, and those in our community who are immunocompromised.

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Alison Tangherlini 176 Adams circle Hanson	I would be extremely disappointed if the children were required to wear masks. I'm hoping they don't have to wear them this year. My daughter is already getting so anxious about this
Matt Hawk 906 E. Washington Street	Regarding a health risk, the school has a responsibility to the community in general and their students, teachers, administrators, and other school workers in particular. Please make your decision(s) in the best interest of the community, not by the opinions of the community. I think you'll continue to do a great job.
Elizabeth Ryan 477 Indian Head St	Mask up
Cadence Stanton 136 Westwood drive	I feel mask should be optional for students and staff alike and not require while at school. Unless a person is in the nurses office .
Fiona Stanton 136 Westwood drive	I feel mask should be optional for staff and students not required. Unless in the nurses office .
Amy Gentile 125 Whitman Ave, Whitman	Everyone should wear masks in school and on the bus. No masks outside.
Katelyn Fisher 49 Mayflower Rd	I prefer the children mask-less, it's not about politics. They need to see facial expressions, they need to breathe, they need to be happy.
Michelle Gomes 173 PINEHAVEN DR	No mask requirement for vaccinated. Proof of vaccination for everyone required. Air conditioning in the schools and air purifiers.
Michael Stanton 136 Westwood drive	Mask should be optional and not required for staff and students unless in the nurses office.
Tiffany Hurd 137 west st whitman	Masks should be optional
Elizabeth McKinnon 497 Maquan St Hanson	I think all kids vaccinated or not should be required to wear face masks if they are not at least 6 ft apart unless they are outdoors or eating.
Kimberly Litalien 473 holmes st	No evidence masks help and wearing them is only weakening out immune systems from the common colds etc. in fall and winter months be prepared to see students with staph or mrsa infections on face. I work in medical field and seeing a lot of that along with strep throat from breathing your own bacteria. This is getting ridiculous.
Kayla Proto 250 Winter street, Whitman	I believe that masking should be optional. My son austin has severe speech issues and is on an IEP- wearing a mask does not help him while in school. I appreciate if parents are given the choice. Every family and situation is different. Some kids are vaccinated, some have already had covid. I just really want the choice to chose for my children.
Teagan Stanton 136 Westwood drive	Masks should be optional for staff and students not required. Unless in the nurses office.
Kerry Skinner 163 Captain Nathaniel dr Hanson	No masks
Michelle Ibbitson 40 Thayer ave	All students and staff should be wearing masks
Thomas Skinner 163 Captain Nathaniel dr Hanson	No masks

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Melissa Stewart 318 Birchbark Drive, hanson	I would like to see masks for everyone regardless of vaccination status r/t the delta variant and vaccinated people are getting infected as well.
Julija Coloma 89 Thayer Dr hanson	Masks should NOT be mandatory for any students or stuff/visitors
Kristina Libby 12 Arthur street	No masks please!!! Regardless of vaccination status.
Alicia Dernier 12 william way hanson	<p>No masks.....there has been ample time for those that can get vaccinated to do so. If a child is eligible and the parents haven't done so yet, they likely aren't. Other students should not have to be restricted because of their choice.</p> <p>The transmission rate on children is extremely low.</p> <p>It is time for families to make their own choices and not rely on everyone to make the decision for them.</p>
Kevin Lynam 909 Bedford St Whitman	All masking should be optional. It is abundantly clear that COVID 19 poses a very remote risk both to children and to vaccinated people without severe underlying conditions. Nearly every adult with any concerns about the virus's spread has long had the opportunity to get vaccinated. Special cases exist, but they do not rise to the level of a public health crisis warranting the overreaction of forcing either young children or vaccinated people to wear masks. With regard to the state's guidelines, the statewide public health concern is large pockets of unvaccinated people; neither Whitman nor Hanson likely presents such a concern.
Julia Sheehan 38 Beal Ave	<p>I urge you to require masks for all students and staff while indoors (with the exceptions as noted in the guidelines posted above). We all want students to have the ability to be in the classroom 5 days a week this year. That means distancing will not be possible. Students under 12 are, as you know, unable to get vaccinated. That leaves universal masking as our only option to provide some level of protection to students. I know some people are asking the decision be left up to individual parents - that option is frankly not good enough. We know that masking is done to protect those around us more than ourselves. Those who decide not to mask would be putting the others at increased risk.</p> <p>On a personal note, my 6 year old has a serious history with an auto-immune disorder. He is otherwise perfectly healthy but could be at heightened risk for a bad outcome if he gets Covid. I bring that up not to suggest he needs special treatment, but because there are many in town with similar reasons to want a mask mandate while indoors. Perhaps their student is immunocompromised, or they live with an adult who is. Asking everyone indoors at the schools to continue the practice of masking, which we have already grown accustomed to, is a small price to pay to ensure that all students are given both access to public education and a minimum level of protection from Covid.</p> <p>Exceptions could be made on a case by case basis for students with documented medical or behavioral reasons that make mask wearing detrimental. Ensuring that everyone else is wearing a mask will keep them and the entire community that much safer.</p>
Angela Johnson 690 High St, Hanson	<p>All teachers, staff, and students should wear masks inside until the vaccine is available for children ages 5-12. No one is keeping records of the breakthrough infection rate of the Delta variant for vaccinated individuals. However, it has been estimated to be as high as 20%. The numbers of COVID infections are going up with no decline in sight. The 7 day average infection rate is over 1000 in MA. These numbers are the same as last March when we had to close schools. Is this what we want to have to do again? Force remote learning on kids and stress out parents who need to try and work while managing their children's schooling? Children are more susceptible to Delta and have died from illness. This is a no brainer. Pfizer is estimating emergency use for kids as early as late September to October or perhaps early 2022. This is not burdensome to just wear masks for a few more months until we as parents can get our children vaccinated. I would also point out that my child was in school all last year (SPED) and there were no issues or complaints by the children to comply with masks. Why are we making this a bigger deal than necessary. This is like putting a poll out asking if children should be seat belted on school transportation. Of course they should. We should all be willing to use any safety measures available to us to protect as many people as possible.</p>

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Melissa O'Brien 29 Bell Drive Whitman	NO MASKS!!
Brian Daley 300 Raynor Avenue, Whitman	I feel all students and staff should be masked. Mostly since the Delta Variant is predominant and very transmissible. Also, vaccines do not totally prevent infection and vaccinated people can still transmit The Delta variant. Masks will offer another layer to prevent communal transmission in the schools. Unless vaccination proof is mandatory, unfortunately, I would not trust that all community members would be honorable and have their children wear masks if they were not vaccinated. Making masks mandatory would take any gray area away and also take the burden of vaccination proof away from the schools. One universal policy for all ages would be easiest for mask wearing enforcement. I strongly feel that even the vaccinated should wear masks to protect the unvaccinated. In fact, we do so in my household as we have one member who can not be vaccinated yet. Finally, I think without universal masking, we will end up in a full remote learning situation, which would be the worst case scenario for all.
AnnMarie Pinney 367 Homeland Dr Whitman	I think we should do whatever medical experts think is best for keeping our children, families, school staff, town safe. Thank you
Nicole Burke 58 Holmes Ter Hanson	I would not like my daughter to wear a mask. Kindergarten is a big year and they need expressions to learn and grow developmentally.
Bridget Sullivan 75 Hopkins Dr Whitman	My daughter, Nora, will be a freshman at WHRHS this year and has been fully vaccinated. She is extremely anxious about wearing a mask all day in school (she was fully remote last year), but will do so if required and/or if the COVID case numbers warrant it. In our opinion, masks should be required for all unvaccinated students and staff, as well as all visitors. Depending on the numbers of COVID cases, and if our area is at moderate or high risk, we feel that masks for ALL students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, would then make sense. IF masks are required at the high school for all unvaccinated students, then I would assume and hope that proof of vaccination would be required for all students not wearing masks.
Kristi Hurley 384 County road Hanson	I would support NO MASKS this year. Thank you!
Stephanie Dale 802 SOUTH AVE	All students and adults wear masks if not will probably need to pull my son out of school for the year. All staff should be fully vaccinated as well to protect kids that can't be vaccinated. Also assuming that you will require proof of vaccinations and not just take it on people's words.
Billy Hurley 384 County road Hanson	NO mask for the school year
Kristen Huberdeau 200 Harvard Street Whitman	Masks should definitely be optional based on the family's choice. Kids need to build their immunity by being exposed to each other's germs. The science simply does not show that kids still need to be wearing masks.
Laurice Vallancourt 11 winter terrace Hanson MA	Parents should decide if their child should mask or not. Period. The data is clear that young children are the LOWEST risk for getting sick with covid. We can not wear masks forever. Covid will be here every year just like the flu and all the other viruses we are exposed to. Masking children is cruel and abusive. I say this as an emergency room RN with 25 years experience.
Mary Kienke 54 Gorwin Dr Hanson	I hope the district follow the guild lines above. My son is entering kindergarten this year and I have a younger son who has respiratory issues. My husband and I are both vaccinated but our boys obviously are not. I know we are not the only family with members who are immune compromised. I would love the school district to mandate masks indoor unless children can properly social distance of course.
Jackie Palmer 168, Baystate Cir	Yes
Amanda Hauck 188 South St, Hanson	I think students should be wearing masks indoors for the time being.

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Michael Leary 58 forest street whitman ma	I feel strongly, that schools where children attend who do not have the option to be vaccinated due to age that the district would require an indoor masking policy for all.
Rachel Casey 131 Azalea way Hanson	I feel that making it a requirement for students not vaccinated makes them stand out and put in a bad position with other students, I think masks should be optional by comfort level. The children are not required to wear masks out side of school or for sports and I don't think it should be required in school, thank you
Danielle Winn 945 Washington St, Whitman	I strongly oppose students being mandated to wear masks at school.
Jana Martin 17 easy street	Ridiculous that it would even be something you would consider. Children need to have their masks
Matthew Ryan 53 Perry Avenue	In favor of mandating indoor mask wearing vaccinated or not until this is under control
Jessica Pratt 41 Pratt Pl Hanson	Until our kids have an option for vaccination they should be required to wear a mask indoors only
Jennifer Loud 20 Main St Bryantville	I agree with the above guidance
Donna Amado 423 S Franklin St, Holbrook	My daughter (rising Junior) is vaccinated but with the known high level of contagion of the Delta strain and the fact that vaccinated people can still get and pass COVID, she will likely feel more comfortable wearing a mask indoors when there is no opportunity for physical spacing. She is worried about the social aspects of that and comments by her peers, some of whom absurdly seem to believe the vaccine will implant a tracking chip and make her feel self-conscious at trying to protect herself. I would like to see increased opportunity for outdoor eating (for all students but most selfishly for Juniors) at a minimum PLEASE. Masks off to eat in close proximity is how some of my own colleagues (vaccinated and prior to vaccination) have contracted COVID. As a nurse in Boston, I can ASSURE you that COVID is real, deadly, and even "mild" cases can be a nightmare, leaving one quite ill with persistent long term effects of which we are still learning and will be for years to come. I respectfully request outdoor gym and eating please, as much as humanly possible. I would also like to see an ongoing remote option for days when a student may not feel well (physically or mentally) so they can keep up with school work and not put others or themselves at risk. The psychological strain the past year + has placed on these students (and the rest of us) is astronomical - maybe some more than others and some quite significantly. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns, Donna Amado, MSN, RN, CNOR
Mark Gocal 7 Arrow Dr	Mask mandates for those who are not vaccinated would be preferred. It gives those who have been vaccinated a sense of relief that they aren't spreading the virus and gives some incentive to those students who haven't been vaccinated to get their shot.
Amy Rowan 28 Old Pine Drive Hanson	Masks should be worn in school with breaks outside
Kate DeYounb 28 George Street	NO MASK!! Do not cover our children's faces. The mask is harmful to their development. It has been proven mask do not work. Let's let our kids be kids. Unmasked!!
Marisa Prisco 318 Washington St Whitman	Please allow parents to decide what is safe for their family. At this point any adult that wishes to get the vaccine has. Children can get the virus but don't get as sick as adults -if at all. Masks have caused my children to not enjoy school. Facial cues are important for kids to gauge social situations. Please don't place the burden of keeping adults healthy on our children. Everyone needs to be responsible for themselves. The anxiety of mask wearing could have lasting affects on our children's mental health.
lauren lauren George st Whitman ma	Not mandatory for masks

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Elaine Boulger 11 Fox Hill Run, Whitman	Hello, our family is in favor of leaving the decision on mask wearing in schools up to the individual families. It is up to each family to determine their level of risk. At this point in the pandemic, there is enough information available to allow families to make their own personal decisions. There should not be a mandate for any grade level. Thank you
John Pericolo 735 Auburn St	I am adamantly against masking my children. .008% of children die from this disease. And I honestly don't think that we know the psychological implications of what masks are doing to these kids. And let's be honest, these masks end up in pockets, bags, on the floor, under a shoe and on the face. They are nasty and are we all that certain that they have a health benefit? I want this committee to listen to those that it serves.and not politicize this issue because it so very important..so thank you for allowing us to speak.
Tracey Barends 67 Greengrove Lane, Hanson	If it's mandated by the CDC then yes the kids should wear them
Brian Tuffy 72 Lexington Street Hanson	No mask
Virginia Smith 81 Benson Street	Everyone should be wearing masks whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. I hope that the school will place air purifiers for additional protection in each classroom. Thanks for your support and the great work your have done the last two years.
KAYLA MERRILL 25 Gold St Whitman	Masks/ social distancing is fine. they're pretty used to it. Just allow as much outdoor time as possible for breaks
Elizabeth Devine 23 Holmes terrace	No masks required. Parent choice.
David Prendergast 35 Phillips st.	I would prefer if masks were not required for the earlier grades k-3. I believe that without being able to see faces at this age it will have a negative impact on their social and educational development. This negative impact could outweigh the questionable benefits that masking this age group may or may not provide.
Erica Grindell 496 main st Hanson ma 02341	I am ok with the kids wearing masks, if we can limit/minimize the need to shut down or quarantine if a classmate is exposed or tests positive. My son had to quarantine 4 times last year because of kids in his class or the before/after school care getting positive. It was very frustrating when the kids were being kept distanced and on a hybrid schedule for "safety" but then was still considered a close contact. He missed out on valuable in-school learning time because of this.
KathyJo Boss 10 village Way Whitman	NO masks!
Robert Graney 14 Kerri Lane, Whitman	I do not believe masks are necessary for any grade levels regardless of vaccination status!
Christina Sullivan 555 Harvard ST Whitman	I have 2 children in the school system, 6th and 11th grades. My 16 year old is vaccinated, 11 year old is too young. I fully support the requirement that masks are required through grade 6, but would also like to see that requirement through 8th grade to further protect all the kids in the middle school that are not old enough to be vaccinated.
Shauna McGrath 20 Arlene St	Please make masks a requirement. I don't want my kid to be a vector or a causality! Thank you for your dedication throughout this incredibly difficult era.
Leslie Leary 58 Forest St Whitman MA	I feel that masks should be worn for the children who aren't eligible for the vaccine and anyone who isn't vaccinated.
Michelle MacKenzie 910 Washington St	No Masks please!

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tammy Donato 171 rosewood dr.	Vaccinated students should not be required to wear masks. It should be a personal choice for each vaccinated student since it is not fair to the rest to be forced to wear masks when they do not need to. All unvaccinated students should be required to wear masks to protect themselves but the vaccinated students should not wear masks to protect the unvaccinated. The desks, however, should be cleaned just like last year. Cleaning the desks will cut down on everyday germ spread, not just covid. This will cut down colds, viruses, and everyday sickness. If we keep up these cleaning protocols and ventilation students can return back to normal and unmasked.
Pamela French 30 Diane Ter	I feel, at this time, that masks are the safest way for our children to continue in person learning. Even vaccinated people can pass covid without even knowing it. Please consider that when making your decisions.
Rita Kershner 42 Corthell Ave	Wear mask
Elhannah Burnett 501 Auburn Street	I think both vaccinated and unvaccinated all need to wear masks. Vaccinated people can catch the virus and spread it. Children under 12 cannot get vaccinated so there is no reason why vaccinated people should be allowed to spread the virus with no obstruction (masks) when they can spread the virus just as an unvaccinated person can. I will not feel comfortable if there are people walking around my 10 year old child without masks!
Allison Bates 16 Washington st Whitman	I prefer mask mandates over vaccine mandates for our children. I will not be sending my three children in, if they force a vaccine mandate.
Rachel Novak Hanson	I have an immune compromised child who deserves the opportunity to safely attend school. She is fully vaccinated and because not all her classmates are NOT and neither are all the staff the safest thing for her and honestly all the children and staff would be masks for all.
Gerald Meredith 89 Washington terrace	I think it is wrong to make the children wear masks. It is doing more harm than good. No masks is my opinion.
Amy Woodward Meryl Street Hanson	Mandate mask wearing while inside the school
Charles Slavin Gorwin Dr.	No masks – No Vaccine Mandates
Brittany Fife 76 E Washington St	As a parent of a daughter with epilepsy, I believe it should be up to parents on whether their children wear a mask. Masks inhibit my daughters breathing which can trigger a seizure and I don't believe I should have to single out a medical exemption for her. I also believe that children need to see the faces of the kids they're interacting with, if they're parents wish. Especially in elementary school. The world is a scary place, kids shouldn't feel the effects.
Brooke and Joel Whitman 136 Woodbrook Lane Hanson, MA	We are strongly against masking any kids vaccinated or not. Our son was vaccinated so he does not need to wear a mask in school. If a mask mandate is implemented it will remove any incentive that a HS student may have to get the vaccine..According to the CDC reported data, COVID cases for kids under 18 account for <0% of hospitalizations (file: ///Users/Brooke/Downloads/Massachusetts_State_Profile_Report_20210806_Public.pdf) AND <.1% of deaths as of Aug 12 2021 (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics) .. Please DO NOT MASK our kids anymore. Let us see them smile. Thank you.
Maryanne Bray 247 Birchbark Drive	If masks are encouraged many won't wear it – therefore not providing protection to other children. Masks work best when everyone wears them. Also encourage more outdoor learning if possible – kids like to be able to see each other and we know outdoors is safe.

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bethany Taylor 408 County Road hanson	I believe that the decision to wear masks should be left up to the parents. Research has shown not only that schools are not places where spreading has been a big issue, but also that children are generally not at high risk of having severe symptoms from COVID. Additionally with most of the population of the state being vaccinated, and people getting less sick overall from the disease, it is time to start resuming life as normal. Children need the ability to be able to breathe unrestricted while their bodies are still growing and developing and also the ability to see the faces of others around them to be able to develop proper social skills and understand social cues. Perhaps a solution would be to have designated classrooms for students and teachers who would prefer to wear masks and others for students and teachers would prefer not to mask, if this is a possibility. This will allow you to accommodate the many differing needs of the school community.
Jennifer Killeen 14 Crooker Pl Hanson MA	I agree with the recommendation from DESE Masks mandatory k-6. Masks for unvaccinated in higher grades. Parents choice for vaccinated children. And I do think students and staff should have to show proof of vaccination.
Marlena Banas 380 County Road	Let masks be a choice, just like going back to school in person was a choice as well.
Marguerite Lee 220 Whitman Ave, Whitman	We should mandate masks to protect children, teachers, and those who have been vaccinated. It would be irresponsible for us not to where the numbers are rising, and we are heading into the fall/winter season; as we know COVID thrives in the cooler months.
Jamie Sousa 81 Fullerton Avenue, Whitman, MA, United States	I agree with statements and would be fine with my 5th grader who is unvaccinated wearing a mask. My 7th grader who is vaccinated i do not think needs to wear one.
Tracey Prendergast 35 Phillips St, Hanson, MA	No masks
Cheryl Agnew 287 Commercial Street Whitman MA	I believe this should be a parents choice on either to wear or not to wear the mask. I am for the kids over 12 not making it mandatory. I feel the stats show it's not targeting school age children therefore it should be parents choice.
Meghan Keegan 18 Elm Pl Hanson	No masks! Our kids have been through enough! If you feel the need to have your child wear a mask it should be by choice, not force!
Kristen Favreau 151 Captain Allen Way, Whitman	We would like to see a mask mandate at the Elementary School level since our children in this grade range are not yet vaccinated. We also have a child in the middle school, but feel that since they can receive vaccinations, a mask mandate is not as critical.
Maegan Harden 115 Rowena Ave	I think that all students, staff and faculty that cannot be or are eligible but not vaccinated should be required to wear masks. Proof of vaccination should be required. The delta variant is a concern for children.
Kristine Thayer 1053 E. Washington St	I agree with this evaluation
Mark No mask 110 South Ave Whitman	No mask
Heather Simpson 736 South Ave, Whitman	All staff and students regardless of vaccination status should be masked at all times unless more than 6 feet apart.
Michael Ciano 3 Danecca Dr	My Elementary school aged child has absolutely no issue with wearing a mask, and she's even preferring it in public until vaccinations are available for that age group. Delta has proven to be more dangerous to young kids so precautions are warranted until they can get inoculated.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

Responder	Comments
<p>Mathew Price 30 Hobart Square Whitman MA, 02382</p>	<p>Absolutely NOT! Children at such a young age shouldn't have to be subjected to this. the stats show that covid doesn't effect children at the same magnitude that it effects adults. This is more of a punishment the a solution. It should be left up to the parents as to whether or not they want their children to wear a mask or not. If masks work like they say that they do then it shouldn't make a difference if my child wears one or not. I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS! this is my child and i should have the ultimate say. I DO NOT want my children thinking that this is what life should be like. DON'T PASS THIS! It will hurt our children more then it will help them.</p>
<p>Courtney Matos 48 Constitution Way</p>	<p>I believe younger children should wear masks indoors while at school. My son is entering the 1st grade and I want him to wear a mask while in school.</p>
<p>Denise Kitchens Beulah street</p>	<p>I prefer optional masks. We should be free to decide what's best for our own children. The questionable benefits of the mask are too great to put our kids through another year of school with masks. Being a kid is hard enough. I understand the teachers concerns but they may vaccinate and wear masks if they chose.</p>
<p>Sean Dias 15 Captain Allen Way</p>	<p>I do not want my child wearing a mask. The data does not indicate any risk for children. A mask should be optional at this time.</p>
<p>Meagan McPherson 43 brown ave Whitman</p>	<p>I would prefer there be no masks. If it's not safe enough for them to return with no masks then it's not safe for them to return at all.</p>
<p>Franklin Milisi 604 Brook Street hanson Ma</p>	<p>Thank you for accepting my public comment. I would like to start and say thank you for all the work the WHRSD has done to keep our kids safe over the decades and especially the past year.</p> <p>I would like to bring a different perspective to the community about the youngest children in our school system pre-k through grade 2. These kids have either never been too school or have never had a "normal" school year. This makes me concerned about the mental and social aspects of not having the face to face interaction with other children and adults.</p> <p>It is extremely important to know how someone reacts when they think's a joke is funny, or something you say makes them mad or sad. This is critical in learning boundaries with peers.</p> <p>I am not here to debate masks or vaccines or the effectiveness of either. I am here to advocate for the long term mental affects on these kids who will miss out on the most important years of mental learning they will have.</p> <p>I hope the school boards leaves the mask decision up to the parents. But especially pre-k through grade 2.</p> <p>Please find below multiple articles that outline the importance of facial expression in the social, emotional developmen.</p> <p>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5894457/</p> <p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0065240708600701</p> <p>https://depts.washington.edu/isei/iyc/sullivan_16_2.pdf</p>
<p>Heather Sullivan 13 W Washington Street, Hanson</p>	<p>Mask up if cases are still high. They're higher than they were last year. They didn't bother the kids as much as they bothered parents and personally, it was the first year ever that no colds, stomach flus, strep, etc. came home.</p>
<p>Heather Wahlberg Whitman</p>	<p>No masks</p>

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Steve Telesmanick 2 Plantation Drive, Whitman	Thank you for your leadership during this challenging time. There is no clear answer if having children wear masks will actually have any significant benefits, so I totally understand the predicament you are in on how to make a mask policy. We would be comfortable if masks aren't required for kids and would actually prefer it, but would support an initiative that required masks should the pandemic take a shift towards being prolific. Currently, I believe there is not a significant enough amount of cases, children will only experience mild symptoms if they get COVID-19 and the vaccine is available to the vulnerable, so there is no need to require all children to wear masks.
Tonya Foster 855 temple street unit e2	As much as it pains me to say, I think they should at the very least start school wearing masks.
RACHEL HARRIS 18 Church St	Students should not have to wear a mask during school. It should be their option to wear one or not.
Kenny Tasney 569 Holmes St Hanson	I worry every day that our district won't enforce a mask mandate. I desperately need my two kids to be back in school with their peers. We did a full year of full remote last year and we were looking forward to our kids starting school but Governor Baker's decision to not put a mask mandate in place has turned our excitement for the school year into anxiety. These kids can not get vaccinated, the instructions we were all given after the vaccine became available was that unvaccinated people still need to wear masks and practice social distancing. Nothing has changed and in fact the delta variant is even more dangerous to kids then the original Covid strain. So please do the right thing and protect our kids and our community by providing a safe school year with mandated masks. We sent our kids to the school summer camp, most of the kids did not have masks on because it was not mandated. With in 3 weeks both of my kids were exposed to Covid at that school run camp and needed to be tested. If you do not mandate masks in school people will send their kids to school without masks. Please mandate masks. Protect our children.
Erin (& Michael) Reed 73 Hammond Road, Hanson	My husband and I would prefer that mask wearing be required for all children under 12. These children are all unvaccinated and will be indoors in close proximity to one another. The delta variant is worse than the COVID strain from 2020. Wearing a mask is the least a person can do to protect the larger community and limit the potential to bring the virus home to someone who might be at high risk. I am vaccinated, and due to the recent delta variant developments, I resumed masking up in stores, on public transportation, and in my place of work. Sadly, this has become a political issue, when it should be one of safety. What concerns me the most is that not all families have been following the safety guidelines, and that creates an opportunity for this virus to spread and mutate. This pandemic is not over, and the less we take it seriously, the longer it will last. Thank you.
Allison Andrews 209 Gray Lane	We are in favor of children wearing masks in school regardless of vaccination if the variant continues to progress as it has been doing.
Faith Bermingham 71 Arrowhead Dr Hanson	I do not think masks should be mandated. If a child/parent or faculty member choose to wear one it should be left up to the decision of each individual.
Erika Lamberti 35 mayflower road Hanson	Yes students should be masked regardless of vaccination status.
AMANDA JOHNSON 705 AUBURN ST WHITMAN	WE ARE OK WITH MASKS-SEEING OUR CHILD IS NOT ALLOWED TO GET THE SHOT YET BECASUE OF HER AGE.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Paula Sampson Rosado 226 pleasant st whitman	I strongly disagree with parent choice when it comes to masking in school. This new variant is absolutely affecting children even more than the original strain. Why would we stop with the precautions after doing such a great job last year? The only reason I kept my daughter full remote back in April was because she wanted it and loved her amazing teacher, otherwise I would have felt very comfortable sending her back. I also feel this is going to open up unnecessary opportunities for bullying and kids being made fun of. If it does become parents choice I would love to see classrooms that are solely for the masked children. It's not ok for other parents choosing to send their kids without masks to put my daughter at risk at least until she can be vaccinated. Which I intend to do as soon as it is possible. Most kids will understand why they are wearing masks if it's explained that it is for their protection. My daughter has no issues with it because I don't project adult feelings onto a child. This is strictly about the health and safety of our children, nothing more nothing less. Please take ALL these comments from us parents pro masks serious as I know I am probably in the minority as it is. We are scared for our kids.
Alicia Millerick 46 Fullerton Ave apt 3 Whitman	I don't think any kids should have to wear a mask vaccinated or not.
Caissie McDonough 27 Carriage Rd Hanson	I would like the school system to leave indoor mask decision up to each individual parent to decide for their own child. I don't think children should be required to wear masks while indoors & feel it could be damaging psychologically as well as physically (to not be able to breath freely for so many hours). I think stressing the importance of hand washing & staying home when sick is the most important part of keeping children safe from a variety of illnesses that may affect them. Please do not require children to wear face masks while in school. Thank you!
Keri Rouse 12 Fieldstone Circle	Both of our children will be wearing masks this coming school year regardless of the rules put in place. We have immune compromised family members that we want to protect the best we can. My boys do not mind wearing a mask nor do I feel like our rights are being taken away if they are required to wear them. Clearly wearing a mask during the school year (and in general) prevented so many other sicknesses ie stomach bug, flu, common cold ect. Hoping for a better year for all the students, faculty and staff!
Christina Mcelroy 22 Lee ter Hanson	I fully support the kids wearing masks at school
Julie Berry 49 Richard Rd Hanson	I do not think kids should have to wear masks at school, however I am in favor of whatever it takes to have the kids in the classroom for full time in class learning. Thank you!
Donna Noonan 401 brook street hanson	No masks
Stephanie Spadorcis 113 Temple St Whitman	All kids need masks—all grades! My 6 th grader can't be vaccinated and will be with kids who are not vaccinated. I think required mask wearing with frequent breaks is the way to go.
Meghan Milisi 604 Brook st	I think Masks should be mandated for at least preschool & elementary students, as that's where a majority of the 12 and under population fall. Last year masks were worn to avoid spread and it seems the number of transmission was fairly low. Once a vaccination is available for children 12 and under I think the mask policy could be reassessed. Someone brought up a good point on one of the hanson pages, If some children are wearing masks and others aren't, there is a possibility of bullying those who do wear a mask (or even vis versa). Masks are a small thing to ask to avoid the spread and most children are able to handle wearing them well, as seen last year. I do think during recess and outdoor activities masks do not need to be required.
Jenna Bergeron 687 Plymouth Street	If doctors recommend wearing masks, then we should be wearing masks. This topic has gone political and it's getting ridiculous. The kids don't even care. I'm sincerely sorry for the backlash the decision makers have had to and will have to deal with. And I thank you for all you're doing in spite of it.
Drew Kitchen 284 High street Hanson	Kids should wear masks if they want to. It should not be mandatory and up to individual families. If the children are vaccinated then the school should not have them wear a mask.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Syisha Green 730 Temple St Whitman</p>	<p>Yes, facemasks should be required this school year.</p>
<p>Amy McKenzie Whitman</p>	<p>No, I don't think they should have to wear masks especially when it's already been proven that they don't work, by Fauci mind you again the man who loves going back on his words and by hundreds upon hundreds of other nurses/doctors in our country and that's obvious. Let me say this as well while on this topic, I understand science changes but I'll continue to listen to OUR actual doctors and nurses and scientists on this issue and so why keep masks on our kids when aerosol particles(if you don't know what that is, it means they are SO tiny they can sneak into any small opening and yes including through your masks) hence why thousands of nurses who were absolutely decked out in PCP wear even face shields still got the covid when they first were swarmed with people in the hospitals with this new "virus", it just doesn't make sense, none of this makes sense to keep having our children basically not breathe and breathing in their own toxins which the body needs to let go of, that alone can cause harm to them as it is, because of a mask that can't protect anyone anyway. Everyone is living in fear and it's ludicrous, I can voice my opinion all day and fight for my children but it will get me nowhere it will get us all nowhere if we all don't stand together with the actual science and not of what the CDC says or the government. Also can you or anyone who is reading by this or posting it up on a slideshow please explain as to why the "unvaccinated" need to wear a mask when the "vaccinated" can carry covid & spread it more rapidly then the unvaccinated I have personal stories on that as well but that can be for another day, and is the masking to protect the unvaccinated or the vaccinated? what is the point of the shot? again makes no sense, and yes I understand it's supposed to help the symptoms be less severe, basically like the flu shot. if you are someone who is vaccinated then trust your shot and let us parents make our decisions for our children. And for the record I have been living my life fear free and I have been healthy and fine along with my children, actually everyone close to me has been healthy and fine now either I have a huge protection globe over myself and my loved ones or vitamins actually work. thank you, kindly.</p>
<p>Rosalia Pires Whitman</p>	<p>Yes on all students wearing masks in an elementary school setting</p>
<p>Ellen Spencer 96 Glenwood Place</p>	<p>I prefer my child wear a mask as I do have concerns around my 11 year old, who already has respiratory related issues, being in a room full of unmasked unvaccinated kids. If not a mandate I will send him with mask but my concerns are...first, will he actually wear it because nobody else is and then if he does will it make him stand out and impact him socially. So if there is no official mandate would ask that there is some education or awareness at start of school around some kids are more susceptible to resp issues or immunodeficiencies so these kids are not made to feel like they are odd or parents are wrong and paranoid to mask up. There are a lot of strong opinions out there and would hate to see them brought in to the school for a negative impact on kids that parents are just trying to protect and not debating or telling anyone else what they should with their kids.</p>
<p>Jean Dean 162 Elm street hanson</p>	<p>I don't have an opinion on masking unless it impacts the quarantine rules for a vaccinated student. what happens to vaccinated students if someone in "close contact" tests positive. My expectation is my vaccinated student would not need to quarantine - is that correct? Does it make a difference on quarantining if all students are wearing masks? Ex. A masked vax student if in close contact with a positive student - does the masked vax student not need to quarantine?</p>
<p>Trish Di Tunno 11 Sullivan Terrace, Whitman</p>	<p>I agree with all of the above, but with a reevaluation every 3 months so that if cases are low that the masking indoors can eventually be removed for kids K-6 at some time during the school year.</p>
<p>Kyle Anderson 328 East Washington St</p>	<p>I feel like whatever decision is made must be the same for everyone. Last this needed is separation. Plus the research is staggering on you can still contract and spread the virus with the vaccine. Masks outside is counter productive as well as with sports. In the classrooms is understood. But not everyone is going to get a vaccine and we need to learn to deal with all this. As well as not segregating kids based on vaccine etc. personally I feel like if someone wants to wear a mask that's great but the choice should be up to the kid and there parents.</p>

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Alison Dillon 99 Pleasant St, Hanson	Parents should decide what is best for their child. There are no studies that show masks work. Children should be free to socialize and learn without a cloth coving restricting their breathing. Children have little to no chance of dying from Covid. The flu is far more dangerous for children and we have never even considered masking for that. The fact is that children have a better chance of being struck by lightning or dying in a car crash than from Covid. They do not need to protect adults...any adult that wants to be vacinated has had plenty of opportunity to do so. Again, this should be a parents choice. Thank you.
Mai Whyte Brook Bend Road	No masks!
Kelly Pavidis 221 Birchbark Drive	I think until there is a vaccine option for children under 12 all elementary and middle school teachers, staff, employees and visitors should wear masks. I am a teacher in Boston, and I understand it is not enjoyable to teach or learn in a mask but it also works to prevent the spread of covid. My son and husband have asthma and I want to keep them safe and protect their lungs.
Susanne Mccallum 698 south ave whitman	No masks
Corinne Madden 62 HillTop Road Whitman	I definitely think ALL, kids should have their flu shots. I work at SHBH & it has always been their policy, during Flu season, if you choose to not get the flu vaccine, then you must wear a mask for the entirety of the flu season. Maybe, that could be the policy here. My kids & family ALWAYS get vaccinated, but this could be an alternative, to those who have such an issue with wearing one.
Mark Chauppetta 63 High Street	I don't think children should be ordered to wear a mask at school - this should be a choice. If the faculty is concerned again get vaccinated and wear a mask or two - otherwise let these kids breath. I think what also should be stressed it if your kids sick stay home - this will cut back on not only covid spreading but the flu.
Rebecca Harvey 56 Baker St	Please DO NOT make our kids wear those masks they make them sleepy and aren't able to concentrate!
Allison Amy 42 Pine Street, Hanson	I know mask can prevent viruses from spreading but I do have three children on IEP's (all for speech and other services at IHE this year). I strongly worry about their development of speech while wearing these mask for so many hours in school. I have always believed these are such precious years to help my children become stronger from from their disabilities with as much help as possible. I believe my children should not have to go to school with the mask on this year and it should be up to the parent.
Breeda Cosgrove 20 Mayflower Circle	Our kids belong in school and if that means wear a mask to keep everyone healthy we should do it
Christopher Coon 91 Old Coach Rd	Masking children who have low risk of contracting and little of spreading covid, is foolish, goes against independent studies and recommendations in other countries. Politicizing the matter is unconscionable. Parents need to keep children home if sick. Hand washing and other normal measures should be taken, but masks (and mandatory shots) are out line.
Teresa Marcucella old coach roach whitman	Our children are asking to be homeschooled if they are required to wear a mask during school. Therefore we will not be sending our children if a mask mandate is put into place especially after months of no longer requiring them. How can you require a mask mandate due to COVID when on the packaging of said masks it states it does not protect against COVID. Please focus your attention on better hygiene practices amongst students (hand washing stations/breaks, sanitizer, classroom cleaning etc.) rather than forcing them to cover their face and be distracted and uncomfortable all day when it is not even proven to protect them. Thank you.
Stephanie Cristina 342 Essex st Whitman	I fell the students should wear masks while moving from class to class and be allowed to take them off when seated. As a parent with a severely handicap child my son would be told to wear a mask yet I feel he would be pressured and bullied for it. I am confident that the school district will do what ever is possible to keep the kids safe
Heidi Bastek 282 Harvard St Whitman	I agree that those who have not been vaccinated must wear a mask.

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Dawn Zaccaria 128 Plymouth Street, Pembroke	Students and staff that have been vaccinated should NOT be required to wear masks.
Kristen Candito 80 warren ave Whitman ma 02382	This should be a parents choice. These kids have been in camp all summer no mask no covid has been present. At this point this is ridiculous if a parent doesn't feel safe sending to school with out mask then mask your child. My child shouldn't have to do this anymore. He has no clue what school is suppose to be like
Kristen Nehiley Hanson	All students, staff, visitors etc., unvaccinated AND vaccinated should ALL wear masks and keep social distanced! Vaccinated can still contract and spread Covid (any variant!). Keep exposures and outbreaks in schools and in our communities down. Masks have been proven to decrease flu as well. Parents seem to be the ones that have the major mask issue~ kids, especially younger kids, just do what they're supposed to do. Everyone wear masks!
Olivia McCormack 236 Pleasant St Whitman	I believe that with the new Delta variant it would be in the best interest of the students teachers and staff that masks were required. Exposure to the virus/ close contact causes a bigger disruption to the students learning and mental health than a face covering in school. My family has taken all of the proper precautions to remain safe throughout this pandemic and I am hopeful that the school and community will work to keep all of our children safe.
Deborah Youngstrom 43 Alden St	With the expected fall surge and the increasing number of cases of Delta variant, I think it may be wise to have everyone continue to be masked while indoors.
Meredith Gausch 41 Charles st	There should be a universal mask mandate for all students – which follows the recommendation of ALL health organizations. Mask wearing should NOT be controversial or political. Many public places are reverting to mask wearing. It is strictly to keep children and staff protected as the delta variant is proven to be more contagious and is effecting children. Parent choice will not only put others at risk for illness, but will create a social divide amongst the students, which will likely lead to unnecessary anxiety and bullying. Additionally, teachers should not be tasked with monitoring which students should be masked and which do not need to be. Separating masked and unmasked children is a terrible idea. Masks should be mandatory in the schools for all students, staff and visitors. Families that feel this is an issue should have a remote option for their child.
Nathaniel Novak 286 Phillips st Hanson	Masks should be mandatory, period! Having a child with medical conditions makes our situation challenging enough. A mask mandate is no different than other school dress code policy's. It is a minor but reasonable inconvenience to everyone and by doing so helps to build equitable access to classroom education for everyone.
Brianne Marks 291 Hogg Memorial Drive	I fully believe masks need to be mandated for all students and staff in all school. I am fully vaccinated and wear a mask anytime I go indoors and I just caught covid. I don't go anywhere often and we believe the only place I could've gotten it is when I went for an interview at the Whitman-Hanson High School. I was the only person wearing a mask, I did not see anyone else in the building wearing one. If you don't mandate masks it will spread through the schools immediately. I would rather have the kids in school masked then have to do remote learning again. I'm urging you, please mandate mask use for all students and staff.
Kathleen Berry 645 E Washington St.	No masks. Absolutely ridiculous
Billie Tilden 1 Joshua Lane	Masks should be mandatory for all students and unvaccinated teachers. Otherwise the school will have to provide anyone under 12 with a full remote option. Proof of vaccination should also be mandatory.
FRANCIS Lane 295 high st	No, these kids need to get back to normalcy I dont agree with any mask mandates...
Sandy Parker 143 Brook Street Hanson	I support all of these measures. I'm completely fine with unvaccinated children wearing masks while indoors. All good by me. Thank you!!

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Erica Burke 25 Tag Way Hanson Ma	With the way the Delta variant is spreading and kids under 12 unable to get vaccinated I believe all children unless they have a medical condition must wear masks inside. It is important they get fresh air outside though. I know it is difficult but these kids are so used to masks by now. My 5 year old just automatically puts on I don't even ask him.
Lorraine DiCicco 10 Linden Place Whitman, Ma. 02382	Masking is fine indoors... not for recess or eating lunch. Thank you.
Scott Sawtelle 52 Alden Way Hanson	I agree that vaccinated HS students should not have to wear masks.
greg dieso 52 GreatCedar Dr Hanson	to protect everyone is would be best to have everyone where masks and not just the younger grades
Mary Wilson 2 pasture lane Whitman	I do not support wearing masks. Especially for the younger kids in elementary school.
Angela Wilson Whitman	I do NOT support mask wearing for kids when they are in school.
Kerri Leary 3 Audubon Lane, Hanson	I fully support all students and faculty wearing masks if it will help prevent the spread of COVID.
Kathryn Hinchey 10 Thayer Dr Hanson	I support parental choice of masking for students in all grades.
Kate Femia 59 Rose Way	I sent a long winded email to the school committee, selectman, board of health and to the superintendent. I feel universal masking is crucial for the success of the students and teachers. Teachers will be able to focus on teaching without having to keep track of who needs a mask. This will protect their physical health, their mental health about being bullied and or teased if everyone is masked and hopefully protect the kids from having to quarantine at home when there are cases. We all know all families are handling COVID safety differently, have different levels of comfort on socializing outside of school so cases will be inevitable but mask protocols will help avoid outbreaks.
Kathleen Coughlin 462 Beulah St apt 1	Masks should be worn at all times especially in schools to protect the students and faculty and families rather than chance bringing germs home or end up in the hospital due to Covid or the delta variant because people do not want to protect themselves and people around them. They would rather be irresponsible. The health and well-being of our children should be top priority. If families don't want to comply then they should do home schooling for their children. This pandemic is a matter of life and death. Not an option.
Andy Maynard 25 Chestnut Street Whitman	This foolishness needs to end at some point. Children are not dying because of COVID and most adults should be fully vaccinated by now. Wearing masks I believe will do more developmental and psychological harm to our kids than anything. How can students interact and learn effectively when they and the teachers are always wearing masks? We don't know how effectively masks even work against the virus despite what the CDC wants us to believe. With all due respect DPH and DESE have little credibility with me at this stage of the game. This should be a personal/parent decision. If someone else's child wants to wear a mask that's fine but do not force my child to wear a mask. Please end this insane mask requirement policy. Thank you.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Daniel McDonough 27 Carriage Rd, Hanson</p>	<p>The question again has come up about mask mandates on children for a severe disease they are not at risk for.</p> <p>Up till recently I have been in support of the measures and restrictions in the name of safety and caution of the unknown.</p> <p>But we have passed the time of uncertainty. We have passed the time of no treatment and no vaccination. There are vaccines available for literally everyone at risk of death of the disease. If kids were that at risk for the delta variant, then we would be teaching remote. If kids were that at risk to the delta variant then we would not allow them to remove masks during lunch.</p> <p>So in my opinion the question you are asking is: Should masks be permanent? Because if we continue for 2 years with masks, then why not 5? why not 10?</p> <p>By then children will have been so conditioned to masks that they will feel like they are going to school with no underwear.</p> <p>In short: Let each person decide what is the best for their life. Thank you for your time and dedication.</p>
<p>David Parker 143 Brook St.</p>	<p>Wearing masks is critically important right now and during the fall semester. This pandemic isn't over. Where I work, we have had 3 employees suffer breakthrough infections this week alone. Covid continues to pose a serious health risk, and until it recedes, both staff and students should wear masks while indoors. It's not fun, no one likes it, but it is the best way to keep everyone safe while at school. I fully support wearing masks in school.</p>
<p>Brian Ahlstedt 73 Brookside dr</p>	<p>I agree.</p>
<p>Julie Swan 286 Birchbark Dr</p>	<p>Masks should be required. We did not have many breakouts in schools because of the mandatory masks. Kids are not vaccinated and others are choosing not to vaccinate. It is the safest choice for everyone and will lessen the quarantining and remote learning.</p>
<p>Sharon Leone 166 Beechwood Rd</p>	<p>I think it should be up to the individual if they want to wear a mask. I will however follow any guidelines that the school deems necessary to keep the staff and children safe.</p>
<p>Collin Emerson 120 burton ave Whitman mass</p>	<p>Wear masks!!!</p>
<p>Candice Johnson Stetson Street, Whitman</p>	<p>I think the kids should be wearing masks. If the cases are rising and the delta variant is affecting kids, let's protect them.</p>
<p>Katie Beckstrom 582 ELM ST</p>	<p>I support mask wearing in schools</p>
<p>Shelley Papadopoulos 176 High St</p>	<p>I agree with all recommendations above except for the elementary school students masking indoors if all faculty, staff and visitors eligible to vaccinate are vaccinated or wear a mask. My personal opinion is it should be a family choice for students too young to be vaccinated.</p>
<p>Amy Durette 580 State st hanson</p>	<p>I believe it should be up to the parents or guardian to make there own decision on how they should send their student to school in a mask or not. Leave the medical decions of our children to their parents, not the town, state or government. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jennifer Cronin 335 Winter St</p>	<p>Will WHRSD be asking for vaccination information from students in grades 7-12 to see who would need to wear a mask per the DESE guidance?</p>
<p>Crissy Pruitt 4 Village Way, Whitman</p>	<p>While I understand and agree with MA DESE Guidance, I also understand the complexities of having to track all vaccinations as well as having to identify each student that is vaccinated. Please know that I support whichever decision is made.</p>

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Derek Holbrook 44 baker st Hanson</p>	<p>I strongly disagree with mandating children to wear masks. I do however agree with having the option. Wearing a mask as a young and growing child not being able to see and read lips and facial expressions negatively effects development brain and body of the child. Our children have already been drastically affected. My sons on an IEP for a learning disability. Will your schools have proper air conditioning while he breathes in his own co2? It's affects my children, our children and health so why do you think it is you up to. It's not, it's my decision. It's the parents decision.</p>
<p>Alena Consalvi 96 bay state circle Hanson</p>	<p>Please mandate masks for all unvaccinated adults, teachers and students. Please recommend masks for those vaccinated. We still do not know the long term effects Covid has on young people. We need to get ahead of the delta variant before it mutates to a stronger/more deadly virus. The only way we can do that is through masking and having a strong vaccination program.</p> <p>The majority of people in this town are highly conservative, where masks and vaccines have been demonized and politicized. As an education organization, please listen to the scientific data and mandate masks. I feel the only reason masking is a debate is because of those who defy scientific evidence, and who feed into conspiracy and misinformation.</p> <p>We take pride in teaching our children science and seeking knowledge and truth. Now, as a town and a school district, we need to model that behavior.</p>
<p>Deb Songdahl 32 corthell ave, whitman ma</p>	<p>I personally do not think students, even if unvaccinated, should be required to wear a mask. Some people are refusing to get vaccinated, including myself, because we believe it is untrustworthy and practically useless seeing as though it covers such a small amount of what people claim is spreading. I think school should go back to normal, mask free, seeing as though every other country is fine except for us! (The main country that is vaccinating) The children have been through enough this past year, and they're not even the age group speeding the delta variant!</p>
<p>Kristen DiLillo 604 E Washington St, Hanson</p>	<p>While I do worry about COVID, I also worry about masking all day. As a teacher myself, it was tough to see all my students' little faces constantly covered with masks. Not being able to do small groups or have students work together in order to abide by social distancing was equally as challenging. Reminding students to "cover their noses" and "pull their masks up" became a constant distraction from lessons.</p> <p>I'm truly torn and see the benefits of wearing a mask - but I also see the disconnect it creates. I don't want my two children wearing masks all day but in times where collaborative learning activities might be taking place and children are in close proximity, I would be okay with my children wearing them.</p> <p>While they are at their seats listening and doing work, I would prefer my children be maskless, as well as when they are outside.</p> <p>Sorry for the long, rambling explanation of my feelings. I appreciate the opportunity to voice them. Thank you!</p>
<p>Doria Berman 52 old mansion ln</p>	<p>I am concerned if there are no mask requirements in the schools. My daughter is a senior and has an auto immune and is on meds that further lower her immune response. My employer and many other employers are again requiring masks. My neighbor's employer just sent her office back to work from home, after a brief return to the office setting. Just as before, we have to look at trends. I personally think a quarantine is more inconvenient than a mask. Obviously we have to protect kids under the age of 12 that can not get vaccinated. And of course the vaccine does not prevent the disease or the spread of it, so PPE should be used.</p>
<p>Erin MacDonald 1114 E. Washington St</p>	<p>I feel vaccinated parents/students/faculty should not have to wear masks. I feel students with behavioral/medical needs that are unvaccinated should not be required to wear masks.</p>
<p>Marc Uzzell 56 Donahue Dr Whitman</p>	<p>I don't believe the kids should wear mask. They've been together all summer, camps, trips and over friends with no mask and no outbreak. It's proven time and time again mask are not stopping it.</p>
<p>Jenn Skarinka 684 State Street</p>	<p>I agree with the above - wearing masks in school.</p>
<p>Colleen Sampson 18 Dover st Whitman</p>	<p>Would prefer to have students unmasked while at school.</p>
<p>Kayla Anderson 460 harvard st, whitman</p>	<p>Please Mandate masks for both vaccinated and unvaccinated along with social distancing, I am a healthcare worker and have seen what this virus is capable of. My children are asthmatics and without the option of remote learning allowing people to unmask is so so unfair.</p>

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Amanda Foley 306 Temple Street	Most of us don't have to wear masks for work or out in public. Why make the kids suffer at school.
Renay Rizzitano 44 Baker St, Hanson	I strongly disagree with the mandating of children wearing masks for this upcoming school year. I do however believe that it should be a choice. Wearing masks all hours of the school day is not benefiting their learning. As all young kids in elementary age, they already lost so much these past two years and my question is will kids have social and emotional deficits, or social skills problems from all the blank faces they are seeing? I say yes! These face masks ENCOURAGE the transmission of "infected" particles of hand to face transmission virus. Lets not forget breathing in your own CO2 is not healthy. It affects my children's learning, not just in school but their cognitive and emotional learning. Let it be a choice!
Debbie O Broin 43 Diane Terrace	If vaccinations aren't mandatory then those unvaccinated should absolutely have to wear a mask. To make it easier & less discriminatory then just require masks for all. Anyone that already had sense & vaccinated themselves & their children (if they could) are already are on board with keeping people safe & wearing a mask isn't a big deal.
Tina Stidstone Ocean Ave, Hanson MA	As a parent of a fully vaccinated 8th grader, I am comfortable sending my son to school without a mask. He attended ESY at the HS this summer without a mask with no issues.
Julie Preston 16 Edward Dr Whitman	My whole family is fully vaccinated against COVID, however I am fully behind any decision to have students/staff/visitors wear masks in school, regardless of grade or vaccination status. Given the prevalence of the delta variant, I feel it incumbent on all members of our community to do the best we can to mitigate transmission and protect the vulnerable. If that requires masking indoors, so be it. I would rather see my kids masked and in school full time than in remote or hybrid learning.
Sandra Gaudiano 479 Main St. Hanson, MA	I would feel more comfortable if students wear masks. I have a student at Indian Head and the middle school this year. I am also wondering if there is a remote plan in place if the covid numbers continue to get higher in Whitman/Hanson.
Erin Cogswell 95 Gorwin drive, Hanson	Parental choice on masking is the only way to go. Please consider this when making your decision. If there is a mask mandate, I will choose to homeschool my son.
Elizabeth Welch 99 Ransom Rd	I think the district and the government should let us parents decide what is best for our own children. My two children are healthy and are at no risk of dying of covid but last year the remote learning and mask restrictions took a huge toll on their mental health. It was very difficult to watch confident, strong, children, become depressed and lose their self confidence. I can't image the affect on the not so confident and strong children without good support. Please no more masks restrictions and for those that are worried then let them wear masks. We parents know our children best. Let us decide for them. My children have had many viruses throughout the years with high fevers one day and then fine the next day. And please no masks during sports!! Last year that was difficult to watch and in my opinion child abuse! Keeping our children healthy means keeping them mentally healthy and strong! If not, there will be more suicides than any possible covid deaths! Our children deserve a normal school year this year! They need to interact, see each other's faces and return to some normalcy! I think that would be best for my children.
Daena Olson 270 Beulah Street	Students and staff should be wearing masks. They are a vulnerable population as children under 12 cannot have the vaccine. Masks should at least be worn in the elementary and middle schools.
Mark Ruggiero 39 Rose Way, Whitman, MA	The science around the efficacy of masks is still evolving and i do not believe in creating two classes of students - vaccinated vs. unvaccinated. I believe it should be up to the parents to decide for their own student.
Justin Evans 57 Candlewick Ln Whitman	What are you hoping to gain from public comments for a public health decision? The CDC recommends that all schools require masks for students and staff. You posted DESE's statement above, so you know what they believe. The Whitman Board of Health recommends that everyone mask in all indoor spaces in town. Plymouth County currently has High community transmission. It is your responsibility to keep students and staff safe, and you did an excellent job the last year and a half. You made the difficult choice to cancel in person graduation in 2020 without crowdsourcing public feedback. Please follow the advice of public health professionals and do the right thing when it is so obvious what that is.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Nancy Molla 125 Gorwin Drive	PLEASE NO MASKS!!! I think it is important to note that teachers required the children to wear their masks DURING mask breaks outside! (That is when they did, in fact, get "mask breaks").
Jen LaRosa 2 Constitution Circle	My 7th grader is fully vaccinated and I'm fine with these terms. I'm also fine with kids not wearing masks at all regardless of age or vaccination status.
Catherine McLaughlin 61 Peyton place Whitman	I don't believe that children should be MADE TO WEAR MASKS! How do we allow these children to be together all summer unmasked. but yet tell them they need to wear one while in school with the same children. I'm not for wearing masks. It's an agenda to keep kids out of school and "work from home". My children lost significant knowledge while on lockdown, and faced serious mental issues. Get back to school, we all did what we wanted all summer.
Adele Vigneau 80 Katy Did Ln	No masks for grades 9-12.
Alisa conway 125 Brook Bend Rd	Masks should NOT be mandatory.
Michelle Williams Winslow dr Hanson	Masks
Jennifer Fernandez 22 Fox Hill Run Whitman	I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. I would strongly like to advocate for masks to be optional unless we have another significant outbreak with a mask mandate. With that said, I would like to know there will be a plan for possible classroom exposure for minimal interruption of school time missed. For example, if class A had an exposure can they be remote for those 2 weeks? And this includes actual online activities at home? Thank you
Stephanie Baker 84 Hopkins dr	No masks
Danielle White 559 liberty st Hanson	Parents should decide
Diane Edwards 123 stoney weir rd Halifax ma	To mandate masks in school is child abuse. They cause more harm than good. They are a breeding ground for bacteria, deprive a developing brain of oxygen, and they do not prevent viruses as stated on the box. Mask wearing should be a choice not mandated. I speak for my grandson attending kindergarten in the fall at whitman hanson and i am deeply concerned about a policy that clearly is not based on science but medical tyranny. Enough of this nonsense
Elizabeth Barry 13 Deer Hill Road, Hanson	The guidelines as stated - based on grade levels and vaccination status - should be the model for the school district.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Derrick Welch 99 Ransom Road</p>	<p>Absolutely no mandatory mask mandate.</p> <p>Our children’s lives have been turned upside down for the last 18 months. Forced to wear masks in classroom and hallways. Forced to wear masks on the court and in the field.</p> <p>Masks that have been proven over and over again to have extremely little if any positive impact regarding transmission and in fact can be harmful.</p> <p>This is but one example. This is from https://www.aier.org/article/masking-a-careful-review-of-the-evidence/</p> <p>“In fact, it is not unreasonable at this time to conclude that surgical and cloth masks, used as they currently are, have absolutely no impact on controlling the transmission of Covid-19 virus, and current evidence implies that face masks can be actually harmful. All this to say and as so comprehensively documented by Dr. Roger W. Kooops in a recent American Institute of Economic Research (AIER) publication, there is no clear scientific evidence that masks (surgical or cloth) work to mitigate risk to the wearer or to those coming into contact with the wearer, as they are currently worn in everyday life and specifically as we refer to Covid-19.”</p> <p>Serious illness from Covid in children is extremely rare. Of the 3.6 million who tested positive for COVID 296 died from what was claimed to be a COVID related illness.</p> <p>This is a .00008% chance. And the unknown is how many of these children who died had other conditions or underlying conditions.</p> <p>Compare this to the 12,175 children 0–19 who the CDC claim die every year on average. 296 died from something claimed to be Covid related compared to 12,175 who die each year on average of non Covid related causes.</p> <p>And for this we have completely taken any sense of normalcy away from our children for the last 18 months!</p> <p>Senior’s senior year ruined. Sports seasons cut in half. Remote learning.</p> <p>Our children have struggled emotionally, socially and academically.</p> <p>We are finally getting back to some level of normalcy and it is being suggested we should go back to the nightmare our children have been living for the last 18 months?</p> <p>We have had enough. More than enough.</p> <p>Masks must be optional. The children and their parents must be free to choose. This choice should not be made by anyone else.</p> <p>If you elect to institute a mandatory mask mandate the Villagers may storm the castle.</p>
<p>Kellen Cunha 67 Star St whitman</p>	<p>No mask please</p>
<p>Sabrina Beazley 20 Bonney Ter</p>	<p>Everyone should be wearing masks indoors. Until heard immunity or eradication of the disease is achieved.</p>
<p>Kristy Gillis 42 lance lane</p>	<p>I agree that masks should be optional for vaccinated children.</p>

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
John McElroy 22 Lee Terrace, Hanson, MA	I believe masks should be required for all students, faculty and staff. COVID Delta Variant is causing massive spikes in positive results and deaths. There have been several reports that the variant has same affects on child as the original strain had on adults in terms of severity of symptoms. Masks reduce but do not eliminate transmission. Why would we take risks with our most precious resource, our children. Choosing not to require masks is a political statement and not one of health and safety.
Stephanie Blackman 18 Pearl Street	We are all fully vaccinated, but we believe masks should be worn to protect others. We also believe that the mask rule should apply to everyone in the building in order to make enforcement easier.
Michelle Sutherland-Higgins 21 Benson St Whitman, MA	I do not believe that children should be required to wear masks. It has already been proven that children are not at risk. My daughter will be attending the high school and is vaccinated. If they have to wear masks in school then why did we get our kids vaccinated. I believe that the parents are the ones who should choose what is right for their child. If you want your child to wear a mask then have them wear a mask. I do not think my VACCINATED child should be forced to wear a mask. I also don't think that the school board should be bullied into enacting a mask mandate. Give the children a break, that is in the best interest of the children.
Amy Fitzmaurice 48 Big Rock Ln, Hanson	Masks should be required for all or none, regardless of vaccination status, considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaxed or not, you can still contract Covid - Vaxed or not, you can still transmit Covid - No consideration is given to individuals who have already had Covid and have whatever natural immunity is provided by contracting and recovering from the actual virus. <p>If masks are not required, and children want to wear a mask or parents want their children to wear a mask, that should be their option.</p> <p>There is an environment currently that encourages bullying of others on the basis of vaccination status. This is a personal choice and there truly are multiple sides to the story. The school system should make it clear that bullying or criticism based on vaccination status or personal opinions on vaxing or masking will not be tolerated.</p>
Elaine Flynn 18 Christopher Lane, Hanson	Mask wearing to me is a non-issue. I would prefer my kids wear masks at school to protect the unvaccinated. I asked them what they prefer and 4/4 said they would happily wear masks in school especially if it meant they could be there full time. I worry that if we do not mask up we could face another school year with hybrid remote learning. We were grateful for it when we needed it, but I would like us all to think long term to guard against a disruptive school year.
Robert Coose 51 Chandlers Mill rd, Hanson Ma 02341	Science does not support masks for children. Children suffer more from the common flu than from Covid. Science actually shows oxygen deprivation hurts kids more than Covid. Parents should decide if children wear masks, not the school board or teachers unions
Justine Lane High street Whitman	Masks should be parents choice! Children should not be forced to wear the mask. Please do not make our children wear masks for another year.
Caroline Mills 260 winter st	Students should continue to wear masks during indoor instruction
Alisha Hopkins 116 King St	No masks
Deanna Brown 7 marble st	I feel that it should be left up to the parent to decide whether they want to mask their child. My daughter was homeschooled last year because she felt she couldn't breathe with a mask covering her mouth and nose. I do not feel that any child should feel that way when attending school. Please leave this up to parents to decide if they want to mask their children on not. I do not feel it is necessary to mask my child.
Christopher Gately 291 Winter St	No masks

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Rene Worden 131 Pleasant Street, Whitman	Wear a mask.
Kenneth Wright 83 Harvard St	I fully support following as a requirement the guidelines as laid out. Required masks preK-6. These children are not yet eligible for the vaccine thus making them the only population within the district without the option to get the vaccine, and thus making them more at risk for experiencing positive tests and negative outcomes when placed in a large indoor group setting. Once vaccines are available to all students who want it, I think it is more than reasonable to re-examine the mask policy being a requirement. With delta being as contagious as it is, and with the increase in pediatric cases across the country, and the American Academy of Pediatrics saying this is the safest way for our children to be together to learn, how can we not listen to the experts. If we choose to not follow their guidance, what is the number or threshold of sick or positive before it's examined again. How many potentially preventable illnesses is the district comfortable with?
Carrissa Walleston 158 Washington street, Whitman	Would love to see my son go to school without a mask, but much rather all the kids be able to stay in school full time so if wearing a mask will help everyone stay in school I think that's for the best
Anthony Ferraro 38 Elm St, Unit A, Hanson, Ma 02341	I don't think anyone should be required to wear a mask regardless of their vaccine status. Parents can determine what's best for their own families, and the adults working at the school can determine whether or not they want the vaccine themselves.
Lindsay Wright 83 Harvard St Whitman, MA 02382	I fully support following as a requirement the guidelines as laid out. Required masks preK-6. These children are not yet eligible for vaccines thus making them extremely vulnerable to negative outcomes when placed in a large indoor group setting. We cannot use last school year as a benchmark for comparison, last year we had mitigation efforts in place (masks, social distancing, etc). To compare "well last year nothing happened" as the basis of the argument to not use masks this year is unsubstantiated - because we did things to mitigate risk last year. We did all we could to protect our children as best we could. We cannot use this summer and summer school and camps as a measure - delta had not hit and we KNOW outdoor transmission is limited. Summer school, the buildings are not even close to being at capacity, by definition there is distancing that happens because of a decreased capacity. As a parent, I should feel confident that my child is safe when they go to school. Starting the year with masks optional in a population who cannot be vaccinated because they are ineligible is not eliciting any feeling of confidence or safety. I do not envy the seats any of you are sitting in. Please look into actual scientific evidence based peer reviewed material for your fact finding to make the best educated choice about the safety of the smallest and most vulnerable children in our district.
Frank Molla 125 Gorwin Drive	No masks! Thank you for this survey.
Sue Sottak 74 Alden St. Whitman	Leave the decision to mask/not mask up to the family.
Patrick Gallahue 390 Harvard, Street	Masking should be strictly voluntary and not dependent on vaccination status, since you can catch and transmit the virus regardless if you are vaccinated or not.
Kaitlyn MacCallum 94 Thayer Dr Hanson	Please do whatever is necessary to have these kids back in school 5 days a week.
Kelly Woerdeman 71 Chandlers Mill Rd	Sir, we are fortunately in a society that allows our citizens the right to choose the best course of action for their families. Allow the families to choose whether to send their children to school with masks or not as there are pros and cons to both sides.
Alison Galvin 139 Harvey Circle	No masks
Tammy Lopez 1162 E Washington Street, Hanson, MA	All students should wear mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. This is best for the health of everyone.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Debi Gregor 20 Beaver St	I think everyone should be wearing a mask. The way numbers are headed is scary. I will have 2 children in the middle school this coming year. 6 and 7th grade. One vaccinated and one not vaccinated due to age. They were both full remote last year and are both excited and nervous to go back. I have talked to them and they both said they would feel better if masks were on at least to start.
Sunisa Loring 34 cranberry rd whitman	I do not think my child should have to wear a mask. It should be optional.
Sandra Masison 62 Park ave	I believe it should be parents choice . Personally I say no masks
Jessica DiRamio 450 Washington St. Whitman	Our family is fully vaccinated. We are pro–masking for all, if, by doing so allows for the students to experience "normalcy" during the school day. We are in support of the DESE mask requirements as well.
Brenda Baxter 90 Alden St	I don't feel they should need to. Son is going into kindergarten and daughter into 6th. They were miserable last year with them came home in tears multi times!
Craig Leonard 217 King Street	I feel all student in grades K–8 should be required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Children under the age of 12 are not allowed currently to access the vaccine. Those in grades 7&8 will not have to feel any peer pressure to wear or not to wear a mask if the District makes it a requirement. The Delta variant has in fact impacted those previously vaccinated and has a higher degree of spread. The District needs to acknowledge the seriousness of this pandemic and make it its policy. Additionally, having a policy like this avoids the need to collect vaccination cards from students. The District and teachers can focus on what is best – teaching our children versus worrying about who and who is not masked.
Regina Polito 607 INDIAN HEAD STREET	I strongly disagree with any mask mandate for children. In particular, I disagree with older vaccinated children being forced to wear masks
Deborah Holmes 576 South Ave #2	Should be left up to the parents
Kayleigh Cavicchi 882Monponsett st	Masks should be a personal choice and up to the parents/students and not made mandatory
Jennifer Solari 458 State Street Hanson	No masks
Jillian Powers 29 Lakeview St Whitman	I whole heartedly believe that this decision to wear a mask should be left up to the parent/child.
Matthew Harden 115 Rowena Ave, Whitman	Please listen to the recommendations of the CDC and American Pediatric Association. Eligible students should show proof of vaccination or be required to test regularly while the CDC–defined transmission rate is high in our community. Masks should be worn by any individual on school property who is unvaccinated or chooses to wear it for additional protection. As much as we all want this chapter to end, if maintaining some safety measures ensures our students access to in–person learning then let us enact these measures.
Geoff Diehl 10 Village Way, Whitman	<p>The people of our towns have followed the guidelines and a high percentage have received the Covid vaccination. The science shows children are at an extremely low risk for transmission, including the variant, and no child aged 18 or under has died from this flu in Massachusetts. At the same time, children have been devastated emotionally, socially, and educationally in the past 18 months due to the mandates and lack of in–person instruction. To force them back into masks will disrupt their much-needed return to normal living and educational practices.</p> <p>The residents of Whitman and Hanson are smart and capable of making their own health decisions for themselves and for their families, including whether to get vaccinated or to voluntarily wear a mask. If a family or student has a concern, they have the choice to remain home and the school district should provide remote access to classrooms and material.</p>

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Katelyn OBrien 59 Whitman Avenue	Wearing masks in school is strongly recommended while indoors and I will be really disappointed if the Whitman-Hanson school district decides to put children, along with teachers and staffs, health at risk by not making mask wearing mandatory. Children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for the vaccine and I do not think it is fair to anybody, especially the kids to not enforce mask wearing. Face masks are much more effective when worn by everyone. I cannot afford to constantly take time off work because my child was exposed and this is what will repeatedly happen if masks are not worn by everyone.
Mary Allen 8 Valley Road	Whitman
Ryan Cadres 82 Progress Way, Hanson	<p>I would hope the expectation of the district is to have the students have in- person learning for the entire school year. It is my opinion, in order to achieve this, children under the age of 12 years and their teachers should wear mask while indoors. As a former employee of the district, I was always proud of the measures the district took to ensure the safety of not only their students, but their staff as well. Whether it pertained to bus safety, a fire drill or a school shooter exercise, the district made sure that proper protocols were in place and there was plenty of training exercises for everyone involved. So why have the "relaxed" mentality when it comes to Covid-19?</p> <p>As a coach, I always try to take preventative measures during practices to help athletes finish that season healthy. So why as educators are you not doing the same? A mask is a small preventative measure that will help reduce the spread of Covid-19. It much like a football helmet, the helmet may not alway protect you from a head injury but this preventative measure helps reduce the risk of a serious head injury. The fact is there are many preventable measures in place at the schools that relates to other health issues. For an example, your school lunches and vending machines. All schools in the district have vending machines without soda. Why you may ask? It is a preventable measure to ensure our students and staff are getting the proper diet.</p> <p>While the mask are not idea, compared to the normal everyday life that we are use to, l it is a preventative measure to ensure the end goal of having the students in school for the entire year</p>
Alyssa Garretson 118 Winter St Whitman	I feel like if parents want their children in masks, send them in a mask. If they don't want them in masks then don't send them in masks. It should be up to the parents to decide. Thank you.
Bridget Baker 357 Auburn Street, Whitman	I strongly hope that the school leave the decision about masks as a personal choice. Students and staff have been hanging out with friends and family during the summer and participating in various sports and other events with no instances I am aware of of covid clusters or cases. Whether a person is vaccinated or not is also a personal choice and discrimination should not be imposed on those who have chosen not to be vaccinated.
Erica MacPhelemy 12 Robin Rd Whitman	Would be great if the masks were made optional for students. Maybe mandatory on the bus given the closeness, but in classrooms I feel my kids are safe without a mask. They have been enjoying camps and social situations all summer long with having the option available not to mask up. I feel safe with my son and daughter being in school without a mask.
Melissa Lothrop 23 pine tree lane Whitman	I want the kids in masks until they can be vaccinated
Stephanie Clark Whitman	I do not think elementary students should be mandated to wear masks.
Haira Dawe 655 Washington st.	Yes i agree all students should wear masks .
Kendra Harris Sinclair Temple St	MASK ON at ALL TIMES.

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bryan Kienke 54 Gorwin Dr	Think it's still smarter to have the kids wear masks, especially the ones too young to be vaccinated.
Theresa Spadea 640 State Street	I absolutely DO NOT think children should be forced to wear masks!
Michael Mulready 236 Pleasant St Whitman	All students should be masked while in the building and any buses.
John OBrien 29 Bell Drive whitman	No masks, let's end this. It is a scare tactic that we do not have to fear. Let's the kids be and get back to "normal". Thank you.
Robert Baker 357 Auburn St	I am against wearing masks. I respect a person's choice if they want to wear one. All summer long, teachers and kids are hanging out, partying and enjoying life without so called outbreaks. I am for personal freedom, and that it should be the parent's choice if their child wears one or not. And shaming a person for choosing not to get vaccinated by making them wear a mask is discrimination, and should not be allowed. The vaccine does not prevent you from getting it, and the vaccine does not prevent you from giving it.
Margarita Daley 168 Harvard Street Whitman	I think everyone should wear a mask regardless of status, that way no one would be outcasted either way. It gives the families the opportunity to their privacy on the matter as well as the safety for all families. If the opportunity does come up we would love to see the online or hybrid learning come back again.
Carolyn MacKinnon 9 Oakdale Farm Road Whitman	Keep with the recommendations from DESE and DPH and continue to monitor and update if necessary.
Carol Sherwood I do not believe that vaccinated students / staff should be mandated to wear a mask except in the area stated in this letter 1287 East Washington Street	Hanson
Dawn Mognano Waters 329 Reed St, Hanson	I strongly support masks in schools.
Nicole Lucas Jenkins Ave, Whitman	Masks should be decided by the parent(s) and not mandated by the district. My HS student is fully vaccinated and I am comfortable with my 2nd grader and pre-K children not wearing masks.
Melissa Tobias 519 Spring St Hanson	I feel that K-6 wear masks 7-12 no mask if vaccinated and proof needs to be sent to nurse and teacher.
Carolyn McDonald 88 Andrew Lane Hanson	I am against any mask mandate for students and teachers. We as parents and as educators should have the freedom to choose for our kids and for ourselves. Having children wear masks again is detrimental to their emotional and physical health. I work in the school system with little preschool age children and saw nothing but the kids dropping them on the floor, putting them on tables and passing them around. This is not something that teachers can control at every moment. Masks pass around more germs than not. I feel very strongly about the mask wearing and forcing it again is not a good idea and is against our rights as American citizens.
Greg Swan 286 Birchbark Drive	Please mask all students and faculty for the upcoming school year. It worked last year, it will work this year.
Wendy O'Sullivan 100 Glen St	masks should be worn by all indoors

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Eric Witman 83 Robert Ave Whitman, Ma	I would prefer that masks be worn indoors for everyone.
Robert Metzler 15 Laurel St	I am not a medical professional I recommend we do our best to avoid the recommendations rooted in politics and focus on the ones rooted in science. I recommend we ask all parents to provide proof of vaccination of all adult members of the family for the child to have the option of not wearing a mask at school otherwise the child should be required to wear a mask or attend school remotely.
Pattie Majenski 72 Kings Landing Way	As a therapist, I believe the psychological and social risks to kids is WAY greater than the medical risk. Please—no masks!
Erin Anderson 328 E Washington St	The DESE recommendations seem outdated as far as recent data. We now KNOW the vaccinated people carry and spread the virus. In the recent MA outbreak, 75% of the cases were in vaccinated. Statistically our children are not at risk any more than they are playing on the playground. All teachers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Vaccinations have been approved for the at risk communities as well (those with cancers, autoimmune diseases) How would making those who are not vaccinated wear masks help anything?? Someone make this make sense. I strongly disagree with children having to wear masks at school.
Amy Ross 38 Holmes terrace Hanson	NO MASKS!
Carol Jones P.O. Box 126	Please let these kids have a good year with no mask please my daughter really had a hard time going threw covid and it would break my heart .I understand some kids don't want the shot and it's there choice so they should make a choice to stay home online .My daughter and son have been vaccinated so why should they have to wear mask .my concern is depression with my daughter and other children let them be kids thank you
Jenna Dillon 7 Henning Drive Whitman	I believe that it should be the choice of a parent whether or not the child wears a mask.
Linda Donohue 5 Kathryn Lane Whitman	I think both of my children (6th / 9th, both will be vaccinated by 9/1) will be more comfortable wearing masks. It makes sense to our family to follow the science and what doctors are saying. Thanks for doing all you do to keep our children safe.
Paul Taylor 408 County Rd.	Looks good
Corinne Turner 58 Barbara road	No no no way to my children wearing face masks. Children are not affected and do not transmit this disease. My (entering) third grader developed a "breathy stutter" last year due to wearing a mask all the time and had to attend speech classes at school. Science has proven that it is not healthy for kids to wear these masks. It is essential that kids be able to see faces and read faces and only fair that they are able to learn properly. Leave the kids alone! Absolutely no way do I want my children wearing masks. Corinne Turner
Cynthia Puopolo 87 Sportsmens Trail	I want to start off by stating that am an educated, fully vaccinated healthcare worker that has worked throughout this entire pandemic and had 17 of my patients pass away within a 14 day time period. Tell me do you think a bed sheet or a cheep paper mask from China will keep you safe? Please let these kids live their lives and see eachothers beautiful smiles! Mask wearing should be an individuals choice. COVID isn't going away and will be around just like the flu always has been.
christopher Costello 446 Spring Street	We concur with the DESE and DPH recommendations.
Gina Affsa 41 Bell Drive	You should not force students to wear masks. It should be up to parents if they want their kids to wear masks.

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Responder	Comments
<p>Kara Govoni 470 Pleasant Street</p>	<p>To Whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Kara Govoni, and I am Carter and Willow Govoni's mom. I work in healthcare, and I am writing to express my deep concern for the school district's 2021-2022 plan that makes masks optional and ask that you mandate masks in our schools. The plan to make masks optional goes against the guidance of both the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics; ignores the science on COVID transmission in kids and on the effectiveness of masks; and fails to give our youngest kids—who are not yet vaccine eligible but will be soon—a chance to evade infection after over a year of sacrifice. All available evidence indicates that SARS-CoV-2 will spread wildly in schools without mitigation efforts—including universal masking—firmly in place. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics agree; both agencies have released guidance indicating that schools should mandate masks for students, staff, and visitors. As a local leader, you should listen to them.</p> <p>Though infections in our state declined in the late spring and early summer as vaccination rates increased, new variants like Delta pose a serious threat. The Delta variant is much more transmissible than previous variants, and data from our local area reflect that troubling reality. In addition, the age distribution of new infections and hospitalizations has also shifted downward, with young kids representing a greater proportion of infections and hospitalizations than in previous months. This will only get worse if kids return to school without required masking and other mitigation strategies in place.</p> <p>The science is clear on COVID and kids is clear: children can be infected with SARS-CoV-2, can get sick with and die of COVID-19, and can spread the virus to others.(1-3) As of the first week of July 2021, more than 200,000 kids in the U.S. had been hospitalized and nearly 400 kids had died from COVID. A tragically disproportionate number of these kids who experienced severe illness or death were young people of color, (4) whose social and economic vulnerabilities put them at especially high risk. While kids are less likely than adults to experience severe illness or death, the long term consequences of COVID infection on neurological, lung, metabolic, and cardiovascular function are still unknown. Recent studies estimate that anywhere from 10-45% of kids under 12 who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 experience "long haul" symptoms that last more than five weeks after diagnosis (5-6), even if they experience mild acute infection. This is all to say, kids have not been and will not be spared in this pandemic. Importantly, kids can also transmit COVID to their unvaccinated, immunocompromised, and otherwise vulnerable family members and friends, which further contributes to community spread and the emergence of new variants of the virus and puts the "end" of this pandemic further out of reach.</p> <p>Thankfully, over the past year and a half, we have learned a lot about how to reduce transmission and infections, and masks have emerged as a particularly important, scientifically proven mitigation strategy. Evidence from the CDC shows that the relatively low levels of infections in kids seen during the 2020-2021 school year were, in large part, the result of school closures and widespread mitigation efforts in schools, including mask mandates. Though kids transmit COVID as efficiently as adults and are infected at similar rates to adults⁵, mask mandates in schools prevented high levels of in-school transmission during the 2020-2021 school year.⁷ The proven effectiveness of masks is a key reason behind the CDC's and American Academy of Pediatrics' current recommendation that students and staff continue to wear masks in schools during the 2021-2022 school year. Again, the science here is clear: reopening schools without mask mandates and other mitigation efforts in place while the Delta variant surges will result in high levels of transmission and infection in kids, which can further contribute to household and community spread, even among the vaccinated. We shouldn't wait for Delta to spread in schools before putting mask mandates in place; we can and should act in order to prevent any unnecessary disease, death, and suffering.</p> <p>Families are depending on you to follow the science and protect the health and safety of our kids and community. Our kids deserve to go to school without worrying about getting sick and spreading the virus to their immunocompromised, unvaccinated, or otherwise vulnerable family members, friends, and neighbors. We shouldn't ask our young kids and their parents to choose between going to school and staying healthy and safe. Young kids will be eligible for vaccines within the next few months. We should give them the opportunity to be vaccinated before asking them to enter our schools and classrooms unprotected. The science supports masks in schools. Wearing masks is a small sacrifice to make in order to ensure that our kids can remain safe while going to go to school, which we know is important for their intellectual, social, and emotional development.</p> <p>I am asking you to listen to the experts, follow the science, and reject the plan to make masks optional. Masks should be required, especially for our most vulnerable unvaccinated students. I am happy to be in touch with any comments, questions, or concerns.</p>

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<p>Gail McCarthy 24 Davis Road</p>	<p>I would like him to wear one as he can tolerate it but if it comes off we are ok with it.</p>
<p>Jennifer Hodgen 74 Forest St., #1, Whitman</p>	<p>As a parent of two rising 5th graders at Conley, I am strongly in favor of a mask mandate for all students, teachers and staff while indoors at school – regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>The scientific evidence is clear -- delta variant is more transmittable to children. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends UNIVERSAL MASKING in schools to reduce transmission. (https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/). And with the delta variant on the rise, the CDC has issued guidance that in areas of high community transmission everyone should wear masks when indoors -- currently all of Plymouth County, and the entire state of Massachusetts is classified as HIGH level of community transmission (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view).</p> <p>Despite hopes this year would be different, we are faced with the unfortunate reality that the risks have not improved and in-school transmission remains a risk. The emergence of the delta variant has made Covid more transmittable, especially among unvaccinated populations – which comprises the student population at Conley Elementary.</p> <p>Last year, Conley Elementary was able to keep transmissions low among its student populations through a combination of masking and distancing. The risk of infection has not changed, therefore the school's mask mandate should not change.</p> <p>This will undoubtedly be a highly politicized issue among Whitman residents. According to the most recent vaccination data, only 54% of Whitman residents are fully vaccinated (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#weekly-covid-19-municipality-vaccination-data-) - underscoring the risks of transmission that unvaccinated children will face when school resumes.</p> <p>The CDC is steadfast that masks work best when everyone wears one. The science of mask wearing has not changed. Therefore, it is not enough to leave the decision about masking up to the discretion of each individual family. Conley Elementary should mandate mask wearing indoors for the upcoming school year.</p>
<p>Karen Dearing 707 south ave Whitman ma</p>	<p>Masks ok by us!!!!</p>
<p>Stephanie Laing 24 Reed Pl</p>	<p>I disagree with this proposal. Kids should not be mandated for masks</p>
<p>Linda Cole 57 Indian trail</p>	<p>I think vaccinated students should not be mandated to wear masks but every student should have the right to wear a mask if they want to.</p>
<p>Kerry Martin 140 Captain Nathaniel Dr</p>	<p>Anyone vaccinated should not be required to wear a mask and or quarantine! Similar to BC High's mask policy this fall!</p>
<p>Ted Ferraro 43 woodlawn circle</p>	<p>Probably a good idea with the Delta variant affecting children more. This age group also remains unvaccinated.</p>
<p>Donna Vitello 413 PLEASANT STREET</p>	<p>Thank you for allowing input! I am starting to panic right now. My daughter has been home since March of 2020 at age 8 and I was hoping to have her back full time in September at age 10! I think there is no question about REQUIRING masks in our elementary schools. For those children there is no protection and we are exactly where we were a year ago with a questionable look ahead. I HOPE all faculty and staff are vaccinated but if not, they abide by masking requirements as professionals. There should also be distancing, exactly as it was last fall because nothing has changed for our youngest students. I know it is terrible for all but it is our reality right now. I greatly appreciate all you have done and believe you have done a wonderful job for our children and families, Thank you!</p>

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Annie Gray 100 Whiting Ave. Whitman.	As advised by local pediatricians, I encourage WHRSD to require masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status. This is due to the MA being a substantial risk for spread as categorized by the CDC. Whatever the CDC advises I advise. Please trust the scientists. I do strongly desire all kids to continue with full time in person learning.
Amy Badgio 117 Cherry St.	We know enough facts and precautions. It's been proven ages 1-14 have more of a chance of drowning than dying from covid. Common sense and staying clean is the only thing needed. NO MASKS!!! It should be optional. Let's get back to staying home if you don't feel good and continue washing hands. NO MASKS. Stop making them live in fear!! It's hurting MORE socially and mentally than getting covid!
Rosa Kelliher 91 Liberty St Hanson	I think it should depend on the current active COVID case numbers in the town when school starts and CDC recommendations. My son is vaccinated but I have no idea what percentage of our two towns are vaccinated. This info would be helpful.
Laurie Fusco 20 Brook St	Masks have been proven to not protect against covid 19. I believe it should be a parents decision, not the state or the district. Our liberties are being taken away from us on so many levels. Children should be able to see each other's faces. They lose so much of the human experience with masks.
Annette Sweeney 25 Highland Ave Whitman	I think all staff and kids in all schools should be masked while indoors not just in offices of any kind. Is there any documentation on file with the school for those kids who are or aren't vaccinated? To move forward in my opinion, is for all to be on the same page with state and health guidelines especially since most people interact with others outside of town whether for sports, family, friends, traveling, and so forth. Hand washing should continue. The office staff should not be doing anything different from what is expected from everybody else.
Martina Herman 62 Tobin Terrace, Whitman	I do think that unvaccinated staff, students, and visitors should wear a masks for their own safety. I think High School students, teachers, and staff who are vaccinated should not have to wear masks. I do realize it is a personal choice to either get the vaccine or not. Many who chose to get the vaccine did so in order to not have to wear one, as well as to be protected from the virus.
Lisa Miller 23 Kerri Lane	I hope the high school will implement a mask mandate. Schools that have started back are already seeing soaring Covid cases. Vaccinated or not, the Delta variant is as contagious as chicken pox. Why take the chance of seeing how things go without a mask and vaccine mandate? My son is in the post-grad program, and he and his classmates are in a higher risk group of serious consequences if exposed. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. I hope our community rises to the occasion and does all we can to protect each other.
Brian Masison 62 Park Ave, Whitman MA	I strongly believe the kids and staff should not be required to wear masks. My son Aiden has a speech disability that requires intensive therapies. A big part of his speech therapy involves using a model approach which means he needs to see how his SLP moves his/her mouth and they also need to see his mouth to make corrections. Obviously wearing a mask restricts this. I feel it should be everyone's choice whether or not to wear a mask. Clearly everyone has their own opinions and beliefs, they should all be able to make the decisions themselves. I appreciate you taking the time to reach out and gather the opinions of the community.
Maureen Evans 32 Kings Landing Way, Hanson, MA	I'm not sure how much mask wearing there will be if it is only encouraged. I feel like while indoors the children should wear masks, especially given their age and not being able to be vaccinated.
Edward Coleran 62 Carleton Street Whitman	No masks, enough already!
Tara Coleran 62 CARLETON ST. WHITMAN	NO MASKS! My children suffered greatly last school year and I will not agree with another school year that has these kids wearing masks. My kids in grades 11 and 12 have been working jobs since last July 2020 that have not required masks. Nobody in our home has had COVID or been in contact with anyone that has. I say NO to Mandatory Masks. It should be 100% optional.
BRETT COLERAN 62 CARLETON ST. WHITMAN	NO MASKS! I will not wear one. NO MASKS!!!

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Kristin Twiss 51 glen st	Please let masks be optional. I'm a mom of 6 and I can tell you the masks are killing our children psychologically. My once, happy, healthy, sweet child; ended up in a psych ward with suicidal thoughts and an attempt. The worst part is she was not alone, the waiting lists to get care is insane. Many of the kids in her groups at the hospital had the same issue with masks and anxiety and fear. Our kids NEED normal, they NEED to see smiles, they need to see faces, they need to live without fear. Children are not effected by this disease. They have minor symptoms and recover quickly. You know what kids don't recover from??? Suicide. The science does not support mandatory masking for our kids. I would love to send my kids back to the school system but until we are in a state of pre covid normal, they will be home, which is sad, and unfair.
Ann Barbato 632 Whitman Street Hanson	Ideally I would like no masks. However if that's what it takes to get them back into school full time safely then I would say they should wear them.
Daniel McDonald 88 Andrew Lane Hanson	My child will not be wearing a mask to school. This has got to end. The kids suffered with them last year and this needs to stop. It should be the parent's choice. There have been zero deaths in children in the state of Massachusetts. If teachers are afraid then they should wear a mask. Children need to breathe and socialize normally.
Nicole Gibson 357 South Ave.	I think everyone should wear masks indoors if they're unvaccinated, regardless of behavioral issues, etc.
Lisa Butler 582 Pine St Whitman	No masks, parents choice
Anonymous Anonymous Hanson Hanson	No masks for our children!!!! Masking is not healthy for our children. If there are families that feel more comfortable masking then they should but do not impose that on all families. My children had health issues from masking last year. Headaches, anxiety and thrush! If masks are mandatory then a remote option should be available for children that will not get the vaccine or wear masks!!!! PS - don't forget 15 days of masking to flatten the curve
Karen McKee Whitman	My children chose to get vaccinated to be able to spend time with an immune compromised grandparent. They are proud of their decision and carry their immune card with them. Just as it was their choice to become vaccinated-others have chosen not to. If the CDC/DOE advise masks, that should also be a choice at this time.
Lindsay Grasso 644 Gorwin Drive, Hanson	Masks. 100%.
Jill Pickering 80 Commercial St. Whitman	I believe everyone vaccinated and unvaccinated should wear masks.
John Fernandez 714 Pleasant St Hanson Ma 02341	I agree with the mandates and recommendations on wearing masks and the recommended precautions suggested.
Julie Cappelletti 112 rock street	I feel kids should not be mandated to wear masks all day in school. Schools do not have the best ventilation and 6 hours plus with a mask on is terrible. One of my sons suffers from migraines and would come home with headaches a lot.there He did not want to attend school because of the mask. I feel if a child or parent feels safer than they should wear a mask.
Kathleen Killion Brookside dr Hanson	Yes , they should wear mask
Kristina Northrup 323 Reed St Hanson, Ma	I believe with the delta variant and transmission rates going up all students and staff should at least begin the year masked to avoid widespread transmission. We should take a lesson from the states that have already gone back and avoid lengthy interruptions in the kids schooling. Most of our student body are not eligible for vaccination yet. Let's get back to school safely.
Katherine Carter 25 Beaver St	Masking should be optional for all kids - up to parents discretion.

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<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Henry Pihl 62 Webster Street Whitman	Mask use should be voluntary
Patrick Powers 255 Holmes St Hanson, MA	K-6 should wear masks, perhaps K-1 or 2 can remove them during classroom if they aren't changing rooms during the day? Either way I appreciate you following DESE and the cdc guidelines. As a public school you have an obligation to look at the health of all students, faculty, and staff, not just the anti mask crowd.
Kevin Wolf 3 Shelly Lane whitman	I would prefer everyone wear masks to increase the chances that in-person learning continue throughout the entirety of the year
Sarah Desantes 671 High St Hanson	As a teacher I vaccinated, but plan to wear my mask in the hallway. I am hoping to have scheduled mask breaks in my classroom. I am hoping that I can take my mask off while teaching and put my mask up when going within 6 feet to work with students.
Lauren Miller Winter Street, Whitman	I strongly support following CDC guidelines to protect the health of students, staff and visitors in the schools. This includes vaccines, masks and distancing if recommended by the CDC.
David Lynam 54 Washington Terrace Whitman MA	Masks should not be required
Kowlski Joann 33 Pratt place	Up to parents. We masked up for a year and Covid still hit MA hard. According to the science and dr. F masks don't work.
Ryan Tressel 210 Temple St Whitman MA	My daughter is entering second grade and hated having to wear her mask each day to school this past year. My fourth grade son, however, is one of students mentioned above—he has ASD and because of his sensory issues will not wear a mask and does not have the capability to understand the need to wear one or comply with staff requests to keep one on. So while I understand parents' fatigue with mask mandates—I'm not looking forward to dealing with the drama around masking with my daughter for another school year—keeping all our kids safe, especially those like my son who are unable to protect themselves, has to take precedence. I also believe we can take this as an opportunity to impart an important lesson to our children: the need for each of us to act with the common good in mind, even if at times it causes us discomfort. I would urge the district to implement an indoor mask mandate for students and staff.
Lauren Frost 439 Whitman Street	Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings. In all honesty, I don't really think this is about our feelings. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic and our young children are still at risk without an approved vaccine for kids under 12. The school year last year, from my point of view, was successful and safe because of the measures of distancing and masks. Understandably, distancing isn't as much of an option this year which leaves us with one method of defense to keep our kids safe, and that is masks. Without masks, one case of COVID in a classroom could cause a much wider outbreak than what we saw last year. This is only going to lead to sick kids, shutdowns of classrooms, and more strife for everyone. Kids in school under the age of 12 NEED to be wearing masks regardless of our feelings. It's not an ideal situation, but I think until a vaccine is offered to the younger students, it's our responsibility to keep them safe and taking masks away would be irresponsible and could potentially lead to detrimental situations. The delta variant is showing to be more dangerous and child hospitalizations due to the virus are at an all time high. Now is not the time to take away the ONE risk reducer we are able to provide. Please keep our kids safe until we have the option to vaccinate them.
Annette Benenato 72 Brookside Drive	Please allow parents to CHOOSE whether they want their children to wear masks to school. The science shows that children are at extremely low risk for transmission of Covid. In addition, we have a high percentage of vaccinated people in MA. The science also shows that cloth masks provide little if no protection from the virus. Our children's mental and physical health have suffered so much already. They need to return to normal living and educational practices this school year.
Karen Scaccia 84 Reed Street	Masks should be a personal choice

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<p>Kate DeLue 451 Birchbark Dr Hanson</p>	<p>I think it is important to note that DESE also states that individual districts should make decisions based on their own particular circumstances. We have not had been seeing a large number of cases in our communities. If we start the school year off in masks, we are setting a precedent that they will be needed all school year as I don't see there being a reversal of that decision mid-year. However, if we follow the trends in the community, we can start the school year unmasked; and if there are large increases in cases due to in school transmission then I believe that masks could be mandated at that time.</p> <p>The large majority of students in this district have been attending camps, playing sports, and going on vacations all summer without wearing masks and our Covid numbers have remained low. It will be much more detrimental to these students' mental health to force masks on them once again without due reason.</p> <p>I think it is also important that we choose to take part in in-school Covid testing. The test and stay program will keep students from having to miss school unnecessarily and I hope that the district chooses to participate. Perhaps if parents wish to send their students in to school without masks they would have to opt in to the pooled testing program?</p> <p>There are many ways in which the mask policy can be configured to do what is best for our district. I hope that all options are considered and that there is not just a vote for or against a recommended policy that may not fit our district's needs.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to the students and your willingness to hear parents' thoughts.</p>
<p>Lynette Feeney 46 Mayflower circle</p>	<p>With COVID being on the rise my husband a ER nurse, and Delta variant breakthrough cases absolutely kids should have to wear masks</p>
<p>Tara McDonough 11 William Way, Hanson</p>	<p>Masks are a must to keep kids safe.</p>
<p>David Read 37 Central Street, Whitman, MA</p>	<p>At this point, any staff that want vaccinations can get them, and any who would like to wear a mask is free to do so.</p> <p>The flu is more of a threat to kids of this age, and we've never masked them for that.</p> <p>It's time to stop this already proven ineffective virtue signaling and do away with the mandates.</p>
<p>Diana Medd 32 Fullerton Ave Whitman</p>	<p>My daughter has several health complications. I would feel much safer sending her to school knowing everyone had to wear a mask, if there is no social distancing. It is unfair (in my opinion) to not keep everyone accountable for safety, especially for the children who have no access to a vaccine at this time.</p>
<p>Ray Fucillo 112 Whitman St</p>	<p>Let's make masks a requirement for unvaccinated students in accordance with the guidance until either the younger students have a chance to get an approved vaccine or until the case load drops such that the state guidance is relaxed.</p>
<p>Kevin Durette 580 State St.</p>	<p>I am a strong believer in the freedom of choice. I support these entities in making advisements and suggestions as I believe they have the ability to do so with clarity. However, I do not support mandates. No single entity government or private will have the same level of care as parents do for their children. Consideration should be given to their stance. That being said, I would be in dismay should in the middle of the year, these suggestions change to mandates. In the recent past, we have never had children in school wearing masks although they are exposed to influenza every single year. A virus that is far more likely to place children in danger of hospitalization or worse. I hope to exchange on these ideas with the administration in the appropriate forum. Thank you.</p>
<p>Ruth Barros 218 Whitman Ave, Whitman</p>	<p>Please mandate masks ... masks should be required in schools ...!!!</p>
<p>Rosemary Connolly 405 franklin st</p>	<p>The only way a survey for a public health issue would be appropriate is if it was only sent to medical professionals. .. I would like to use the the recommendations of public health professionals in Institute masks for indoor spaces for all who have no medical excuse not to wear them .</p>
<p>Christine Kelly 12 Tobin Terrace</p>	<p>I trust the staff will do everything possible to keep everyone safe. Whatever is decided- we will comply. Thank you for all you do!</p>
<p>Jill McGuirk 27 Regal Street, Whitman</p>	<p>I would like to see EVERYONE wearing masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status.</p>

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<p>Kristy and Joshua Twomey 117 Washington Ter</p>	<p>Given the rise in cases in the last month as well as the dominant and more contagious nature of the Delta variant, it would seem only logical to mandate masks for all students and staff indoors particularly at the K-6 level. This is in accordance with the strong recommendations issued by DESE and the Department of Public Health. It would seem that the three options would be not to mandate masks (except on transportation and in a medical setting where they are mandated), to strongly recommend but not mandate masks, and finally, to mandate universal masking. Our household (which has two children at the Elementary level) is strongly in favor of option 3. Without a mask mandate, we are unsure if we will be pulling our children out of the District in order to homeschool (which we are aware has financial repercussions for the District). We ask that the District follows Science and the recommendations of a myriad of Associations including the American Pediatrics Association, the CDC, and the Massachusetts' Association of School Counselors and mandate masks.</p>
<p>Kristie Doyle 38 Highland Terrace Hanson, Ma</p>	<p>I believe every family should be able to choose whether they want their kids to wear a mask or not. It should not be mandated by school.</p>
<p>Kim Derosier 119 Crescent Place, Hanson</p>	<p>My HS senior and her family wish that masks are required for all and remote be an option.</p>
<p>Chad Tobias 519 Spring Street, Hanson</p>	<p>If you are unvaccinated, then you should be required to wear a mask. If you are vaccinated, then you should not be required to wear a mask. It should be enforced that unvaccinated individuals wear their mask.</p>
<p>Rich Stewart 318 Birchbark Dr, Hanson</p>	<p>Yes, I think all students should be required to wear masks indoors. CDC is now recommending that everyone wear masks while indoors, vaccinated or not. Many colleges and universities (both Harvard and Northeastern for instance) are requiring indoor mask wearing regardless of vaccination status. Both institutions have vaccination requirements for faculty, staff, and students but still feel that masks are an important mitigation strategy. Many other prominent schools are also requiring both vaccination and indoor mask wearing. Harvard is also testing all faculty, staff, students at least once a week, even if vaccinated. Clearly the WHRSD won't have a vaccination mandate and won't be conducting weekly testing of all students, so it seems like requiring indoor masking should be a no-brainer. It's really the only remaining control measure you'd have in place to protect our children.</p>
<p>Kaleigh Forth 225 Waltham St Hanson MA</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Pamela Graham Hanson</p>	<p>YES, K-12 should wear masks wear masks. Staff too.</p>
<p>Paul MacEachern 405 ELM ST</p>	<p>I strongly disagree with mask mandates for our kids it should be up to the child or their parents weather or not they want to wear a mask.</p>
<p>Linda Nott 38 Philips St.</p>	<p>I'm OK with masks for the kids especially if it lessens the likelihood of having to go remote at some point. Masking is definitely the lesser of 2 evils.</p>

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Maureen Drinkwater 272 Cross Street, Hanson, MA 02341</p>	<p>1) The CDC is recommending that even fully vaccinated people wear masks while in public indoor places in areas of "substantial or high transmission rates". According to the most recent MA DPH COVID-19 data (14-day percent positivity: 7/25/21-8/7/21), Hanson and Whitman do not have high percent positivity compared to area communities. Nevertheless, examining only Hanson's and Whitman's COVID-19 data is insufficient for determining whether or not it is advisable to require mask wearing in schools. Last school year the WHRSD claimed that students, faculty and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 contracted COVID-19 outside of the school setting. Students, faculty and staff interact with people outside of the two towns in the school district. Area towns and cities DO have higher percent positivity and therefore could be considered areas of substantial or high transmission rates. 2) Elementary school students younger than 12 years old cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19. I believe that all WHRSD schools have students who are younger than age 12. Certainly there are students, faculty and staff who have been vaccinated yet who live with, or have frequent contact with, young family members who cannot be vaccinated. 3) The Delta variant, which is currently the predominant strain of COVID-19, is more highly contagious than previous strains, and it might cause more serious illness than previous strains. 4) There is no DESE or MA DPH mandate for students, faculty and staff to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19. Although the MA DPH provides community vaccination data with age categories, there is no easy way for any parent or guardian to estimate the percentages of fully and partially vaccinated students in any one school of the district. Unvaccinated students, faculty and staff are under the radar and on the honor system in complying with any CDC and MA DPH recommendations to wear masks while in public indoor places. 5) Vaccinated individuals can contract COVID-19 (breakthrough infections) and transmit COVID-19, particularly the Delta variant, to unvaccinated and other vaccinated individuals. 6) There is no remote learning option for the entire MA public school system. It is expected that most students who were fully remote last school year will return to school. Social distancing was feasible with a smaller student population. How will it be this school year? And, what recourse will parents and guardians who are not comfortable with a voluntary mask wearing decision have? One of two virtual schools approved by the DESE or home schooling? *** Mask wearing is not always comfortable or convenient, yet it is a small action we can all take to ensure our own personal safety and the safety of those around us. We should act for the collective good, even if it means sacrifice.</p>
<p>Allyson Hogan 15 Arthur St., Whitman</p>	<p>I feel like since the CDC is calling for unvaccinated adults to wear a mask when inside, there should be no question with the students. The numbers in the schools last year weren't all that high, but there were masks, many restrictions, and social distancing. We can't expect this year to start off as a normal year. It just isn't. I feel it to be easier to start with a mask mandate from K-12, and if the numbers decrease in a month or two, then lessen the mandate a little bit at a time. It is easier to lessen the masks during the year than it would be to start them in the middle of the year. More importantly, nothing has gotten any better since the pandemic started, so why are we questioning if the masks should be worn. If we want the kids to stay in school past October, then the mask mandate should be in place. Not all the students are vaccinated and those that do want to, but are not eligible, are still vulnerable. I would do a mandate across the board, for all K-12, regardless of vaccination status. There are many families with multiple kids at multiple schools, so it's better to keep them all safe, especially where the numbers are.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>Wendy Bartelamia 60 Bowker ave Hanson</p>	<p>Since the Delta variant can be transmitted and contracted by vaccinated people I think all staff and students should be wearing masks regardless of vaccination status, you are not immune from COVID-19 being vaccinated.</p>
<p>Brandon Brooks 61 Ocean Avenue</p>	<p>Masks should be completely optional. No one person should be absolutely required to wear a mask.</p>
<p>Lauren Swanson 52 Benson St, Whitman MA 02382</p>	<p>I do not think masks should be mandated in school. It should be left to the discretion of the parents.</p>
<p>Tom Flaherty 136 Harvard St.</p>	<p>I'm fine with DESE and DPH's recommendations</p>
<p>Colleen Gorman 1 Angelina Dr</p>	<p>No masks</p>

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Patrick Gorman 1 Angelina Dr	No masks
Jennifer Tolman 27 Phillips Street Hanson	<p>My son will be starting Kindergarten this fall and the thought of him wearing a mask all school day disgusts me and breaks my heart. As an educator myself I have seen first hand how awful and ineffective mask wearing is at the elementary level.</p> <p>I think it is extremely harmful to our children to have a germ infested mask on for hours at a time and also harmful to their mental health. Long-term data sets strongly suggest that kids are simply not carrying or transmitting COVID-19.</p> <p>Our children have played sports all summer long, gone on vacations, gone to the pool, hung out with friends at summer camps, all with no masks!</p> <p>Children learn on facial recognition. They need to see smiles, fear, confusion. They need to be able to interact with and see the faces of their peers and teachers. Depression and suicide among children has skyrocketed. The mental risks outweigh the health risks of COVID.</p> <p>I am very against masking our children in school. This should be a family's own personal and medical decision and not mandated by anyone else.</p>
Michael OConnor 86 Jenkins Avenue	In the reasons expressed in the memo July 30, 2021 you site DESE / DPH guidance. I have read the updated DESE/DPH dated 8/4/21. In it, many times, it recommends masks for all regardless of vaccination status. All You have listed that vaccinated students are not required to wear masks. This seems contrary to the guidance sited. It also seems punitive to the students whom are not vaccinated for various reasons. I also read the suggestions for promoting vaccination. There is even mention of the low percentage of cases in the age groups being discussed. My son attended summer school at the high school from July 9 to July 29, 2021. He was not required to wear a mask. The school also hosted an enhancement program, various camps and pre-school children. None were required to wear a mask, staff included. I was not notified of a single positive case. Please address the wide discrepancy in procedure. Mask. No mask. Mask for only you.
Samantha Gilson 72 homeland drive Whitman	I think the kids should wear masks to avoid remote learning and multiple children needing to quarantine
Lianne Thomas 44 burton ave Whitman	My daughter is too young to get vaccinated. As a hospital employee that works with covid patients I want my daughter to wear a mask. The new variant is worse for kids and I'm not willing to risk it for her.
Allison Owings 728 Auburn street Apt G1	All students and staff must be required to wear masks indoors! We fully support this! There also needs to be a remote option available!!!
Paul Cappelletti 8 Kimberly Drive	I strongly support children be allowed to NOT wear masks at all times
Tim Devine 23 Holmes Terrace HANSON	Masks should be a choic
Matthew Swanson 52 Benson St, Whitman	Masks should not be mandated for students. Families that cant or choose not to be vaccinated can and should be allowed to wear masks of their own choice.
Eric Olson 283 cross street	Mask requirement should be up to the individual's parents.
Cassandra Twomey Dewey ave Whitman	Let the parents decide no mandate

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Fallon Carey 19 grist mill ln, pembroke, ma 02359	What e have a child entering 1st and one entering 3rd, we would be comfortable with the children not wearing masks at all. Our preference is for them to wear a mask as little as possible. We want them to have as normal a year as possible and are no longer as concerned about coronavirus.
Rachel Novak Hanson	I find it concerning you are asking this of parents that have no medical degree or science background!! I would hope you would consult medical professionals in regards to masks. My daughters medical team at children's finds it irresponsible of any district that doesn't require masks in all schools.
Dimetra Wilkins 726 Washington St	No masks
Jolene Olson 283 Cross Street	I agree, vaccinated students should not have to wear masks while in school. I hope that if a decision is made that students do have to wear masks while indoors. At least let them take them off when they sit down at their desks.
Robert Hoey 51 Harriet Avenue Whitman	This is tough, because following DESE and DPH guidelines is easy. However; there is something to be said about choice, especially where this is in regards to public education. I will be following DESE and DPH recommendations, because they are the experts and they know a lot more about this than I do; I would encourage others to do the same. If these guidelines became policies, would there be an option for those who wish to opt out supplied by the district, such as remote learning?
Jenn Feeney 76 pearl st hanson	I feel Vaccinated students/teachers should not have to wear masks. Grade 6 and above. That's why my daughter got vaccinated. I support whatever is decided. Thank you for having the kids best interest in mind.
Margaret Sirignano 524 Franklin St	My children do not need to wear a mask to attend school . If other parents feel differently.. that is their choice . Countless studies have come out the past 18 months that state children are at very low risk of catching or transmitting this virus . So who exactly are we protecting here by forcing every child to wear a cover over their nose and mouth 6 hours a day ? Countless studies have also shown the detrimental affect masks and social distancing have on kids mentally , spiritually, and physically . The majority of people have been maskless all summer .. kids have been out and about with friends and family at homes, beaches , playgrounds , restaurants , arcades , amusement parks etc . Now suddenly with school starting back up , we are discussing masks again ? . I would hope Whitman Hanson school district would be courageous enough to follow common sense versus caving to pressure from DESE . Abington and Halifax have shown they care about the safety of their students by NOT mandating masks . Follow their lead please . Thank you
Brianna O'connell Whitman	I'm concerned that if masking is not enforced, at least through 6th grade, that there will be a lot of disruption due to a need to quarantine for any exposures. It would be so nice to have them all be able to start and stay in school this year!
Kathleen Lynam 909 Bedford St., Whitman	In case this information is helpful or relevant: I currently have four children enrolled in the Whitman-Hanson schools--one in elementary, two in middle, and one in high school. I am also a third grade teacher in a different district. I do not support a mask mandate in the schools for children of any age, for the following reasons: 1. The decision to mask kids should be left to the families, period. Parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children should never be superseded by the schools. 2. COVID data has made it very clear that the virus is not harmful to children, rendering a mask mandate unnecessary. For the most vulnerable students in our schools, focused, individual measures can be taken for those particular children, and their parents can choose to mask them. 3. Frankly, a mask mandate would be enough to make many kids hate going to school. Having to wear masks again would be a huge blow to morale after an already very difficult (in some cases, traumatic) 18 months. Thank you for giving parents a forum to weigh in on this issue, and thank you for all you do for our kids!
Matthew Avery 987 Monponsett St	I believe that all students and teachers should wear masks for the safety of themselves and each other. If all the students are wearing masks there is no way for students who chose to wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status to be teased or harassed because they are all wearing them.

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Amy Avery 987 Monponsett St	I believe that all students and teachers should wear masks for the safety of themselves and each other. If all the students are wearing masks there is no way for students who chose to wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status to be teased or harassed because they are all wearing them.
Danielle Couture 188 wagon trail Hanson	It should be up to the parents if their children should or should not have to wear a mask at school. It should not be the decision of anyone other than that! If one decides to wear a mask for reason due to health factors fine, but under NO circumstances is it anyone's business to discuss another person's personal preference on vaccines, or any other personal issues!
Travis Kahoalii 31 Bradford street, Whitman	No one should be forced to wear a mask. How are you going to regulate/ monitor who is vaccinated and who is not? And how are you going to monitor who is wearing their masks and who is not? Will there be a Remote option provided if my children / family is not comfortable attending in person learning?
Brian McGuirk 27 Regal Street	Everyone should be required to wear masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status in accordance with the CDC and AAP guidelines.
Christopher Harvey 219 Commercial St	I believe it should be 100% up to the parents to decide. I was just informed that's what Abington schools have decided.
Ray krochon42@outlook.com Hanson	No mask or vaccine!
Thom Miller 23 Kerri Lane Whitman	I agree with the guidelines. Masks are the best preventive measure against illness. Students and staff should be required to provide proof of vaccination if asked.
Nate Pedro 111 Broad Street Whitman	Elementary School: If they're required to wear them on the bus, and they need to wear one to visit the nurse, they might as well be required all day.
Jocelyn Ingram 5 Fieldstone Cir	I think that masks should be worn by all staff and students prek-12 in the WH school district due to the rise in Covid cases and the vaccine not yet available for kids under 12.
Erich Ingram 5 Fieldstone Circle, Whitman	Masks should be worn by all students and staff Pre-K through 12th grade in the Whitman-Hanson school district due to the current rise in COVID cases and the vaccines not being available for students under the age of 12.
LORI PAVIDIS 111 Beal Ave	I don't believe masks for our children should be required while inside school.
Tobey Carew River Birch Circle Whitman	Working in the Radiology Department at Local community hospital during Covid, I can attest to the fact that wearing surgical masks protects and stops the spread of the Covid virus. We x-rayed every single case or suspected case that presented to the hospital during the height of this pandemic. Not one employee from our Radiology department contracted the virus from being at work because we wore masks and have never stopped wearing them at work. Some staff members that unfortunately did contract the disease were traced to family or social exposures. I think it is so much more important to have children engaged in normal in person education and if this requires wearing masks then that's what should be done because they work when worn properly. Thank you!
Marshall Ottina 100 Lazel St, Whitman	I am urging the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District to heed the guidance of the CDC, AAP, DPH, and DESE. Public health decisions should be influenced by experts in the field. As elementary school children cannot yet receive vaccinations, they should remain masked while we are still experiencing pandemic levels of contagion. Our families, students, and staff have sacrificed so much over the last 18 months; ignoring the advice of medical experts at this point would make their sacrifices all for naught.
Gerald Deas 34 old coach rd, Whitman	NO mask mandate or requirement for any student. If the student wants to wear a mask they should be allowed to. The students that do not want to should not be required to irregardless of vaccination status. Facial expressions and seeing the teaches pronounce words is vital for the young students. A large group of parents will be pulling their children out of WH schools in favor of homeschooling if the district requires masking the children.

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Margaret McEwan 34 George St, Whitman	I believe all unvaccinated students and staff should be required to wear masks indoors. Obviously, if outbreaks start to occur, then masks should be required for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff.
Stephen Winn 945 WASHINGTON ST	I believe, the health and safety of my child is my decision and that mandating face coverings does more psychological damage than physical protection. This is my own personal belief and I educate my children on what I feel is important precautions to take while in public. I do not require any further information about the virus or what study is being used to make their decision. I hope that the board will listen to the opinion of the people and not a bureaucracy.
Billie Tilden 1 Joshua Lane Hanson, MA 02341	If there is not a mask mandate, I will not send my son to school. There should also be a vaccine mandate. The delta variant is on the rise and the children are getting sick and also filling the hospitals.
Andrea Cipolla 57 Hammond rd, Hanson	I will be sending my kids (elementary age) to school with a mask. It worked in the spring; there were no in-school transmissions. I would not have this fall but for the extremely contagious delta variant. I understand parents want to choose, but my concern is that there is no standard. If my child takes off her mask because she is embarrassed that no one else is wearing one, how will I know? Will the teacher enforce it? If there is a standard that kids wear one then at least I can be assured that she will wear one as well. No amount of me reminding my kid to wear one will prevent her from taking it off. Moreover, there are endless articles from doctors advising masks due to higher contraction rates. I am positive there will be cases in the schools if masks are not required indoors. That is disruptive to the entire class who must then quarantine? And to the parents who are working. It worked in the spring, Covid is getting more prevalent yet again in this area, and there is more good than harm in requiring it. Another option to consider: some parts of the country have a mask mandate but parents can opt out. Is it worth considering parents opting out than opting in? Thanks for your time.
Sheri Conover 215 Crescent Street Hanson	For those who are concerned should encourage their children to wear masks. If parent is not concerned then mask is not mandatory.
Jennifer Pinizzotto 43 Rock Street Whitman	I would prefer all students K-5 be masked whenever possible as well as adults due to the increased transmissibility of the delta variant even among vaccinated people.
Heather Goss 480 Whitman Street	It should be left up to the student/parents if they are vaccinated and feel they would like to wear one or not. That is the point of the vaccine. It is a personal choice and should be left at that. Not really a debate. The vaccine is available and if able to receive it then one should for not only their own protection but the protection of others. Masking should not be mandated
Shana Folan 20 Gypsy Rover Way	I am absolutely against my son wearing a mask in school. Have we ever mandated them for flu season? He's a healthy 17 year old and the CDC has stated that masks do not work therefore, I will not force him to wear a mask at school or anywhere else. If the masks are mandated he will be home schooled.

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<p>Melissa Scartissi 38 Holly Ridge Drive, Hanson, MA</p>	<p>As a parent of an incoming 2nd grader at Indian Head School, I want to thank the Superintendent for allowing the opportunity to voice our opinions on this issue. I also want to commend our teachers at Indian Head for all the hard work they have put in to make sure our kids are safe, healthy, and providing the best education they can.</p> <p>The past couple of years have been extremely difficult for both the children and families, between working full time, trying to ensure our kids have the best education, and keeping them healthy.... it's been a struggle.</p> <p>No matter what the decision that is ultimately made, people will be unhappy. This policy decision should be made using the best available facts.</p> <p>Based on scientific evidence, mask mandates have not worked to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/testimony/HPOLSUB-1323-20210204-5275-F-SEELY_BRADLEY.pdf <p>Look at Sweden, which did not close schools and did not require student masks. They found that children are not contracting the virus at any alarming rate, are not dying, and that the teachers and school staff are infected at a lower rate than the rest of the population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670 <p>I am also very concerned about how masks are detrimental to our health and especially the health of our children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -https://www.collective-evolution.com/2020/10/07/one-of-europes-leading-neurologists-claims-masks-are-dangerous-explains-why/ -https://www.globalresearch.ca/plain-truth-about-masks/5724961 <p>I am definitely not a medical professional, but I try and read as much as I can that doesn't involve the mainstream media. I think that families need to consult with their own medical providers, read, research, and make an informed decision for what is best for them and their families.</p> <p>I also want to be clear that I'm not totally anti-mask or anti-vax....I wear my mask when I am asked to do so and have also been vaccinated. I just don't see the evidence that the numbers of children contracting or dying from COVID justify making them wear masks 8 hours a day.</p> <p>Elementary children are supposed to be learning social and emotional skills and not being able to see facial expressions will definitely impact this in the long run.</p> <p>This decision, to mask our kids or not, should be a parental decision. It is the parent who unquestionably has the best interest of their children at heart. We can all love children and want the best for them, but it's not the same. Masks should be a parental choice.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work and making the best decision based on facts.</p>
<p>Rick Teague 16 Indian Trail Whitman</p>	<p>Due to so many people not doing the right thing and getting the vaccine, I feel it would be in the best interest and health of everyone for the children to wear masks. if more people were to get the vaccine this might not be necessary.</p>

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David Leitch 32 Meadow Lane Hanson	Mask regardless of vaccine status (should not segregate either) Better to be safe as cases rise to 2020 rates and additional variants begin to surface. Wearing a mask is not new to the students and faculty, we did it before we can do it again.
Chris & Kristin Dennehy 60 Jay St. Hanson	We think the masks are a good idea for the upcoming school year (2021-2022)
John Southern 33 Silver St Whitman Ma	Nope do not put our Children in masks, they are at no risk !!! Stop the political agenda and let's get back to normal !!!! Kids are Healthy and natural Immunity is better than the vaccine or the masks that scientifically do not work !!! OUR KIDS OUR CHOICES
Stephanie Southern 33 Silver St	I DO NOT support masks in the school. This whole thing is getting absolutely ridiculous. Over time these masks will cause more problems and it's unnecessary!
erin barr 26 Beechwood Road	I agree with the statements above and feel that students should be wearing masks. Good luck with the school committee meeting tomorrow as I know that many disagree with the above statement.
Samantha Cotone 30 hobart sq	I feel it should be optional to each child.
Marisa Falvey 436 Plymouth St	No mask. Leave it up to the parent of the child to decide what they want their child to do.
Erin Casey 173 Pine St	My husband and I are in full support of a mask mandate. We feel that this will be an extra layer of protection in keeping our children safe from Covid, while also cutting down on the amount of school kids may miss having to quarantine due to exposure. Children in other parts of the country have already gone back to school and within days are home for either having Covid or being exposed and are home quarantining, missing out on much needed in person education.
Tracy Rockwell 377 Brook Street	It should either be a full mask mandate for all or a "No" mask mandate. I do not agree with the recommendation that schools allow vaccinated students to remain unmasked while unvaccinated children have to wear one.
Thomas Duggan 57 Vernon St	Agree with recommendations outlined above.
Julia Nanigian 28 Forest St., Whitman	With the delta variant being so prevalent, I feel all students and teachers should be required to wear masks indoors. How are children going to eat lunch now that all students are back in the building (no parent-choice remote and no hybrid.) Will the children be able to physically distance while masks are off for eating? My preference is all who are indoors be masked, but if you do allow vaccinated teachers to be unmasked, will they be required to show proof of vaccination.
Jeannette Nunes Jerome st Whitman	My son is autistic and does have some difficulties with the mask but he is willing to do it because he knows that's what he needs to do. When I worry about is if he ends up doing wearing a mask and getting very anxious and having a full-blown panic attack and texting is off will it be in trouble
Margaret McEwan 34 George St, Whitman	On further reflection, I think all vaccinated and non-vaccinated students, staff, teachers, and visitors should wear masks inside school buildings. The Delta variant is so contagious, all should wear masks indoors.
Pam Clemens Hanson	I think either the social distancing or the mask guidelines should be followed to help reduce the spread of most viruses. I understand how much strain social distancing puts on the school assets so mask wearing seems to me like the simpler way to keep germs from nose and mouths.
Jennifer Roback 879 bedford st, whitman, MA	MASK UP, help protect those that can not so they can get their FAPE. There are far to many break through Delta cases.
Christian Nourse 464 County Rd Hanson	MANDATORY face coverings if the CDC recommends, based on county and town-specific criteria. Honestly, it isn't that big of a deal.

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<p>Katie Dugas 3 Taylor Point Road Pembroke</p>	<p>I strongly believe it is imperative to protect the students, staff, and members of our community. Therefore, I think it is very important for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status to be masked, distanced at least 3 feet apart during instruction, distanced 6 feet when eating, and practice safe/respectful quarantining/stay home when sick practices. This will give our community the best chance of successfully navigating the 2021-2022 school year in person.</p>
<p>Matthew Tolman 27 Phillips St. Hanson</p>	<p>My son will be attending Kindergarten in the Fall at Indian Head School. I sincerely hope that his school experience will not be marred by a mandate to wear a mask.</p> <p>I believe that the detriments of mask wearing will outweigh the health risks of not wearing a mask at school. Facial recognition is critical to child development and to the education process. Masking students, teachers, administration, and faculty will rob my child of this critical component. Further, as a new student, my child will be much more comfortable in his new environment, full of strangers, if he can see faces.</p> <p>Additionally, since public mask mandates have been lifted our children have been playing sports and playing with friends, attending parties and summer camps, going on vacations and out to restaurants, all without a mask or illness.</p> <p>I know this is a big decision but please consider the best interest of the children and their educations.</p>
<p>Narmin Mikaiylova 9 meadowview lane</p>	<p>Wearing mask</p>
<p>Mathew Price 30 Hobart Square Whitman</p>	<p>I don't believe that our children should be forced to wear a mask. out of the 4.2 million children that tested positive only .008% died from it. that's 336 children. Between the school year of "2018 / 19" 480 children died from the flu. Was anyone asking for our children to be forced to wear masks then? Has anyone thought of the psychological damage that this could cause to our children? Or how about the health effects it could cause a child, who is still currently developing an immune system, that could permanently damage them to a point that they get severely sick from just the common cold! Has anyone ever heard of Munchausen by proxy? It's a mental health problem in which a caregiver makes up or causes an illness or injury in a person under his or her care, such as a CHILD, an elderly adult, or a person who has a disability. Because vulnerable people are the victims, MSBP is a form of CHILD ABUSE or elder abuse. Parents should have the right to choose whether or not their children wear a mask. What happened to the phrase "MY BODY MY CHOICE"? Children are VISUAL LEARNERS and they learn best by mimicking others and watching them. There's a greater chance that our children will develop learning disabilities before they die of covid. These kids are our next generation of adults that are going to shape the world and they are going to start off with a major disadvantage. If anybody has any common sense they will see that creating a mandate for children to wear a mask is WRONG and is CHILD ABUSE! If a parent thinks that their child should wear one then that's on them. Don't force everyone to do it.</p>
<p>Jaime Lacey 100 Lakeside Road hanson</p>	<p>My family is comfortable with following DESE guidelines. Thank you for all that you do for our kids.</p>
<p>Jess Trongone 29 Winter Terr</p>	<p>Please have the kids wear masks. It's not a big deal, most of them are use to it. It is proven to be an effective way to help prevent the spread. Young children are most at risk at this time due to the inability to be vaccinated. Thank you.</p>
<p>Ashley Erwin Whitman</p>	<p>Will there be any type of social distancing during lunch time? What would be the point of wearing masks all day but having a large congregation of students at lunch without masks-what will be the plan?</p>
<p>Mydlowski Yen Franklin Street Whitman</p>	<p>I can't imagine it being comfortable or easy to focus on learning for the little ones when they have to wear masks all day. I think it takes away all the fun part about learning and growing. You can't see smiles or friendly faces or expressions while talking to one another. I vote for no masks for the students.</p>
<p>Jon DeYoung 28 George st Hanson, MA 02341</p>	<p>No Mask.</p>

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Richard wallace 15 fieldstone circle	I think mask should be worn in school, by all, students, teachers, all who enter the facility. Even if a teacher or child is vaccinated , he or she could still get get COVID and spread to unvaccinated children. Also, are there any measure scheduled to be in place as school begins to ensure a teacher who is provided proof of vaccination does not have covid prior to entering school each day.....A health check each morning to identify symptoms, maybe? as if anyone has the symptoms they, kids or teacher should stay home...
Ashleigh Cummins 375 Phillips st Hanson MA	I agree with the masking recommendations and would prefer all in the schools wear masks until kids can be vaccinated. Thank you!
Stephen Turner 58 Barbara rd Hanson	I follow the science. Masks have been proven to be of no deterrent to getting COVID. Why should my children wear masks that provide no protection against COVID to appease some people so they feel better? If some parents are so concerned about COVID then they have the choice to wear masks to school or homeschool and be extra safe. We cannot give in and be afraid of a virus that doesn't really affect children. Thank you Stephen Turner
Beth Skowrya 7 Grove Way Whitman	It should be the parent's choice to have their child wear a face mask.
Charmaine Jordan 49 Progress Way Hanson	This decision isn't an easy one. My husband and I would be in favor of the masking being left up to parents. Is it fair to assume kids would still be somewhat distant and windows open?

SY21-22 Public Responses to Mask Inquiry

<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p>Katherine Corcoran Lytle 137 Warren Ave, Whitman</p>	<p>Dear Members of the School Committee,</p> <p>My name is Katie Corcoran Lytle, and I am a parent of a rising third grader and a rising kindergartener at Conley Elementary. I am writing to express my deep concern for the possibility of a 2021-2022 plan that makes masks optional and to ask that you mandate masks in our schools. Any vote to make masks optional goes against the guidance of both the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics; ignores the science on COVID transmission in kids and on the effectiveness of masks; and fails to give our youngest kids—who are not yet vaccine eligible but will be soon—a chance to evade infection after more than a year of sacrifice. All available evidence indicates that SARS-CoV-2 will spread wildly in schools without mitigation efforts—including universal masking—firmly in place. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics agree; both agencies have released guidance indicating that schools should mandate masks for students, staff, and visitors. As local leaders, you should listen to them...the safety of our children and other vulnerable community members depends on it.</p> <p>The science on COVID and kids is clear: children can be infected with SARS-CoV-2, can get sick with and die of COVID-19, and can spread the virus to others. This is becoming more and more clear with the emergence of the Delta variant, which is more transmissible than previous variants and is infecting more and more kids. Today, more than 200,000 kids in the U.S. have been hospitalized and nearly 400 kids have died from COVID. While kids are less likely than adults to experience severe illness or death, the long term consequences of COVID infection on neurological, lung, metabolic, and cardiovascular function are still unknown. Recent studies estimate that anywhere from 10-45%(!) of kids under 12 who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 experience “long haul” symptoms that last more than five weeks after diagnosis, even if they experience mild acute infection. This is all to say, kids have not been and will not be spared in this pandemic. Importantly, kids can also transmit COVID to their unvaccinated, immunocompromised, and otherwise vulnerable family members and friends, which further contributes to community spread and the emergence of new variants of the virus and puts the “end” of this pandemic further out of reach. This will only get worse if kids return to school without required masking and other mitigation strategies in place.</p> <p>Fortunately, evidence from the CDC shows that, though kids transmit COVID as efficiently as adults and are infected at similar rates to adults, mask mandates in schools prevented high levels of in-school transmission during the 2020-2021 school year. The proven effectiveness of masks is a key reason behind the CDC’s and American Academy of Pediatrics’ current recommendation that students and staff continue to wear masks in schools during the 2021-2022 school year. Again, the science here is clear: reopening schools without mask mandates and other mitigation efforts in place while the Delta variant surges will result in high levels of transmission and infection in kids, which can further contribute to household and community spread, even among the vaccinated. We shouldn’t wait for Delta to spread in schools before putting mask mandates in place; we can and should act in order to prevent any unnecessary disease, death, and suffering.</p> <p>We are depending on you, our elected officials, to follow the science and protect the health and safety of our kids and community. Our kids deserve to go to school without worrying about getting sick and spreading the virus to their immunocompromised, unvaccinated, or otherwise vulnerable family members, friends, and neighbors. We shouldn’t ask our young kids and their parents to choose between going to school and staying healthy and safe. Young kids will be eligible for vaccines within the next few months. We should give them the opportunity to be vaccinated before asking them to enter our schools and classrooms unprotected. The science supports masks in schools. Wearing masks is a small sacrifice to make in order to ensure that our kids can remain safe while going to go to school, which we know is important for their intellectual, social, and emotional development.</p> <p>I am asking you to listen to the experts, follow the science, and vote to make masks mandatory. If you do not decide to vote for a mask mandate, you must then vote for another year of the remote schooling option that was offered last year. Other nearby towns are already offering remote programs and you simply must give WHRSD parents an option to keep our children healthy and safe.</p> <p>Best, Katie Corcoran Lytle</p>

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<p>Ken Lytle 137 Warren Ave, Whitman MA</p>	<p>I'm writing to express full support for a mask mandate for the upcoming school year. It is easily the best thing we can do to keep the kids safe inside the building while slowing the spread of the newest delta variant. States (let alone single school districts) that have not enacted such mandates are now dealing with the fallout from not being able to control the virus. Mississippi, Georgia, and Indiana are states that have already seen a return to remote learning due to outbreaks. Texas and Florida are in a world of hurt because of a lack of mandate enforcement. These kids can't get vaccinated yet, and recent studies show that mask mandates are highly effective in slowing the spread of the virus. We need to do what's best for the kids and make sure that returning to school is as safe as possible for them. Not issuing a mask mandate is putting everyone's health at risk - including the kids and any or all immunocompromised family members - and without a remote learning option available to us, it's paramount that this mandate is enforced. Please be proactive and not reactive with this issue.</p>
<p>Brian McCauley 16 Acorn Road Hanson MA 02341</p>	<p>Thank you for taking comments and allowing parents to voice their concerns . My husband and I both have many worries on mandating the masking of young children . We strongly believe it should be a choice made by the parents who have endlessly thought about their choice and whose ONLY priority is the health and whole body well being of their child. I hope that those reading these letters are open minded, compassionate and rational .</p> <p>My son will be attending kindergarten and from a child development perspective we have many conserves with mandatory masking. He needs to be able to further his social skills and development. A major component of kindergarten is in fact social skills, phonemic awareness, and foundations of the major subjects . Masking children will greatly impact all of these components. The mental effects of masking youth including anxiety and depression in young children has drastically increased with masking. There are very little if any unbiased studies done on masking. The data we do have shows the effectiveness of masks (not N95) are not nearly enough to support the mandatory requirement on our children.</p> <p>For parents who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school, I feel for them and do believe they should be supported. There could be a remote option per district of that grade . Unfortunately, the virus is not going to go away (and it is not due to masking) and we need to insure that we are doing what's best for our children and a mask mandate is not the answer . Let the children who feel comfortable to interact with peers and benefit from in person learning do that in their least restrictive environment without a mask mandate.</p> <p>Thank you for gathering the parent/ guardian concerns. I hope there will be a vote or fair and respectful way to handle this. Our children are our everything and we are all doing what is best for them and should be supported.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>The McCauleys Hanson MA</p>
<p>Janice McGrail 19 Donna Drive</p>	<p>We believe that the only way to keep all students and staff safe from COVID (including all variants) is to have every person wearing a mask indoors, and also outdoors when 6 feet distancing is not possible. We know that masks are not comfortable, however we also know that it is necessary to wear them for the sake of keeping all members of the community safe and healthy. We want to keep kids in person in school as much as possible, and we know that masks, hand hygiene, distancing, and staying home when sick are the best way to accomplish this. Vaccination will also be crucial when elementary ages are eligible.</p>

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<p>Shawn Henry 595 Plymouth st</p>	<p>By way of introduction. I am a retired emt from Boston EMS and in the course of my career I have attended numerous hazmat trainings.</p> <p>Last year there were many unknowns. Not so much now. Peer reviewed study after study show masks cause harm to children.</p> <p>1)Mask testing done has shown high enough levels of CO2 within the air cavity of a child's mask at levels that if it was a business Osha would demand a shut down and evacuation. Prolonged hypercapnia in children is extremely dangerous.</p> <p>2)The psychological damage inflicted by these masks, such as increased depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, will cause lasting damage. The more they are imposed the worse that damage will be.</p> <p>3) After a few breaths the masks themselves turn into warm wet environments, (perfect for bacterial growth) sited over 3 main routes into the body (eyes, nose, mouth).</p> <p>4) They have been shown to cause facial rashes, acne, skin deterioration. And if we look back at issue 3, this means a few more routes of bacterial infection from the potential petri dishes on our children's faces.</p> <p>5) Increased cases of headache, exhaustion, and stress are just a few of the other medical symptoms reported as well.</p> <p>6) Beyond the medical damage, the psychological damage, and the increased infection risk from the mask itself. There is also the developmental delay, especially in the youngest children, who lose out on learning from peers those emotional and interpersonal facial cues.</p> <p>Now armed with the scientifically proven facts of the dangers masks pose, especially in children, it becomes a risk reward scenario and once again peer reviewed studies and statical analysis of the cdc's own numbers show the ineffectiveness of masks and the resiliency of children to covid.</p> <p>First a tutorial on masks. N95 masks, which for a reference are the ones that look like painters masks and require correct sizing to work , are relatively effective at protecting someone's respiratory track from airborne infections. They're designed to protect you. The masks everyone is wearing. the kind I have no doubt all of you have worn and thought it protected you is actually designed to protect others from you.. Unlike the N95 masks these masks work through fluid mechanics and not filtration. Viruses go through the mask pores like a mosquito going through an open barn door. When you cough or sneeze the physical force of pushing out air at such a high speed causes a bottle neck effect at the mask and it deflects back at your face instead of across the room. In other words, they only work when you are symptomatic, ie snotty, coughing, and sneezing, and if that's the case the kids should be home and not in school anyways.</p> <p>And with both masks, your eyes which are a major route for infection are not protected, so are we also going to require eye shields as well.</p> <p>There have been a few large scale, and once again peer reviewed, studies comparing schools with similar demos and risk factors, and found there were no statistical differences in infection rates between the masked schools versus the unmasked schools.</p> <p>And one of the most important of all facts that was acknowledged early and has been proven true is that children as a rule have had low infection rates. Even lower hospital rates. And a death rate that is not just a statistical zero, but more kids die from the flu each year than have died from covid over the last year and a half. If we didn't mask for the flu how dare you suggest so for this.</p> <p>In conclusion masks are for all intents and purposes useless while also very harmful to children. You all have legal liability for damages done. So....</p> <p>DON'T YOU DARE HARM OUR CHILDREN. DON'T YOU DARE BRING BACK MASKS.</p>
<p>Gina Palaza 7 Angelina drive Whitman</p>	<p>I don't think the kids should be forced to wear masks all day, vaccinated or not. I believe that the masks aren't that effective and I think they create an unhealthy situation for kids to keep them on for extended periods of time.</p>

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<p>Bethany Lusk 200 Sportsmans Trl Whitman</p>	<p>I want to thank the Administration, the School Committee, Staff, and Teachers for all you have already done to care for and support our children over these last two school years. None of us could have imagined this scenario. I know that regardless of what any of our beliefs are on how to handle this next school year we all want what is best for our children. My hope is that my rising second grader can have as close to a normal school year as possible. In her short career in the WHRSD she has not known a full school year. Like all of our children she has missed out on so much both academically and emotionally. The way to provide our children as close to a normal school year this year is to require mask. At the very least masks should be required at the elementary level where vaccines are not yet an option. The science is there that masks work. I also feel strongly that the school district should participate in the state funded pool testing as well as the test and stay program. By utilizing these safety measures we can provide our children and our school community with protection to help keep everyone safe. We can also provide our students with the in person learning that they so desperately need, no more unnecessary quarantining! I know there are people who will not agree with me, but to them I ask what is the harm. Many southern schools are already back in school without face mask requirements or testing. One Florida school district has called an emergency school committee meeting to discuss requiring masks in school. After the first week of school they have 6,000 staff and students in quarantine and 1,000 confirmed cases of covid. How will WHRSD be able to support staff and students that need to quarantine? We need to have mitigating strategies in place on the first day of school to keep our community safe and our students learning. I ask that you please vote to make masks a requirement, complete weekly pool testing, and implement the test and stay program in all of our schools. Thank you very much for all that you do for our students, my family is fortunate and proud to be part of the WHRSD.</p>
<p>Andrea Keyes 84 barbara road</p>	<p>My children have both been vaccinated so I prefer they not wear masks</p>

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<p>Whitney Craven 289 Franklin Street, Whitman</p>	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns regarding student safety for the upcoming school year. I strongly urge the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District to require universal indoor masking for students and staff this coming year per the latest CDC, AAP, DESE, and Massachusetts DPH guidance. This would also include social distancing during lunch, snack, and other times where students are eating indoors.</p> <p>As stated in the district's strategic plan, "The Whitman Hanson School Community supports an inclusive environment that...is committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment," it is the district's responsibility to provide and put measures in place to keep our children as safe as possible during the COVID-19 global pandemic.</p> <p>The questions we need to ask ourselves are what can we do to keep our kids safer during a pandemic? How much protection are we putting between our children and this virus so that they are safer from getting sick, suffering from severe illness, long COVID or worse? Without the opportunity of vaccination, children under the age of 12 are more susceptible to COVID-19. Consequently, they only have two sources of defense: community mask wearing and to social distance. If these layers are removed, what protection is being provided to this vulnerable population?</p> <p>Last year the district implemented mitigation strategies that provided a safer environment which allowed for in-person learning to occur and minimized COVID-19 transmission within schools. I think we can all agree that our goal is not only to keep our children healthy, but also to keep them physically present in school as much as possible. We all know the benefits. By continuing universal masking, this will reduce transmission risk of COVID-19 within schools and thus decrease the likelihood of sickness and the occurrence of physical disruptions to learning as a result of illness and quarantines.</p> <p>According to the CDC, as of Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Plymouth County's level of community transmission is designated as HIGH. Daily cases of COVID-19 have steadily increased since the beginning of July. Stated in the latest case report provided on Mass.GOV, in the last two weeks there was a total of 2,169 confirmed cases among individuals ages 5 through 19 in Massachusetts. COVID -19 infects children. They are not immune to this virus. Because of this, COVID-19 will be more likely to spread in schools and cases will continue to rise within our community if precautions aren't taken. As data has shown, the Delta Variant is two times as contagious as previous strains, meaning that in environments where no mitigation is being used, unvaccinated individuals can spread the virus anywhere from 4-5 other people. These environments would be in our classrooms, particularly elementary classrooms, if universal masking and social distancing are removed. Due to the highly contagious and likely more severe Delta Variant as the result of a higher viral load, we need to continue the use of these interventions that have been proven to help reduce the rate of transmission and slow the spread of the illness. Masks are most effective and provide better protection when more individuals are wearing them.</p> <p>We all want nothing more than a "normal" school year for our kids, but we need to remember what our actual reality is. This is not a normal time. We are amidst a global pandemic; a public health crisis. We need to follow public health guidelines for our public school district. If we can continue to do our part now to make our schools and community safer, we can hopefully get to that normal sooner. At the very least, until children under the age of 12 have the opportunity to be vaccinated, we need to do all that we can to protect our children. I know the Whitman-Hanson School District will be true to their core values and that the district's actions will reflect that. Universal masking and social distancing will provide safer and healthy learning environments for all students. We can't let what is an inconvenience for a few, leave any child wondering why the grown-ups in their lives did not physically do everything that they could to keep them as safe as possible. As a very concerned parent, I want to thank you again for this opportunity to express my thoughts on the necessity of universal mask wearing within our schools.</p>

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<p>Jennifer Chester 146 Alden st Whitman</p>	<p>The American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC recommend universal masking in k-12 schools regardless of vaccination status. I think it makes sense to listen to the experts and mandate masks to begin the school year. It's easier to start with masks and re-evaluate later than to risk another school year interrupted by possible quarantines and even closures. We are seeing this happen elsewhere in the country. Massachusetts has a very high vaccination rate, that is true, but kids under 12 will not be vaccinated at the start of school. Both of my children (including one that was in kindergarten) did very well last year in masks and had a great year. They were happy to be there, in person, and masks allowed that to happen. I believe the easiest way to keep kids safe as well as to allow them to attend school, continue activities and have social interactions is to have them in masks.</p>
<p>Shawn Henry 595 Plymouth st</p>	<p>NO MASKS!!!!!!</p>
<p>Steven Flamos 100 Woodbrook Lane, Hanson</p>	<p>no mask</p>
<p>Michelle Roy 293 Harvard, Whitman</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Please follow CDC guidance and enforce a universal mask mandate in our schools. Over the past year we've heard how our buildings will not allow for adequate distance between students, masks or not. Assuring families that a mask mandate will be followed is truly the least you can do right now. Current guidance calls for masks for the unvaccinated without a grey area. To require any less of students and faculty is dangerous. If not to your family, then I can assure you it is for mine and many others. To teach science, geography, math, government, etc. and disregard CDC guidance would be truly shocking. To ask for a signature on a dress code policy that doesn't include a mask mandate would be absurd. As a member of the community, I have always supported our schools. I truly hope the district is ready to support our unvaccinated students and immunocompromised families by following the CDC.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michelle Roy</p>
<p>Tracey Manter 181 East Washington Street, Hanson</p>	<p>Masking should be an individual choice. Denis G. Rancourt, PhD, in his article; Mask Don't Work: A Review of Science Relevant to COVID-19 Social Policy, writes, "There have been extensive randomized controlled trials (RTC) studies, and meta analysis reviews of RCT studies, which all show that masks and respirators do not work to prevent respiratory influenza-like illnesses, or respiratory illnesses believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosol particles." He goes on to discuss how these aerosol particles are simply too fine to be blocked by the medical and cloth masks being worn in the community. There is also a debate regarding the hazards from bacteria caught in these mask that our kids are wearing for extended hours.</p> <p>This sentiment was also echoed by Dr. Fauci. In the recent release of Dr. Fauci's emails one particular email regarding masks from February 2020 states, "The typical mask you buy in the drug store is not really effective in keeping out virus, which is small enough to pass through material."</p> <p>With no true consensus amongst even scientist how can we as parents not be allowed to make our own assessment of the scientific literature that exist regarding masks? A better approach would be to focus on policies and procedures to immediately remove kids from school upon first symptoms of illness thus protecting everyone in the community. Parents must do their part and keep their children home if there is any question that they may be ill.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity for allowing me to share my thoughts and concerns.</p> <p>Regards, Tracey Manter</p>