Purpose of mask mandate

What is the mask mandate? The mask mandate is the mandating of wearing a mask out in public to avoid the spreading of Covid-19. People all around the world have been wearing face masks for a while now, the US is one of the only countries who just recently started doing the same to prevent the spread of diseases such as the one we are facing today. However, many still argue about the effectiveness of wearing a facemask in general, while others support it wholeheartedly. Whichever side you may be on we can’t run away from the fact that if it was a mandate, and we would need to follow it whether we like it or not. This would include wearing it out in public and at restaurants, or pretty much anywhere where you may have to interact with others. However, there are exceptions to these rules, according to Wikipedia children that are under 2 years old don’t have to wear a mask and neither do people with any kind of respiratory problem and or someone is unable to remove a facemask from their face.

Now while the mask mandate isn’t in effect anymore here in Indiana there are still some states that require it. According to Usnews.com these are the list of the states mandating mask regulation regardless of vaccination are as follows, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. These states only require you to wear a mask if you’re not vaccinated and they are California, New York and Connecticut. So, from what we can gather here out of the 50 states in America not including our other territories, only 11 out of the 50 require a mask mandate and out of those 11 only 3 are exempt to those who already have their set of covid vaccine shots.

According to Jama Network mask mandates are enforced not just to defend the wearers of the mask themselves but also the people around them. The website also states that when we all have facemasks on, we’re safe and run a lower risk of anyone getting sick. They, later, go on to state on a positive not that no matter what may come out of this, one way or another this will help us further control any future pandemics and learn about the mistakes from the past and current situations and the importance of mask mandates. Many however don’t agree and believe that people who are vaccinated against covid won’t get sick again shouldn’t have to wear a mask and those who don’t want to take the vaccine in general shouldn’t be forced to wear a mask at all.

After analyzing these three sources and websites these are the arguments both sides argued. The first was from ajc.com where a mother was practically begging the school district to make it mandatory to wear a mask. She argued that we run a greater risk to catch the delta variant than the regular common cold, flu, seasonal allergies, all those commonly spread illnesses. She made a strong point speaking out on the fact that there are a lot of people who are more susceptible to getting sick that could greatly be affected from Covid due to their children or even faculty staff members bringing it home and not even knowing it. These people could easily carry it with them and not even know, and she later goes on to state how it may affect even pregnant women and the immunocompromised the most. She ends it with her thought on the situation and that being “Not everyone will be happy, I know; but temporary happiness pales in comparison to a life spread”.

The second source I researched was foxnews.com. At fox news where Tucker Carlson starts off with a strong opposing argument, “So the vaccines work, the only people getting sick are the unvaccinated, but the vaccinated still have to wear masks. Why is that?”. He states that basically why do people who are vaccinated must wear masks if they are “supposedly” immune to Covid-19? And if the people who don’t want to take the vaccine don’t want to wear the face mask that is their problem and theirs only. He goes on to blame the democrats for all of this, he say’s they’re using the mask mandate to seize control of the country and how this is all a political movement to earn favor in the public’s eye. He also states that there isn’t a point of having a republican party at all whatsoever since the Biden administration has complete control of this and they’re basically getting what they want and more which is a mask mandate. He made an interesting topic to think about when he mentioned politics in general, he said they rode the pandemic into victory last year and if you remember the last president Donald Trump was anti Covid and didn’t believe it was that big of a deal.

He is arguing strongly the fact that it doesn’t matter, they’re making it seem like a big deal just to show us the public that they’re doing a “good job”. The last source comes from nature.com, where Anne Hoen, an epidemiologist states that she believes that the mask mandates were removed too briefly and prematurely. And this is with Vermont being one of the lower rate of hospitalizations when it comes to Covid-19. The author of the website being Lynne Peeples a science journalist from Seattle Washington, believes that we are on the opposite side when it comes to mask mandate in our country, other countries such as Germany have strengthened their mask mandate whereas we are trending in the opposite direction. Klaus Wälde, an economist from Germany did a study on 401 different regions in Germany, what he found was strong evidence to support his point. He found out that requiring people to wear facemasks reduced the chance of getting Covid-19 by 40%.

A study like this was done in the USA where it was alarmingly discovered that a mask mandate could’ve prevented up to almost 50% of deaths. But you must also consider this strong assessment made by John Brownstein, who is an epidemiologist from Harvard. He stated that, “There’s a difference between government policy and community buy-in.” It would all depend on how the public handle this and just how strictly a mask mandate would be followed if there were to be one, that would be the difference on it making an impact or not according to John. If we look back on what Tucker stated that vaccinations should be the answer to mask mandate, and we look at what Germany did you can argue that there’s two strong opposing viewpoints. One who doesn’t want to wear masks and believes that either you’re vaccinated and are protected against it, or you run your own risk if you’re not. Or the other view point where regardless of vaccination status to further prevent the spread of it a mask mandate should be enforced for the safety of others and the less fortunate who can’t get a vaccination just yet.

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| **Project Portion** | **Ideal Criteria** | **Overall Feedback** |
| Introduction | * Engaging * Shows importance of question * Indicates major parts and content |  |
| Background | * Uses credible, neutral sources * Effectively and sufficiently explains essential information * Written objectively in own words * Well organized and focused paragraphs with transitions * Minimal error |  |
| Analysis | * Smooth transition from background * Summarizes accurately and in own words two opposing answers and one objective answer to the question * Recognizes bias * Reasonable observations about how all sources make their arguments impactful * Well-organized and focused paragraphs with transitions * Minimal error | What you have is summary and paraphrasing of the article content. You aren’t analyzing yet.  Pick a couple of things to discuss regarding how effective you think each article is in convincing readers it’s right. Emotional language and points are common among the articles (at least the two opposing ones), and you could also analyze how credible the information seems to be.  Look at the discussion post for Week 6 and read the posts by [*redacted*]. Notice how they point out things that the article did, not what it said. |
| Response | * Smooth transition from analysis * Incorporates strong points from sources * Draws a reasonable and well-supported conclusion, answering the question * Provides satisfying conclusion to the project * Good transitions between focused paragraphs * Minimal error |  |