To Mask Mandate or Not? That is The Real Question

Why are so many people opposed to masking up? Is the mask mandate political? How does the mask mandate change a person view of the pandemic?

What is a mask mandate? A mask mandate is a government ruling to reduce the spread of any viral disease that can spread via air currents. The COVID-19 Delta variant has made transferring the virus quite easy to pass from one person to another. Since this new variant transformed from the last one, a mask mandate was put into place to reduce the spread. “In April 2020, the WHO acknowledged that wearing a medical mask can limit the spread of certain respiratory viral diseases including COVID-19.” (Wikipedia)

Why did the CDC change the mask mandate from not wearing masks for the general public in early 2020 to recommending on April 3,2020 that the general public wear cloth coverings? In early 2020, the WHO gave recommendations that people that were suspected of infection and respiratory symptoms, healthcare workers, caregivers of the sick and those that shared living space should be the ones to wear a medical mask. Then in June 2020, the CDC revised the mask mandate to recommend the general public wear a non-medical mask when physical distancing was not possible. Covid-19 is spread by close contact with people. The CDC said wearing of masks serve two purposes; reducing the spread of COVID-19 from being exhaled into the surrounding area. If one chooses to wear a mask it reduces the chances at getting the COVID-19 virus, this causing the virus to reduce infecting others.

The CDC required the wearing of a mask back on April 3, 2020. The requirement of a mask has shown a wide variety of different masks being created or bought. Some masks that can be used in the mask mandate are cloth masks, different surgical variants, bandanas, respirators, and face shields. The only requirements for a face mask are that it needs to have at least 3 layers of liner, no loose fabrics, no slits, and it needs to cover both nose and mouth. Children under the age of 2 should not wear masks, according to the CDC. “As of Sept. 13,2021, there are 42 U.S. states and territories that do not have state/territories mask mandates” (U.S. News article)

Several schools and districts returned to remote learning in IN, they implemented a mask mandate for them to continue education for children. They attempted to start of the year with mask-optional which was in response to the demands of parents. Mask mandates are required in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status in most states in areas where Covid-19 is surging. the CDC’s latest guidance was established in 12 U.S. states/territories. Only California, Connecticut, and New York have mask mandates for the unvaccinated. Unvaccinated should wear a mask to protect themselves and others in outdoor settings per the CDC. Fully vaccinated should wear a mask in a packed outdoor setting and activities that involve any close contact with people that are not fully vaccinated.

According to Tucker Carlson mandating millions of children to wear masks is lunacy, because the wearing of masks has a serious risk to children than the COVID-19 virus does. He does not agree with the wearing of masks by vaccinated adults either. People were promised that if they took the vaccine, they would be regular again. Carlson stated that a rational person might think they were lied too. Does the vaccination not work as intended?

Tucker Carlson believes that the mask mandate is being used for political strategy. He believes that the Biden administration has used Covid to ride to victory last November. Carlson stated that the US is clever because they used the Chinese military to create the virus in the first place. When people read this article, it gives bias onto another country because Carlson believes that the COVID-19 virus was created by another government for strategic purpose. This observation about reading the article induces fear onto the readers, putting them into a mindset that makes them completely agree with what is being said to keep them safe from harm.

All the information given by this opinion article is pumped full of more Fox News articles. From what is shown on the page there is no outside sources being credited. One would start thinking that the ads from the articles are making the funding to keep writing these opinion pieces. The ads on the page have nothing to do with what the article is stating, they only promote more Fox News.

In Tucker Carlson’s article ads, it shows ads towards celebrities and the new cops show they are promoting. The links have nothing to contribute to Carlson’s article, but in the article “As a mother of young children, I beg Cobb to mandate masks.” by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, all the links relate to her opinion article. The 2021-22 school year for Georgia, Cobb has a policy that encourages masks. But, it is not requiring them for in-person learning. To keep children safe when doing in-person learning it should be a priority to implement masking to everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status.

There is no evidence that masking up is detrimental to her well-being and long-term health, but without it, her children could become sick with Covid-19 and infect someone. Charis Granger-Mbugua wrote this article because she fears for the safety of her children not wearing a mask to school. The article talks about children bringing home COVID-19 virus to immune compromised individuals. She fears for the safety of everyone involved with school children.

The article has some good creditable sources like the New York Times, ABC News, and the Georgia Department of Public Health. One of the links included in the article leads to a letter to the Georgia School Superintendents. Charis Granger-Mbugua shows bias because as a mother of two children it states in the article that children of color are disproportionately impacted by severe illness that is caused by the COVID-19 virus. Parents can relate to her article because if they have children, they would want them well.

According to the article “what science says about lifting mask mandates” by Lynne Peeples. It is about a debate over the effectiveness of masks, to mask up or not, goes on. Both state and federal moves to lift mask mandates for the fully vaccinated happened a little too fast according to Anne Hoen, an epidemiologist at Dartmouth College. In March of this year a survey of more than 350,000 people said they were wearing a mask.

Lynn Peeples used a mural that promoted mask wearing while honoring health workers in Mexico City, while at the same time there is a man working on plants that is masked up. Later, a No Face Mask, No Entry picture is used for a shop in Wales, UK. Using photos, Peeples is showing that many individuals are not ok with changing things right away. Peeples goes on to say that effective messaging is vital to getting individuals to wear a mask.

Peeple’s article information comes from The Lancet, PubMed, Google Scholar, etc. Which everything is written or published by medical scholars. Even the related articles talk about COVID, masks, hotspots, and what the data is saying. The tone that comes from this article is a serious mood. It shows strictness between how each community is taking the COVID-19 virus. Each community will take different precautions depending on how they see it.

For Lynn Peeples she tries to promote strong points of safety towards the community in her article. By showing how the community is affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. By having a sign posted to a mural painted influences a person's attitude towards a subject. For the mask mandate in the community of Lynn Peeples article it states that a business owner knows that they have customers with compromised immune systems. With a mask mandate in place, it reduce the chances of people with compromised immune systems from catching COVID-19.

Which leads me to Tucker Carlson, he talks about the political stance he takes against why wearing a mask is so wrong. We have not needed to wear one before the pandemic, why would we now. This observation of this stance changes a person mind to think like Tucker Carlson. It is true that we did not need to wear a mask before the pandemic but the world changes daily.

From what I have read through Carlsons article he states the Biden administration is only for political gain, China created the COVID-19 virus, and masking children is detrimental to their health. These are weak points about the mask mandate because there has been no study shown that masking children is detrimental to their health. Rather the virus was created in China or not, it is still here. The Biden administration has no political gain, why would the government want a pandemic for elections?

During the Trump administration the wearing of mask was not required at the time, but this was because of the shortage of masks, this was stated in the Wikipedia for politics. One could see this as a political gain because the most diehard of fans would follow through with what the Trump administration states. By not wearing a mask the spread of COVID-19 would infect more causing the election to be mailed out to the households.

In the article by Maureen Downey, it states that the 2021-22 school year for Georgia, Cobb has a policy that encourages masks, but is not requiring them for in-person learning. A good point about the mask mandate is the debate around masking, it is a choice and is not a terrible thing. Many send their children to school knowing they might get sick, or even bring the virus home to a fragile family member.

District leaders and elected officials could just choose to do the right thing, by just implementing the wearing of a face mask. Charis Granger-Mbugua also makes a good strong point because she says that it is hard for a child to wear a mask all day when she sees her peers are not. In relation to this, Tucker Carlson states that it is detrimental for a child to wear a mask all day long.

Not everyone likes to wear a face mask. They are itchy, leaves marks on our face, makes our faces red, and they start to stick after a while after use. The CDC has made it where you don’t have to wear a good face mask just a decent one. Different face masks that you can wear are from a bandana to a face shield if you so choose. On the CDC website each mask has a requirement that needs to be followed so it can be regulated. You don’t want to be the person outside sucking SpaghettiOs through your gas mask hose thinking it's safe for air intake.

This is my own point of view on what the purpose of a mask mandate is. I am 100 percent behind the mask mandate because if a mask can keep me safe as well as my family safe from COVID-19 I am all for it. You do not need to know about everything that is put into a vaccine. If the government says its safe, its safe. the government has spent millions of dollars, literally hundreds of scientists and virologist have worked on this vaccine.

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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 |  |
| 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 |  |