Mask Mandate Purpose

Coronavirus has been around since 1965. However, in 2019 a different strand formed, leaving us with this new virus. No one had any idea in 2019 what we would be getting our selves into. Covid-19 is considered a pandemic because it spread to several countries affecting a lot of people. This is where you start seeing mandates for mask across the country. Chris Danner [Intelligencer](file:///C:\Users\longa\Downloads\Intelligencer), say the CDC recommends everyone to mask up again. Doesn’t mater if you have had the vaccine or not. Children returning to in person learning needs to mask up as well. The numbers of the virus are going up. The new Delta variant is the main reason cases are on the rise again.

According to [wikipedia](file:///C:\Users\longa\Downloads\wikipedia), the first mask mandate was announced April 2020. It was recommended that people wore them in places with close contact to others where social distancing couldn’t be maintained. Wearing a mask would help lessen the spread of the virus from person to person, especially those who are a symptomatic. Public health expert, [Larry Gostin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Gostin) stated that federal officials should have recommended mask-wearing sooner. When Covid-19 hit originally, the government did not recommend the use of mask outside of medical personal. The government said that proper hygiene and getting the flu vaccine would do its part in keeping the spread of covid down. Later in March 2020 the CDC released a recommendation that masks should be used by people who are sick and people who are caring for someone sick. They also discouraged the use of a mask for the general public.

Jessica McDonald [the evolving science of face masks](file:///C:\Users\longa\Downloads\the%20evolving%20science%20of%20face%20masks) stated that Benjamin Cowling from the University of Hong Kong, said that using mask had a good effect on transmission. He said that mask use alone wasn’t enough to reduce the transmission. Other experts remain skeptical with using masks especially the ones people use today, not the N95 ones the hospital uses. They said that mask can reduce transmission of the virus because you are not breathing in the respiratory droplets that are exposed when we breath normally.

Wearing masks along with social distancing, and washing hands would reduce the transmission is what Bridget Balch is saying [The science and psychology behind masking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 | AAMC](https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/science-and-psychology-behind-masking-prevent-spread-covid-19). While people are not complying with the mask mandate the numbers of infected people are rising again. Understanding why people don’t want to have a mask mandate is critical in understanding how people think and act. People feel it is against their rights or freedoms to be made to wear a mask in public.

According to [Lynne Peeples](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01394-0#author-0) in her article, she doesn’t talk about her personal option of a mask mandate. Instead Peeples uses scientist when talking about mask mandates. Peeples talks about the science behind wearing a mask, and how it prevents the spread of droplets in the air. Klaus Walde and his team concluded that if we wear a face mask it reduces the spread of Covid-19 by 40%.

Peeples talks about Helene-Mari van der Westhuizen who works for the public health scientist at the University of Oxford, UK, talks about how mask can be scary and not sexy. Everything people learned from mask came from the medical field. “Cloth masks and associated fashion brought playfulness and an everyday feeling to mask wearing. That contributed to its acceptability,” says Helene.

Tucker Carlson with Fox News has his own disapproval for mask mandates. Carlson has a very political stance on the mask mandate. He makes it know from the very first paragraph what a strong leader is and what a weak leader is. He uses these to paint a picture of how Carlson perceives the mask mandate. He talks about how the Biden’s administration increased the covid restrictions across the country. Carlson even talked about how children had to wear masks in school. Carlson gives his opinion of the Biden administration, and his dislike. So for a reader to be reading this article it might be a red flag if you like the Biden administration, or it might be a positive if you disagree with the Biden administration.

Carlson doesn’t give any good supporting evidence of why a mask mandate wouldn’t work. He just keeps making puns at the Biden administration. When he talks about children having to wear a mask and how it is more dangerous then Covid-19, there is no scientific proof. Without proof it is just a man making an option.

While Carlson’s article is mere option and not facts, one may not want to read it. As a reader you are wanting to know the science behind the mandate, not just one’s option. If the reader wanted someone’s option, all they would have to do is ask. This article is not for someone who wants scientific proof why a mandate is good or bad.

Maureen Downey, with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution,talks about not having face masks mandates. A former teacher, Charis Granger-Mbugua fears sending her two young kids to school in a district that doesn’t require wearing mask. Her children attend Cobb now where she is a teacher at. Cobb school district started school with a policy encouraging masks, however it was not required. Cobb and another school are the only two in the district that allow staff and students to wear mask.

As a Mother Downey just wants to protect her children from the chance of getting Covid-19. Most people who read this article will find it bias based on a mother wanting to protect her children. Which if you don’t have children, you probably wouldn’t understand her cries. Her article is very opinionated for a mask mandate. Downey talked about returning to school and how excited they all should be, but she just can’t find it in her. Schools are letting parents choose if they wear a mask, however teachers are being told they can’t wear one. So, then once again we are exposing everyone to covid. For Downey she just wanted to know she had the ability to wear a mask. To help keep her protected. To help protect her children. As a reader if you are wanting science and unbiased facts this would not be the answer for you.

Each article had its own agenda. Weather it was to inform or give a bias option. Reading Peeples article, she had a lot of science in her article. She gave great informed information. Nothing about what she said was bias. If someone needs facts to make an informed decision Peeples is the article I would suggest reading.

The question is, what is the purpose of a mask mandate, can be answered by so many reactions, one could have a neutral opinion while others have a very opinionated answer. Like Carlson, he blamed the Biden administration for everything. Even though he blamed them, he still didn’t use any facts to back up his opinions. Everything you read there is how he feels. If you lack power people won’t listen to you or do what you say. This is true if you think about it. People of power say jump and you say how high. I think Carlson was only trying to prove that point in the matter. He didn’t do a very good job at giving science any thought though. While he was very opinionated about the Biden administration he is worried about our children and having to wear a mask for school. It’s great to hear how concerned he is for our children, but what about science? Where are the facts that he said, “despite the scientifically established fact that masks pose a far greater threat to children than COVID does.” I didn’t see any facts stated. Like I said I am grateful he is concerned for our children, but facts would have helped back his statement up.

As you read Downey’s article, you see where she is a mom and has her opinion of a mask mandate. How she feels wearing mask will protect her and her children. Once again, she didn’t use science. These are her opinions. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions. Downey decision to change schools that allow teachers and students to wear mask was entirely up to her. No one forced her hand. She wanted to do what was best for her and her children. She stated, “that having her 4-year-old wear a mask was the hard choice and it had to be done to protect her.” That is an option that all parents have. We get to decide if our children will be wearing mask in school settings. As parents we need to be able to make informed choices for our children. No one is going to fight for the children harder than their parents.

As we learn how to deal with the different effects that are happening with Covid-19 and the different strains, we must be able to adapt. We must change when things change to still have a life. Our kids need us to make the best-informed decisions for them too. Our elders need us to do what is right, so they don’t end up alone. Wearing a mask is just a phase, at some point in time this too will be nothing but a vague memory.

So, asking the question once more, what is the purpose of a mask mandate? A mask mandate is enforced by the government. They say how long you must wear one. Does it interfere with our constitutional rights? Yes, but that is not why a mask mandate could work. It could lower the spread of infection to others. If someone is a-sympathetic and walking around the store with no mask, they are just spreading germs to others. How many others, who knows? A mask mandate is just someone trying to look out for the greater good of everyone. Is it hard to follow a mask mandate, yes? We are human and love see others faces. We, humans don’t adapt well to change. A mask mandate could lessen the curve like the government has been saying for months, but it takes a lot of people to do it and enforce a mandate. As a human we are our own advocates for what we want and need. If we fail to advocate for what we need, no one knows. Wearing a mask could very well be for the greater good.

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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 |  |