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, 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. Lets, say you are a person infected, but show no symptoms of the virus, you wear a mask anyway and go to the store. When you sneeze or cough the mask keeps the droplets from hitting the air. Which in turn makes it so you won’t spread the virus to someone else. Your mask keeps the droplets on that, which is why we should wash them if they are cloth.

According to [Lynne Peeples](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01394-0#author-0), people were not expecting the CDC to make an announcement about fully vaccinated people not having to wear a mask in public. She talked with a business owner who had signs on their doors about mask. The had to take the one sign down, because they didn’t feel they should be asking customers if they are fully vaccinated. The usage of mask will continue for the pandemic. Researchers are trying to understand what the science is behind the virus to encourage people to wear mask. Scientists around the world are evaluating the data and asking questions on what makes some policies effective and other not. How can they get people to keep wearing mask to protect others? Will there be anything other thing that we can do to keep people safe?

Tucker Carlson with Fox News has his own options. According to one’s power stance will decide how people follow. Biden’s administration increased the covid restrictions across the country. Children had to wear masks in school. They forced masks on adults even the adults who had been vaccinated. We were told that if we got the vaccine, you would be able to go back to living your lives, but that was a lie. Now we must keep wearing masks. People of power are the ones making the decision to what we can and can’t do. Do they get to keep making our minds up for us or do we finally get to stand up for what we believe in?

People of power make decisions of the people. The Biden administration is staying that everyone needs the shot. If we had a rational public health policy it would work differently. If you got the shot you got the shot, if you didn’t have one you still went on with your life. It would like the world was free again, not owned by the government. The government is using Covid 19 as a ploy to make people scared, pass blame. They are trying to get people separated of vaccine vs not vaccinated. People who question wither to get the vaccine or not are being attacked if they don’t get it and something happens. We all have a right to make the best decision for ourselves. The government shouldn’t be allowed to tell anyone what they should put into their own bodies. That should be a personal choice. How do you put a mandate on something? Understanding the science behind wearing a face mask would help people be better informed. Wearing one just because the government told you too isn’t all that it is. Wearing one will protect you from droplets in the air that give someone the virus. Wearing a mask protects those around you if you are a-symptomatic with the virus.

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.

Starting a new school should be a very exciting time in a child’s life. However, that start of this year was from exciting. It was filled with fear, worry, guilt, anger, frustration. Children went almost a year of virtual learning and having to return to the unknown of a classroom setting is alarming. The new variant of Covid-19 is proving to be much more. According to the CDC the delta variant is more transmissible than the viruses that cause MERS, SARS, Ebola, common colds, smallpox, flu. People want to encourage in person learning while keeping children safe. As a parent all anyone wants is to keep their children safe while they go to school to learn. Knowing what is best is hard because it affects everything we know. Is it safe for kids to go to in person class? Would home schooling be better? How did the kids learn? Keeping them away from friends, is that healthy for them?

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. Do they wear a face mask to school every day? What about getting a shot? Will the shot keep them safe? Are we doing everything we can to protect them?

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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 | The biggest challenge to overcome is that you are giving your opinion on the issue, the subject of masks (and even vaccines at one point). Leave your opinion out of it. Concentrate on what you read in the articles that you think would make an impression on readers and why. |
| 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 |  |