Masks have become an issue of debate within the last year, with the notable Coronavirus. Before the Coronavirus there was The Spanish flu. This pandemic began in January 1918 and claimed the lives of over 50 million people by the time it ended in December 1920; masks were very prevalent during these times. According to sources through [CNN](file:///C:\Users\dahuf\AppData\Local\Temp\In%20the%201918%20flu%20pandemic,%20not%20wearing%20a%20mask%20was%20illegal%20in%20some%20parts%20of%20America.%20What%20changed%3f%20-%20CNN) on October 24, 1918, San Fransisco began the first mask mandate in the United States. After they had begun the mask mandate anyone that was seen outside without a mask could be fined or imprisoned. Trains coming into cities would be met with women that had masks for the travelers incase they were not able to obtain one elsewhere. Masks were heavily implemented throughout the country for everybody’s health.

Mask mandates have come to a head during current times due to the Coronavirus or Covid-19. This virus was first identified in 2019 and is still an ongoing issue. This virus is spread through droplets, which would require mouth covering to keep them from spreading. Sources from [John Hopkins](file:///C:\Users\dahuf\AppData\Local\Temp\What%20Is%20Coronavirus%3f%20|%20Johns%20Hopkins%20Medicine) state, when infected with Covid-19 you may not portray symptoms immediately or you may be asymptomatic. This could cause others to contract the virus without your knowledge of you being a carrier. The long-term effects of this virus are still unknown as they are still making new discoveries daily, but we are certain that it does cause health issues leading up to death.

With Covid-19 being easily transmittable mask mandates were put into effect across the United States, with New Jersey being the first of the 50 states to order a mask mandate on April 8th, 2020. Many states followed suit shortly after. All states at this point made their own decisions on when masks were mandatory, or when to lift the mandate. According to CDC Guidelines as of March 8th 2021 anyone that has been fully vaccinated can shed their masks as stated in [The Los Angeles Times](https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2021-07-27/timeline-cdc-mask-guidance-during-covid-19-pandemic).

During these trying times, there is a tremendous amount of speculation, and so many unanswered questions for many. There are many concerns with the vaccines, masks and the new Delta variant that now requires you to wear your mask even though you have been vaccinated and requires a booster shot. So, the question is do we resort back to 1918 and use the masks or do we hope for the best and hope our immune systems are strong enough to fight it?

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