In America there have now been two times when masks have been mandated to protect society. As of now 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 spread of Coronavirus is very easily spread with sources from the [Health Lab of Michigan](https://labblog.uofmhealth.org/lab-report/how-quickly-does-coronavirus-spread) state for every one person that is infected, they will personally infect another 2-3 more people. With the infection rate continuing to grow the use of masks would be mandatory. 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). This only applied to people that were fully vaccinated. The CDC then states if you are not vaccinated you are still to wear your face covering in all indoor settings and most outdoor settings. As of July 27th, 2021, the CDC recommends anyone that is fully vaccinated or unvaccinated to wear there facial covering as there is a new variant of Coronavirus called the Delta Variant. This would require some who have already been vaccinated to get booster shots.

With masks being a central issue for millions of people, you always have people on opposing ends of the spectrum. Some Americans think wearing masks will help save society while others feel it is detrimental to one’s health or that it could even be politically fueled.

Maureen Downey argues in Opinion: As a mother of young children, I beg Cobb County mandate masks, that masks in the school system are needed and should not just be recommended. As stated in the title of the article Maureen is a mother of which she has two children that are in school in the Cobb County district, which is the second largest school district in Georgia. With the Covid-19 cases rising within the school district she feels as they are not doing enough to protect the well-being of the children. She had made the decision for her children to return to in person learning April of 2021 when Covid cases were declining and we had not received the backlash of the Delta Variant yet, masks were also still mandated in the school district at this time. With the CDC stating that Covid is more transmittable than even the common cold, and four months later the mask mandate had been lifted. With cases rising in Cobb County the school has updated their protocols, but they still have not mandated masks at this point. In this article it is strongly stated that many Americans do not have the funds to deal with the repercussions the virus would hold for their families, especially families of color. The author of this article is very invested in this emotionally as her kids are at stake. This is where she connects with the reader; with quotes like “Our children are too important, their lives too full of promise, to continue in the way we are going.” Her claims are very strong and supported by strong reliable sources, I do feel as though this is more of an emotionally charged article as she fears for the safety of her children, and the community.

From a scientific approach you have an article from Lynne Peeples tilted “What science says about lifting mask mandates.” The fluctuation of masks, and vaccinations all vary on demographics. As shown in Germany getting a jump on the mask mandate put a 75% drop in the Covid cases in just 20 days, while other areas lagged behind. When areas are lifting the mask mandates, as many are getting vaccinated, many are still choosing not to get vaccinated. This is allowing the Covid rates to rise again. There also lies the issue of which masks will work for this virus, and how to get people to wear them. There were studies compare the Covid epidemic to the HIV/ AIDS epidemic and how they had gotten number to drop. This was by making the item of protection appealing to the consumer. There are also studies to show normal cloth masks are not protective enough for people to wear.

This article appeals to the academic mind and states many facts, with many credible sources. Many people still do not know what to do as shown in this article with mandates being lifted some stores are still implementing the mask mandate to ensure safety, even if it does cause loss of business.

Tucker Carlson’s article titled “New mask guidelines are about politics and control” states how the new Biden administration is detrimental to our bodies. Carlson states in his article that the Biden administration has determined they will not be making masks mandatory or vaccines mandatory, but Joe Biden (the president) states he would do whatever it takes to encourage people to do the right thing. Now at this point Biden is making all government employees get vaccinated, and masks are still mandatory in some locations. What is being claimed is the Biden administration used Covid as a scare tactic to get elected into office, using the vaccinated against the unvaccinated. The article states that the representatives are not backing the people to not force vaccinations. As previously Americans were not forced to receive vaccinations they did not want, so why this one? The claim he is making is that it is politically fueled. With little evidence, this article does have strong claims but nothing to implement them. This article comes with very few supporting statements as most of the article is opinion. With all the claims being supported by CNN which is the supporting platform for this argument as well.

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