

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: [Justin Partridge <jpartridge@riversideunified.org>](mailto:jpartridge@riversideunified.org)

Date: 1/7/2022 10:21:41 PM

Subject: Re: COVID19 Dashboard Concerns

I agree we need better data and have shared your thoughts with our administration

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2022, at 10:11 PM, Justin Partridge <jpartridge@riversideunified.org> wrote:

thank you.

The better data we have, the better decisions we can make.. and for the District to publish incorrect data is worrisome and damages trust between staff and the District. If a school with 830 students has 140 absences each day this week (17% of students), I'm guessing there are more than 16 cases of COVID at the site (Earhart data per the Principal... the dashboard has "no data" for the site).

From the teacher-level perspective, I know that many teachers believe the District is intentionally hiding the real number of cases.. but I think that's an unnecessarily cynical view... I figure it's more likely that the District has no clue what the real number even is.. but in looking at the number of absences, i'm guessing we're at or near the 5% threshold already (especially when staff cases are also included). Also, I shouldn't have to guess on that, and neither should you.

Thank you for your help on this.

Also, for an updated table on COVID cases (not school-related), please see [bit.ly /COVID19spreadsheet](https://bit.ly/COVID19spreadsheet)

I update it daily

On Fri, Jan 7, 2022 at 9:43 PM Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org> wrote:

Thank you Justin for sharing your constructive input. I appreciate your dedication to our students during these complex circumstances. I will follow up with our administration on these dashboard concerns.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2022, at 9:37 PM, Justin Partridge <jpartridge@riversideunified.org> wrote:

Greetings,

I'm a teacher in RUSD and I'm quite concerned at the poor (and misleading) quality of the data on the District's COVID dashboard website.

[https://riversideunified.org/important information/opening of schools 2021-2022 /rusdcovid-19 public dashboard](https://riversideunified.org/important-information/opening-of-schools-2021-2022/rusdcovid-19-public-dashboard)

If the Board, and indeed parents of students, are tasked with making health and safety decisions, these decisions must be data driven.. therefore, the data must be reliable. The District's COVID dashboard is effectively a site of misinformation.

For example, there is "no data" for Earhart Middle School, a site which had over 140 absences each day this past week. According to the Principal at Earhart, there are only 16 known cases related to Earhart, but even this number is not believable given the 140 absences.

As for King High School, the dashboard identifies two cases. Given the several hundred absences as King each day this past week (let alone, known staff cases), this is also not believable. I've heard that the numbers are even worse at Arlington HS, but without believable data, it's impossible to really know for sure.

If a student is out multiple days in a row, the District should be calling the student's home and inquiring as to any COVID tests or symptoms... as there can't be smart decisions without accurate data, and for the District to be publishing such outlandish figures is quite concerning.

I'm not asking that we close schools, I'm asking that we first have reliable-enough information to even be able to reliably assess the situation.

thanks
Justin Partridge

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [Justin Partridge <jpartridge@riversideunified.org>](mailto:jpartridge@riversideunified.org)
Date: 1/7/2022 9:43:13 PM
Subject: Re: COVID19 Dashboard Concerns

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Justin Partridge

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)
Date: 1/7/2022 9:40:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: COVID19 Dashboard Concerns

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Justin Partridge <jpartridge@riversideunified.org>
Date: January 7, 2022 at 9:37:17 PM PST
To: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>, Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>, Kathleen Allavie <kallavie@riversideunified.org>, Thomas Hunt II <thunt@riversideunified.org>, Elizabeth Martin <emartin@riversideunified.org>
Subject: COVID19 Dashboard Concerns

Greetings,

I'm a teacher in RUSD and I'm quite concerned at the poor (and misleading) quality of the data on the District's COVID dashboard website.

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Justin Partridge

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [Kyley Ybarra <kybarra@riversideunified.org>](mailto:kybarra@riversideunified.org)
[Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)
Date: 1/6/2022 11:08:43 AM
Subject: Fwd: COVID Pay

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Boling <lbling@riversideunified.org>
Date: January 6, 2022 at 10:53:14 AM PST
To: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>, Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>, Thomas Hunt II <thunt@riversideunified.org>, Dale Kinnear <dkinnear@riversideunified.org>, Kathleen Allavie <kallavie@riversideunified.org>
Subject: COVID Pay

Good Morning All:

I hope that your holidays were wonderful and you are staying safe and healthy.

I wanted to touch base with all of you and share my deepest concerns for our members and what they are facing now. As you know that state's COVID pay ended at the end of Sept. 2021. With the new omicron virus credentialed staff is having to use their sick leave to care for themselves and their children if they become sick and or need to quarantine.

This morning I had 2 teachers in tears today because they are out of sick leave and they have children that were exposed at school this week and they now need to stay at home with them. They both are single mothers and rely on their paychecks to survive.

My heart goes out to our teachers.

The district needs to step in and give some relief to our staff.

I appreciate your consideration,

Laura



Laura Boling
President, RCTA

president@myrcta.org
951-684-6744

Stronger Belief, Greater
Self-Awareness and
Significance



Produced by the free evaluation copy of OutlookNewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

CC: rayala@riversideunified.org

[Luz Cruz <lcruz@riversideunified.org>](mailto:lcruz@riversideunified.org)

[Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)

[Kyle Ybarra <kybarra@riversideunified.org>](mailto:kybarra@riversideunified.org)

Date: 10/28/2021 1:10:06 PM

Subject: Re: Covid testing site concern

Thank you for sharing this and I am sorry to hear about your experience. I have copied our administration to follow up.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 28, 2021, at 1:04 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Hello, my name is [redacted] and I am the mother of 2 students in RUSD - a 6th grader [redacted] and a 9th grader (Arlington). I had my 6th grader tested for Covid today at the testing site at the Central Registration Center and wanted to make the district aware of a concerning conversation I had with one of the testing site employees. I'm not sure if these are district employees or if they belong to an outside vendor, but I want to make you aware regardless. I wasn't sure who to email regarding this issue, so if there is a better person to approach with this than who is already listed on this email please let me know.

There are no signs or instructions at the site, so I walked up to the tables where the employees were sitting, and had my son stand a little behind me (has cold symptoms - which is why he was being tested - and I was concerned about exposing the employees). When I explained he has symptoms, an unmasked man working at the testing site told me he was "supposed to have" sick students stay in their cars, but shook his head, said he regularly went through the testing samples without gloves, and told my son "Covid isn't nothing" to worry about. I sent my son back to the car anyway. While the other employees were checking my son into the computer, I made a comment about him being the only one in our family not old enough to be vaccinated. At that point, this same man told me that "Maybe God was trying to tell me something" and that we 'shouldn't be putting adjuvants" into our kids. When I said the Covid vaccine doesn't contain adjuvants, he told me "that's what they tell you". I ended the conversation at that point.

I did not get this man's name. He was working the Central Registration Center Covid-19 testing site at 11:30am Thursday 10/28, along with another man and a woman. He had a beard which was largely gray, and appeared to be in his late 40s.

I'm appalled that this man is working the Covid testing site for the district. This is hardly the right job for someone who doesn't believe Covid is serious and who doesn't support vaccination (and apparently also doesn't believe in masks since he wasn't wearing one). Much of my concern lies in the impact this man

other parents may hear these types of comments and place some trust into what he says, especially since he is working at the district as (presumably) a medical professional.

People like this man should not be placed in positions where they can spout Covid misinformation to the public. It undermines the good work that the district and our public health officials have done to keep students and employees safe. I hope the district does everything in its power to keep people like this man away from public-facing positions.

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: [Cheryl Russell <cnrussell@riversideunified.org>](mailto:cnrussell@riversideunified.org)

CC: lboling@riversideunified.org

[Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)

Date: 9/25/2021 3:30:00 PM

Subject: Re:

Thank you Cheryl for the message and I am sorry to hear about your experiences regarding the Covid dashboard related protocols. We appreciate your dedication to safety for everyone.

Laura Boling has been raising this issue on behalf of all teachers also. I have copied our administration to follow up.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 25, 2021, at 2:09 PM, Cheryl Russell <cnrussell@riversideunified.org> wrote:
>
>
> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I'm writing to you as a concerned Elementary School teacher in RUSD. Perhaps you could address this issue at the next board meeting.
>
> I was contacted on 9/10. by the Poly-cluster Covid nurse, about a student who'd been to school, on 9/3, and tested positive. After some back and forth emails, she told me she'd given me the wrong date, and it was actually 9/9 that the student had tested positive.
>
> I was told that our Covid Dashboard would be updated to reflect this positive student case within 24 hours. The Dashboard was not updated until a second child in my classroom had tested positive, and I was notified, on 9/20...TEN DAYS later.
>
> Additionally, the original students, potentially exposed, weren't notified of the 9/9 exposure until Saturday evening (9/11). Many of them had gathered together at a birthday party, held by one of the exposed children. Two of the exposed children showed up to school on Monday. Their parents had not been notified by the Covid nurse (our school nurse contacted them on Monday morning). Again, potentially exposing more people...Either the Covid nurse is WAY overextended, and has a very hard time keeping up with all of the cases, or she isn't fulfilling her duties.
>
> If our student's families are notified in a more timely manner, they wouldn't be out of school for as long, and they, hopefully, wouldn't gather together at a party. I notified a mother, who is a teacher at our school, about her child's exposure, and because she received a timely notification from me, her child only missed one day of school. All of the other students involved, 7 in total, missed 5 days of school.
>
> Can we please address this issue? Everyone deserves to have all of the information possible when it comes to Covid, and if our nurse is overworked and can't notify parents faster or update the Dashboard within 24 hours, then she needs assistance.
>

> Cheryl Russell

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)
Date: 8/23/2021 8:01:01 PM
Subject: Re: Delta/mask

Thank you for the thoughtful response. I agree with everything. We can't enforce the general public beyond stating the guidelines. My comments were only directed to my colleagues. Brent has already indicated he is open to that.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2021, at 7:53 PM, Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org> wrote:

Yes, we really thought about the mask no mask issue. So of course you're free to encourage your fellow board members to wear masks. I think that asking everyone to do so would be problematic, considering our community stakeholders, but am more than happy to follow through with the wishes of the board.

I also talked to communications about being more strategic about what we post. We could have posted pictures of the student board members or we could have put in the caption that we were following CDC guidelines. Nevertheless we are where we are.

On Mon, Aug 23, 2021, 3:40 PM Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org> wrote:
FYI Renee: a few people have brought this up to me and I think we should lead by example. I would like to encourage our board to begin wearing masks at the board meetings.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: .
Date: August 23, 2021 at 3:33:03 PM PDT
To: Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>
Subject: Delta/mask

Mr. Farooq,

I'm writing you as a concerned parent of students at Rivera and Franklin. I was very disappointed to see the picture posted on social media of yourself and your fellow board members without masks from the last board meeting. That same day I also received notice from my sons' sites that there was a positive case at their respective sites. While I would love nothing more than to be mask-free, I watch the news and see the largest portion of positive cases be from unvaccinated adults and children. My children, because of their age, cannot be vaccinated. My husband and I made the decision last week to place our children on independent study because we feel the district is being reckless. When we made the decision for in person for the 21-22 school year, we made it with hopes that numbers would continue to wane and school employees would do their part and get vaccinated. With new information and first-hand experience with how fast the

RUSD until they are vaccinated and/or you require your staff to be vaccinated. I know staff have until October to be vaccinated or to be tested weekly per Gov. Newsom. That being said, I would hope my children, especially my 6th grader at Rivera can remain on independent study through then without losing his place in his current class.

My other son, , is in the SDC program at Franklin, and I feel more confident about his place being kept there.

Thank you for taking your time to read this,

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: [Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>](mailto:rhill@riversideunified.org)

Date: 8/23/2021 3:40:26 PM

Subject: Fwd: Delta/mask

FYI Renee: a few people have brought this up to me and I think we should lead by example. I would like to encourage our board to begin wearing masks at the board meetings.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: _____
Date: August 23, 2021 at 3:33:03 PM PDT
To: Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>
Subject: Delta/mask

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Thank you for taking your time to read this,

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To :

Date: 8/23/2021 3:39:36 PM

Subject: Re: Delta/mask

Thank you for sharing your concern. Our staff had informed us that the board meetings are not considered school events/classrooms (according to state health guidelines) so masking was not required if vaccinated (which I am). We are absolutely conforming to all state health guidelines which includes masks being required at all school classrooms.

I understand your broader point though and will discuss with our staff about the board consideration to wear masks even if vaccinated. I can't require others but I am certainly open to that personally.

Wishing your family well.

Sincerely,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 23, 2021, at 3:33 PM, " " wrote:

>

> Mr. Farooq,

>

> I'm writing you as a concerned parent of students at Rivera and Franklin. I was very disappointed to see the picture posted on social media of yourself and your fellow board members without masks from the last board meeting. That same day I also received notice from my sons' sites that there was a positive case at their respective sites. While I would love nothing more than to be mask-free, I watch the news and see the largest portion of positive cases be from unvaccinated adults and children. My children, because of their age, cannot be vaccinated. My husband and I made the decision last week to place our children on independent study because we feel the district is being reckless. When we made the decision for in person for the 21-22 school year, we made it with hopes that numbers would continue to wane and school employees would do their part and get vaccinated. With new information and first-hand experience with how fast the virus can affect groups of people, we cannot in good conscience have our children attend RUSD until they are vaccinated and/or you require your staff to be vaccinated. I know staff have until October to be vaccinated or to be tested weekly per Gov. Newsom. That being said, I would hope my children, especially my 6th grader at Rivera, , can remain on independent study through then without losing his place in his current class.

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> Thank you for taking your time to read this,

>

> ;

>

>

From: [Angelov Farooq <safarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:safarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 8/9/2021 12:57:32 PM

Subject: Re: Thank you

Thank you for the sentiments Rest assured that RUSD will continue to comply with state /county health guidelines. Wishing your children all the best on a safe and successful educational school year.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2021, at 12:42 PM, <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Farooq -

I was able to watch a portion of the school board meeting from last week - what a tough one! Thank you so much for serving.

As a parent who is taking a great leap of faith sending my 1st and 3rd grade children back to school in person starting today, I **just wanted to voice my support of and encouragement to maintain the California mask mandate recommendations in place at RUSD until such a time as parents even have the option to vaccinate our under 12 children** in order to provide an additional layer of protection to their bodies.

I understand where many of the parents at Thursday's meeting are coming from - I don't love masks, they make my face hot and sweaty, etc. I'll be grateful for the day we can safely discard them with minimal concern about potential COVID breakouts. But I also think there is enough concern regarding the delta variant of COVID and how much we don't know about it yet, in addition to the potential for new variants to break out, especially among the unvaccinated, that my desire for my children's safety is paramount to their (or my) comfort. My children have adapted better than I have, to be quite honest, to wearing masks. So much so that they forget they have them on and I find myself laughing when I have to remind them that it's ok to take them off when we are in our car or taking a walk or leaving a store, or even back at our own house! Ha ha! I'm not saying mask wearing is easy for all children, and I'm especially empathetic toward children who truly do not like wearing masks. I'm praying for them especially that the under-12 vaccines come soon so that masks can become a more optional layer of protection.

Until then, please know that the board has my support as a parent, a community member and as an occasional substitute teacher within the district to continue requiring masks to be worn on campus until children can be vaccinated. We owe it to all of them to do our best to protect their bodies from harm.

Thank you so much again for your service and your time,

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 8/9/2021 11:10:25 AM

Subject: Re: Fears as more children falling ill in latest US Covid surge and school approaches

I appreciate and share your concern for public health. The resolution was advocating for regional (County) based health metrics which would only incentivize communities to have greater safety compliance. This was the exact approach the State took in the process of closing/reopening schools. Establishing thresholds adds further incentives to lower community spikes in covid cases since people start monitoring local trends more.

On Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 11:02 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

The resolution was clearly an attempt to placate the anti-maskers. Fortunately it didn't go as far as the previous draft went to the chagrin of the anti-maskers. But, there was no need for that resolution at all.

Entities that are taking the covid situation very seriously are requiring masks indoors regardless of vaccine status. Riverside City is an example. Please do the most rather than the minimum. I suspect many of these anti-maskers are also anti-vaxxers.

On 8/9/2021 10:52 AM, Angelov Farooq wrote:

Thank you for sharing your concerns. I am not sure what you mean by 'placating the anti-maskers' as RUSD has consistently complied with all state/county health guidelines which currently includes requiring masks for everyone indoors at school sites.

Our school board meetings are business meetings and not 'school events' so a different set of state health guidelines apply to them. Those guidelines allow people (that acknowledge that they are fully vaccinated) to not have to wear masks indoors. That is currently the extent of the state guideline as physical proof of vaccination is not currently required. Please refer to the CA Department of Public Health on any concerns you have with the guidelines.

This is a very complicated and difficult environment but we are all trying to do the best we can to navigate. I will continue to advocate safety for our students/employees and that RUSD continue to comply with all state/county health guidelines.

Wishing your family well.

Best wishes,

Angelo

On Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:32 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

National Institutes of Health Director says- "This is not a political statement or an invasion of your liberties. This is a life-saving medical device. And asking kids to wear a mask is uncomfortable, but, you know, kids are pretty resilient. We know that kids under 12 are likely to get infected and if we don't have masks in schools, this virus will spread more widely."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/08/us-children-covid-delta-latest-surge>

And this:

BREAKING NEWS: According to Gov. John Bel Edwards, more than 6,000 Louisiana children now have COVID-19. This is an increase of more than 3,000 cases in just four days.

RUSD needs to stop trying to placate the the anti-maskers and take this seriously. Take a stand and show some backbone, show some leadership.

And by the way, why do you allow your meetings to be super spreader events? No masks, no social distancing, people yelling.

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Grammarly.com

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:Angelov.Farooq@riversideunified.org)

To: _____

Date: 8/9/2021 10:52:48 AM

Subject: Re: Fears as more children falling ill in latest US Covid surge and school approaches

Thank you for sharing your concerns. I am not sure what you mean by 'placating the anti-maskers' as RUSD has consistently complied with all state/county health guidelines which currently includes requiring masks for everyone indoors at school sites.

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This is a very complicated and difficult environment but we are all trying to do the best we can to navigate. I will continue to advocate safety for our students/employees and that RUSD continue to comply with all state/county health guidelines.

Wishing your family well.

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Angelo

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_____ wrote:

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From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 8/6/2021 9:52:03 AM

Subject: Re: SUPPORT for continued masking in RUSD schools

Thank you for your message and valued input as a parent. Rest assured that RUSD is absolutely complying with state health guidelines which currently requires masks for indoors. Wishing your family well.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2021, at 9:31 AM,

wrote:

Dear Dr. Farooq,

As the parent of an RUSD student (Longfellow Elementary), I am writing to share that I SUPPORT the state's guidance regarding masking in schools and other COVID-related safety precautions, and I urge you to continue to do the same and to follow the guidance of state and local public health departments.

With the rise in COVID cases due to the spread of the Delta variant, the relatively low rate of vaccination in our area, the increase of young children being affected by COVID, and the inability for children younger than 12 to be vaccinated, it is imperative that our schools continue to take reasonable and effective measures to prevent community spread of COVID. Wearing masks is one such measure. Indeed, the only reason why I am sending my child back to in-person school is because the state has continued to require masking and other preventative measures.

Thank you for continuing to support the health and well-being of all students, teachers, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 8/5/2021 10:51:45 PM

Subject: Re: Draft Resolution on Masks

Thank you for your message / . . . RUSD is absolutely following the health guidelines from the state which currently requires mask for indoor school sites. The purpose of the resolution was not to seek local control but for the state to have local (county) based health metrics similar to the reopening approach. This is intended to establish more incentives for local communities to drive down covid case rates and being more responsive to regional safety environments.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2021, at 12:15 PM, ,

wrote:

Dear RUSD Board Members and Superintendent:

I am writing to you since I am not sure that I can make a comment during the meeting. I saw the resolution on masks coming up for a vote. While it looks innocuous, the Board and RUSD administration may want to consider whether local control is really the best way forward, especially if it comes without clear directives. While there is a vocal group against masks (and, shockingly, even vaccinations), I do not believe they are the majority. I know of an increasing number of parents worried about schools starting now with the increase in COVID infections, even with masks (in fact, many kids masks are out of stock). RUSD might find itself in a very uncomfortable position with dueling groups of parents. With the recommendations of the CDC, CDPH and American Association of Pediatrics, it may be time to state clearly that RUSD will be prioritizing health and following the recommendations of these professional, non-partisan organizations.

Thanks

On Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 3:59 PM,

wrote:

Dear RUSD Board Members and Superintendent:

It was just brought to my notice that the RUSD Board will be considering a draft resolution to request the state to remove the face covering requirement. I wanted to let you know that I do not support it. With the increase in the Delta variant, cases in neighboring counties increasing, and most of the young children in our schools not even eligible for vaccination, wearing a mask indoors when with 30+ other people, has a very small cost with a potentially huge benefit. The most vocal members do not necessarily represent the views of the majority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Best,
.

Produced by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: _____

Date: 8/3/2021 9:33:07 AM

Subject: Re: Masks in Schools

Thank you _____ for your input as a parent. Rest assured that RUSD complies with state/county health guidelines which currently requires masks for all persons inside school buildings when children are present. Wishing your family well.

Best wishes,

Angelo

On Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 4:54 PM _____

wrote:

Dear Dr. Farooq,

I want to thank you for your service and for taking the time to read this email. I'm a parent of three children as well as a teacher in RUSD and I am advocating for the board of trustees to continue to require Covid-19 protocols at the schools including masks for all children and adults when inside buildings regardless of vaccination status. The current surge associated with the Delta variant is a very real reminder of the serious and potentially deadly nature of the Covid-19 virus. Less than 6 months ago, every hospital in Riverside County was overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases and the death toll in Riverside County was staggering. It is incomprehensible that anyone would believe it was prudent to let down our guard or otherwise fail to protect our children in the face of another surge of the Covid-19 virus. I would also like to express the fact that my children do not mind wearing masks; indeed, wearing a mask makes them feel safer and more comfortable in circumstances where they know they will be coming into contact with individuals outside of their home. I believe the vast majority of children understand the importance of wearing a mask in this unprecedented environment and are willing to tolerate some modest discomfort in exchange for the protection a mask provides to the community.

In closing, I would like to register my unqualified support and advocacy for a mask requirement of all persons inside buildings where children are present regardless of vaccination status.

Sincerely,

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: _____

Date: 7/19/2021 4:48:25 PM

Subject: Re: Proposed RUSD Resolution on Masking

Thank you _____, for your thoughtful input. I share your concerns and I am fully supportive of our district adhering to safety guidelines from California Public Health Department.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2021, at 4:20 PM,

wrote:

I have just read a copy of the proposed RUSD resolution on masking of students and staff. Frankly, I am appalled that the following verbiage is in the resolution. We are now in the middle of July, yet the resolution used data from the middle of June. We all know that cases are again on the rise due to the Delta variant being highly transmittable. We both know that Los Angeles recently reinstated the mask mandate for all indoor activities. Are we trying to pretend that there is no surge going on in Riverside?

While it is **generally** true that young children don't suffer greatly should they contract Covid, you can't ignore the fact that should they contract the disease they can pass it on to adults, being vectors for the disease.

Also note the there have been increasing incidents of vaccinated people contracting Covid so that vaccination does not shield one 100%.

WHEREAS, the 7-day average COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 residents in Riverside County has decreased from a high of 153.7 on January 8, 2021 to a level of 1.7 on June 24, 2021; and WHEREAS, the number of patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in Riverside County has decreased from a high of 1,692 on January 14, 2021 to 55 on June 24, 2021; and

From: Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>

To: -

Date: 7/15/2021 8:59:21 AM

Subject: Re: Mask in school

Thank you for sharing your thoughtful concerns as a parent. I absolutely agree that the safety of our students and staff are the top priority. Wishing your family well.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 15, 2021, at 7:58 AM, wrote:
>
>
> Dear School Board Members,
>
> I am writing as a concerned parent of two children starting the 6th and 4th grades.
>
> We are all excited about the return to school in early August, but the thought that my unvaccinated children will be going into the classroom without masks is terrifying.
>
> I know there's a subset of very loud, angry parents who are demanding a return to school without masks. But let me assure you, there is a large subset of more calm, rational parents who have no desire of having their children return to school without any protection from covid-19 or the increasingly worrisome Delta variant.
>
> Your task is to keep our children safe as they seek an education. I am asking you to please take this to heart. Wearing a mask is neither onerous nor difficult, but it does keep our children safe. Please base your decisions on science and common sense.
>
>
> Thank you,
>
>
>
>
>

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To: [REDACTED]

Date: 7/14/2021 6:48:54 PM

Subject: Re: return to school mask mandate

Thank you [REDACTED], for sharing your concerns as a parent. Safety of our students and employees is absolutely the top priority. Wishing your family well.

Best wishes,

Angelo

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 14, 2021, at 6:37 PM

[REDACTED] wrote:

>

>

> Dear RUSD Board Members,

>

> Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure a safe and meaningful upcoming school year for our students! I am the mother of an incoming 5th grader and 2nd grader at Castle View Elementary. We have selected the in-person model and are looking forward to having them attend in person this year. My children are not old enough to be vaccinated so they are still at risk of contracting Covid-19, especially with the rise of the Delta variant amongst unvaccinated people.

>

> I am writing to urge you to follow the CDC Guidelines for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 schools. These guidelines suggest that we should continue with the modifications we took in the previous school year to maintain space between students, ensure adequate airflow, and to require that masks are worn by all unvaccinated people. I know that some schools are considering making mask wearing optional in classrooms this fall. I urge you to instead follow the clear guidance of the CDC which states: "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 or older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained." The data are very clear on this: mandatory mask use for all children is the best tool that we have to keep our children safe until they can be vaccinated. Furthermore, mandatory mask wearing will prevent our children from experiencing another interrupted school year as children, classrooms, schools, or the whole district will be forced to return to a virtual model if we experience further outbreaks.

>

> Thank you for considering the health and safety of our entire community as you plan for the upcoming school year!

>

> Sincerely,

>

>

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 7/13/2021 4:09:15 PM

Subject: Re: Draft Resolution on Masks

Thank you for the thoughtful message . Health and safety is absolutely the top priority for our students.

Best wishes,

Angelo

On Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 4:00 PM , wrote:

Dear RUSD Board Members and Superintendent:

It was just brought to my notice that the RUSD Board will be considering a draft resolution to request the state to remove the face covering requirement. I wanted to let you know that I do not support it. With the increase in the Delta variant, cases in neighboring counties increasing, and most of the young children in our schools not even eligible for vaccination, wearing a mask indoors when with 30+ other people, has a very small cost with a potentially huge benefit. The most vocal members do not necessarily represent the views of the majority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 5/31/2021 3:51:47 PM

Subject: Re: Neighbors Better Together invite - May 23rd

Hello,

I hope you are having a wonderful Memorial Day weekend and it was a pleasure to participate in the Neighbors Better Together discussion. I was traveling out of town most of last week so I am just following up on emails now.

Here is the information that staff shared with me and I can connect you with them directly if it would still be helpful to get more details (please keep in mind that the State had indicated the June 15th timeframe to revisit covid restrictions so all of this is very temporary):

My understanding from conversations and interactions with the Riverside County Department of Public Health is that "low-contact activities" and "low-contact sports" follow the same public health guidelines, although there is clarification on the "Activities" vs "Sports". Sports being allowed to "compete" in a game, be tested prior to a game and have just family members attend the game (no spectators).

As to why band is not able to take similar testing, *CDPH does not specify a requirement for testing in order for students to participate in band.*

Here is the Band COVID Guideline language:

From CDPH K-12 School Reopening Framework and Guidance Q&A:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Schools-FAQ.aspx>

Does this guidance allow for singing or playing instruments?

Yes, singing and band practice are permitted, however outdoors only, provided that precautions such as physical distancing and mask wearing are implemented to the maximum extent possible. Playing of wind instruments (any instrument played by the mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet) is strongly discouraged. School officials, staff, parents, and students should be aware of the increased likelihood for transmission from exhaled droplets during singing and band practice, and physical distancing beyond 6 feet is strongly recommended for any of these activities.

From CDPH Youth Sports Q&A:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx>

- **Updated March 22, 2021 to clarify that band, drumline, choir and drama are low-contact activities**

Are band, drumline, choir and drama approved as youth recreational activities that can be conducted now?

Yes, band, drumline, choir and drama are considered low contact youth recreational activities, and should follow all relevant requirements and recommendations.

Is anyone allowed to watch youth or recreational adult sports?

Updated guidance on spectators for youth and adult recreational sports is being developed.

Limitations on Observers

- Consider video streaming of games so that they can be watched "live" from home.
- For all youth and adult outdoor sports, spectators and observers are permitted pursuant to [Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances](#). Spectators and observers for indoor sports is limited to observation of youth sports (age 18 years and under), and is further limited to immediate household members for the strict purpose of age appropriate supervision. This prohibition shall remain in effect until such time as Indoor Seated Live Events and Performance Guidance is posted and becomes effective.

Why are indoor sports restricted more than outdoor sports?

Outdoor activities are lower risk than indoor activities, as study after study has confirmed. Additionally, a number of outbreaks in California and across the nation have been specifically linked to high-contact sports conducted indoors, such as basketball and wrestling. For example, an outbreak in California was tied to a youth basketball tournament in November, with another large outbreak across three counties in December tied to a basketball program for middle and high school aged players.

From Youth Sports Guidelines: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx>

Low-Contact Sports

Individual or small group sports where contact within six feet of other participants can be avoided. Some of these sports have relatively low exertion rates that allow for consistent wearing of face coverings when within six feet of other people.

It should be noted that local health departments and school districts may have

General Requirements for All Sports:

Irrespective of setting (outdoor or indoor) case rate or sport played, the following general guidance requirements must be adhered to at all times:

- Face coverings to be worn when not participating in the activity (e.g., on the sidelines).
- Face coverings to be worn by coaches, support staff and **observers** at all times, and in compliance with the CDPH [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#).
- Observers maintain at least 6 feet from non-household members.
- No sharing of drink bottles and other personal items and equipment.
- Mixing with other households prior to and post any practice or competition must strictly adhere to current gathering guidance.
- Limit indoor sports activities (practice, conditioning) to comply with capacity limits (which shall include all athletes, coaches, and observers) indicated in current CDPH [Gym & Fitness Center Guidance Capacity](#).
- Associated indoor activities for the team (e.g., dinners, film study) are prohibited if engaged in competition given evidence that transmission is more likely to occur in these indoor higher risk settings.
- Teams must not participate in out-of-state games and tournaments; several multistate outbreaks have been reported around the nation, including California residents.
- Face coverings worn by participants during practice, conditioning and during competition, even during heavy exertion as tolerated. See the [American Academy of Pediatrics Interim Guidance on Return to Sports \[1\]](#) for specific exceptions where the face covering may become a hazard.

Testing

- Regular periodic COVID-19 testing of athletes and support staff must be established and implemented prior to return to practice (other than the “[p]hysical conditioning, practice, skill-building, and training that can be conducted outdoors, with 6 feet of physical distancing, and within stable cohorts” that is currently authorized in all tiers).
 - This includes baseline testing and ongoing screening testing. Based on current evidence and standards, both daily antigen testing and periodic PCR testing are acceptable testing methods for both baseline and ongoing screening testing.
 - If following a daily antigen testing protocol, the protocol must begin with a PCR test followed by daily antigen testing. Any positive antigen test must trigger a PCR test for confirmation. PCR testing is required for symptomatic athletes and staff and should be conducted within 24 hours of symptoms being reported.
- For high-risk contact sports (basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rugby, soccer, squash, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling), competition between teams is permitted only if the team can provide COVID-19 testing and results of all athletes and support staff within 48 hours of each competition.
- Testing is required for some sports and strongly encouraged for others. Because

- unmasked, with close, face-to-face contact exceeding 15 minutes, weekly testing is required for all participants age 13 and over and coaches in counties with a case rate between 7 and 14 per 100,000. For competition, test results must be made available within 24 hours of play. Outdoor moderate-contact sports, such as baseball, cheerleading and softball, can be played in these counties without the testing requirement.

Additional general guidance that should be implemented to the greatest extent possible and are strongly encouraged

- Face Coverings (during play)
- Physical Distancing (during play)
- Testing – antigen or PCR
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Limitations on mixing by participants
- Travel Considerations

On Fri, May 7, 2021 at 11:38 AM
Trustee Farooq,

note:

On behalf of [redacted], we cordially invite you to our May 23rd virtual meeting. You would be scheduled for 45 minutes beginning either at 9:30am or 10:15am (your preference). Format would be 5-10 minutes for introductions before three, 15-20 minute roundtable discussions, on 1) RUSD return-to-school plans, 2) Measure O, and 3) a topic of your choice. **Please RSVP if you can make it and call me if you have any questions.**

[redacted] is an association of representatives from many of Riverside's community groups, which strives create networked conversations between a wide spectrum of Riverside residents, public servants and other community stakeholders, with the goal of promoting fact-based decision-making towards government policies, projects, and programs on local issues that impact our shared goals for Riverside.

We believe adding residents' perspectives early on in the local governmental decision-making process, and engaging residents earnestly throughout, leads to better long-term outcomes for all of Riverside.

[redacted] is the community organization committed to leveraging the wealth of knowledge within Riverside's independent neighborhood groups and leaders to inform, advocate for, and achieve positive outcomes for Riverside's residents.

We hope you can join us on the 23rd; if not, then perhaps at an upcoming future meeting.

Sincerely,

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [David Hansen <dchansen@riversideunified.org>](mailto:dchansen@riversideunified.org)
Date: 3/4/2021 10:57:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: Physical distance
Attachments: Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf
ATT00002.bin

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: .
Date: March 4, 2021 at 10:57:06 PM PST
To: afarooq@riversideunified.org, blee@riversideunified.org, dkinnear@riversideunified.org, kallavie@riversideunified.org, thunt@riversideunified.org
Subject: Physical distance

Based on what was discussed during the meeting, this states that 4ft can be acceptable and adding the plastic shields helps. It also suggest using outdoor spaces and non classroom spaces. These were all dismissed by the board and staff during the meeting. Please address pages 23-25.

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf?](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

[TSPD_101_R01-087ed344cfab2000840f253c4de0d63e6ca295efc3297eb238dd829f10c7f75ac86c2882b580952808e1a2107d14300036e0f9e5377e687374530c01a3a535f8201a5830b2ab76e3d8d56b7ed79fd64c224e665f9982112816a07e741cb97567](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf?TSPD_101_R01-087ed344cfab2000840f253c4de0d63e6ca295efc3297eb238dd829f10c7f75ac86c2882b580952808e1a2107d14300036e0f9e5377e687374530c01a3a535f8201a5830b2ab76e3d8d56b7ed79fd64c224e665f9982112816a07e741cb97567)

From: [Angelov Farooq <afarooq@riversideunified.org>](mailto:afarooq@riversideunified.org)
To: [David Hansen <dchansen@riversideunified.org>](mailto:dchansen@riversideunified.org)
Date: 10/20/2020 8:51:51 AM
Subject: Fwd: Reopening of our schools
Attachments: Letter to the Board Oct 20.docx
ATT00002.bin

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: October 20, 2020 at 8:51:10 AM PST
To: kallavie@riversideunified.org
Subject: Reopening of our schools

Forwarded by the free evaluation copy of Outlook Viewer

From: [Anazele Gonzalez <anagonzalez@riversideunified.org>](mailto:anagonzalez@riversideunified.org)
To: [Samir Arreola <sarreola@riversideunified.org>](mailto:sarreola@riversideunified.org)
Date: 1/4/2022 8:14:17 AM
Subject: Fwd: In person meetings between 1/4/22 through 1/21/22

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Timothy Walker** <twalker@riversideunified.org>
Date: Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 8:18 PM
Subject: In person meetings between 1/4/22 through 1/21/22
To: _Managers & Confidential Group <managersconfidentialgrp@riversideunified.org>
Cc: Renee Hill <rhill@riversideunified.org>, _Cabinet: <cabinet@riversideunified.org>

January 3, 2022

Dear Leadership Team

I hope that this message finds you in good health and spirits!

As you are aware, the rising risk of COVID-19 infection amid the Omicron variant surge is setting a more urgent precedent to preserve the classroom setting and learning environment for our students

In an abundance of caution, we are asking that you use discretion when holding in person meetings whenever possible to limit any exposure to individuals.

Therefore, all meetings with 10 or more RUSD staff should take place virtually through January 21, 2022.

I cannot understate the need for all of us to continue to adhere to the current health and safety precautions. Together, we can continue to ensure that our staff are healthy to serve our 40,000 students in our schools.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Tim

From: [Anazele Gonzalez <anagonzalez@riversideunified.org>](mailto:anagonzalez@riversideunified.org)

To:

Date: 1/5/2021 1:58:23 PM

Subject: Fwd: CASH Alert: Federal and State School Reopening Programs

Do we qualify for any money for repairs?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: C. < >

Date: Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 1:15 PM

Subject: CASH Alert: Federal and State School Reopening Programs

To: <ssanmartin@rusd.k12.ca.us>



CALIFORNIA'S
COALITION
for ADEQUATE
SCHOOL HOUSINGSM

CASH Alert: Federal and State School Reopening Programs

Federal COVID-19 Stimulus

The following is an update on federal and state legislation effecting the reopening of schools. This bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President. The following is a summary of the highlights of the education section of the bill, as well as language in the Labor/HHS Appropriation bill that allows funding to be used to maintain and upgrade school HVAC systems.

- \$81.9 billion total funds for Education Relief Funds similar to CARES Act Funds (the CARES Act provided a total of \$30.75 billion of these funds).
- \$4.1 billion for the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund, with \$2.75 billion of that set aside for private K-12 schools to be allocated based on the percentage of low-income students attending private schools (the bipartisan bill included a larger allocation for governors with a smaller private school set aside). There is a long description of what private schools can use the funds for and what they may not be used for, including vouchers and tuition tax credit programs.
- \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, with the funds able to be used to support teaching, supplies, services, cleaning, and school facility repairs necessary to support student health as allowable use.
- \$819 million for outlying areas and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill – Indoor Air Quality/HVAC

- Includes the following provision that allows funding to be used for "(13) School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards and to support student health needs. (14) Inspecting, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation and air cooling, filtering,

Governor Newsom's California Safe Schools for All Plan

Governor Newsom has released a summary of his Safe Schools for All plan, which is a \$2 billion incentive grant program intended to provide resources to schools to reopen in person. The Governor's proposed State Budget, which will be released on Friday, may contain further details to address the many unanswered questions. The program is set to begin on February 15th, so development and Legislative approval of the program are on the fast track. Qualifying districts must submit a COVID-19 safety plan that has the approval of their school employee unions, and meets the new Cal/OSHA regulations, to their county office of education.

The name notwithstanding, only school districts located in counties with a COVID-19 transmission rate below 28 per 100,000 residents are eligible to participate in the program. At present, this means only 11 of California's 58 counties are included. This transmission rate cutoff means some Purple Tier counties qualify and some do not. *Not* included are the state's most populous counties and COVID-19 hotspots, such as Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Joaquin.

The following is a summary of the proposal:

1. Funding: The Budget will propose for immediate action in January, \$2 billion for the safe reopening of schools beginning in February, with a priority for returning the youngest children (TK-2nd grade) and those who are most disproportionately impacted first, then returning 3rd through 6th grade to in-person instruction through the spring. The program would provide a one-time grant of \$450 per student to participating school districts, and an additional amount as much as \$250 per student who are low-income, homeless, English learners or foster youth.

2. Safety & Mitigation: To further ensure health and safety in the classroom, the Administration will focus on implementation of key measures, including testing, PPE, contact tracing, and vaccinations.

- **Testing:** School districts would be required to "support" frequent (ostensibly every two weeks) COVID-19 testing for all school staff and students, including weekly testing at schools in communities with higher rates of transmission. There are many logistical questions but it appears that the program relies on health insurance providers to test employees, and for LEAs to conduct their own testing operations for students. The plan does not address how LEAs are meant to acquire HIPAA-protected testing results from employees, or what LEAs are meant to do if families decline to have their students tested. Any interested LEAs will be on-boarded to the state-owned Valencia Branch Lab for analysis of PCR tests at one-third the market rate, and the State will establish a hotline to help schools implement testing.
- **PPE:** All staff and students in schools are required to wear masks. Furthermore, surgical masks will be recommended for school staff, and the State will distribute millions of surgical masks to schools at no cost. The Administration has also enabled schools to leverage state-negotiated master contracts for PPE to reduce costs and streamline supply chains.
- **Contact Tracing:** Schools will continue to be on-boarded onto the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT) to improve collaboration between school and health officials, and members of the state contact tracing workforce will be deployed to improve communication with schools.
- **Vaccinations:** School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021.

3. Oversight & Assistance: Dr. Naomi Bardach, a UCSF pediatrician and expert on COVID-19 transmission in schools, will lead the Safe Schools for All Team, a cross-agency team composed of dedicated staff from CDPH, Cal/OSHA, and educational agencies. The Team will provide hands-on support to help schools develop and implement their COVID-19 Safety Plans. These supports include school visits and walk-throughs as warranted, webinars and training materials, and ongoing technical assistance.

4. Transparency & Accountability: A state dashboard will enable all Californians to see their school's reopening status, level of available funding, and data on in-school transmissions. Additionally, a web-based "hotline" will empower school staff and parents to report concerns to the Safe Schools for All Team, which will lead to escalating levels of intervention, starting with technical assistance and ending with legal enforcement.

President Elect Biden's COVID-19 Relief Proposal

While President Elect Biden's COVID-19 relief proposal is under development, it is expected to recognize

equipment and cleaning services.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CASH



Coalition for Adequate School Housing | 1303 J Street, Suite 520, Sacramento, CA 95814

[Unsubscribe](#) ssanmartin@rusd.k12.ca.us

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Sent by ccarter@m-w-h.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

From: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>
To: _____
Date: 8/9/21 11:32:42 AM
Subject: Re: Fears as more children falling ill in latest US Covid surge and school approaches

Hello
RUSD has been consistent since the pandemic began in following the state, CDPH, and local public health agencies to keep our students and staff safe. I believe we have and continue to show leadership in this regard. This includes our Board of Education meetings. Per current CDPH and state guidelines those who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, those that aren't should be wearing a mask. I do appreciate your email and sharing your concern.
-Brent

On Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:32 AM, "Brent Lee" <blee@riversideunified.org> wrote:

quoting the California of Health Director says- "This is not a political statement or an invasion of personal freedoms. This is a life-saving medical device. And asking kids to wear a mask is not a political statement, but, you know, kids are pretty resilient. We know that kids under 12 are likely to get sick and if we don't have masks in schools, this virus will spread more widely."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/08/us-children-covid-delta-latest-surge>

BREAKING NEWS: According to Gov. John Bel Edwards, more than 6,000 Louisiana children now have COVID-19. This is an increase of more than 3,000 cases in just four days.

RUSD needs to stop trying to placate the the anti-maskers and take this seriously. Take a stand and show some backbone, show some leadership.

And by the way, why do you allow your meetings to be super spreader events? No masks, no social distancing, people yelling.

From: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>

To: _____

Date: MON, 9/13/21 11:15:31 AM

Subject: RE: SUPPORT for continued masking in RUSD schools

Thank you for your message. First and foremost our duty as a board is to keep our students safe. We will continue to do our best to ensure you, I hope your family has a safe and wonderful start to the school year.

On Friday, September 10, 2021 at 9:31 AM

_____ wrote:

As a parent of a 1st grade SD student (Longfellow Elementary), I am writing to share that I SUPPORT the state's guidance regarding masking in schools and other COVID-related safety precautions, and I urge you to continue to do the same with our students in line with state and local public health departments.

With the increase in COVID cases due to the spread of the Delta variant, the relatively low rate of vaccination in our area, and the number of children being affected by COVID, and the inability for children younger than 12 to be vaccinated, it is imperative that our schools continue to take reasonable and effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID. Wearing masks is one such measure. Indeed, the only reason why I am sending my child to school is because the state has continued to require masking and other preventative measures.

Thank you for continuing to support the health and well-being of all students, teachers, staff, and community.

Brent Lee
Trustee, Board of Education | Riverside Unified School District
831 333-1100

From: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>
To: [redacted]
Date: 2021-09-02 3:03:38 PM
Subject: Masks in Schools

Thank you

-Brent

On 9/2/21, 3:03 PM, Brent Lee wrote:

wrote:

Thank you for

Thank you for your service and for taking the time to read this email. I'm a parent of three children and a member of the board of trustees in RUSD and I am advocating for the board of trustees to continue to require Covid-19 masks for all children and adults including masks for all children and adults when inside buildings regardless of vaccination status. The current surge associated with the Delta variant is a very real reminder of the serious and unpredictable nature of the Covid-19 virus. Less than 6 months ago, every hospital in Riverside County was overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases and the death toll in Riverside County was staggering. It is unimaginable that anyone would believe it was prudent to let down our guard or otherwise fail to protect ourselves from the possibility of another surge of the Covid-19 virus. I would also like to express the fact that my children are more willing to wear masks. Indeed, wearing a mask makes them feel safer and more comfortable when they know they will be coming into contact with individuals outside of their home. I would like to encourage all children to understand the importance of wearing a mask in this unprecedented time and to be willing to tolerate some modest discomfort in exchange for the protection a mask provides. I would like to reiterate my unqualified support and advocacy for a mask requirement of all children in schools where children are present regardless of vaccination status.

Brent Lee
Trustee
Riverside Unified School District

From: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>

To:

Date: 10/11/21 1:30:31 PM

Subject: RE: Return to school mask mandate

Thank you for your email.
-Brent

On 10/11/21 1:30:31 PM, "Brent Lee" wrote:
To: "Members,"

wrote:

I am glad that you are going to ensure a safe and meaningful upcoming school year for our students, and the mother of an incoming 5th grader and 2nd grader at Castle View Elementary. We support the in-person model and are looking forward to having them attend in person. My children are not old enough to be vaccinated so they are still at risk of contracting COVID-19 with the rise of the Delta variant amongst unvaccinated people.

We would like to continue to follow the CDC Guidelines for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 schools. We would like to suggest that we should continue with the modifications we took in the previous school year: maintain space between students, ensure adequate airflow, and to require that all unvaccinated people, I know that some schools are considering making masks optional in classrooms this fall. I urge you to instead follow the clear guidance of the CDC: face masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 or older) who are in public settings and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is essential. The CDC is consistent and correct: mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is essential in public and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. The CDC are very clear on this: mandatory mask use for all children is the best tool to keep our children safe until they can be vaccinated. Furthermore, mandatory mask use is essential to our children from experiencing another interrupted school year as we have seen in schools, or the whole district will be forced to return to a virtual model if we do not do this.

We are committed to the health and safety of our entire community as you plan for the upcoming school year.

Thank you!

From: Brent Lee <blee@riversideunified.org>

To:

Date: 08/27/21 11:27:13 PM

Subject: Return to school

Thank you for your email. Per the state guidelines our students will be wearing masks when they return to school. We will be consistent about following the rules during the pandemic. -Brent

On 8/27/21 7:58 AM

wrote:

Dear Parents and Members

I am a concerned parent of two children starting the 6th and 4th grades.

I have been thinking about the return to school in early August, but the thought that my children will be going into the classroom without masks is terrifying.

I am not talking about a subset of very loud, angry parents who are demanding a return to school without any protection. I am talking about a large subset of more calm, rational parents who have no choice but to have their children return to school without any protection from covid-19 or the spread of the new Delta variant.

I want to keep our children safe as they seek an education. I am asking you to please take the time to consider a mask is neither onerous nor difficult, but it does keep our children safe. Thank you for your time and common sense.

Brent Lee
Teacher
Riverside Unified School District

