

Masks are Unnecessary



Masks-for-all for COVID-19 not based on sound data¹

#SHOWMETHESCIENCE

Source: 1. Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy,
<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>



Fear and Politics are Subverting Science and Reason

Public health officials and the media have been warning us that the coronavirus can be fatal not just for old or immuno-compromised people but young people as well. The data shows this is extremely rare.

Death rate data from the CDC: COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios

Table 1. Parameter Values that vary among the five COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios.

| Age Group | sCFR | ICFR | "Survival" |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| 0-19 years: 0.00003 = 3 per 100,000 = | 0.003% | 0.00195% | 99.99815% |
| 20-49 years: 0.0002 = 2 per 10,000 = | 0.02% | 0.012% | 99.988% |
| 50-69 years: 0.005 = 5 per 1,000 = | 0.5% | 0.3% | 99.7% |
| 70+ years: 0.054 = 54 per 1,000 = | 5.4% | 3.24% | 96.76% |

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

While coronavirus is obviously concerning and a very real threat to some people (the elderly and immuno-compromised), the data also shows that the risk for the rest of the population is extraordinarily low.

MASKS ARE UNNECESSARY: NUMBERS DON'T LIE

Based on studies done by Professor John PA Ioannidis of Stanford University, we know that we are dealing with a virus that has an infection fatality rate (IFR) of 0.05 in persons 70 years old and under (range: 0.00% to 0.57% with a median of 0.05% across the different global locations; with a corrected median of 0.04%). This compares quite well to the IFR of most influenza viruses (and even lower), and yet the draconian and massive reactions to SARS- CoV-2 have never been employed during influenza season.

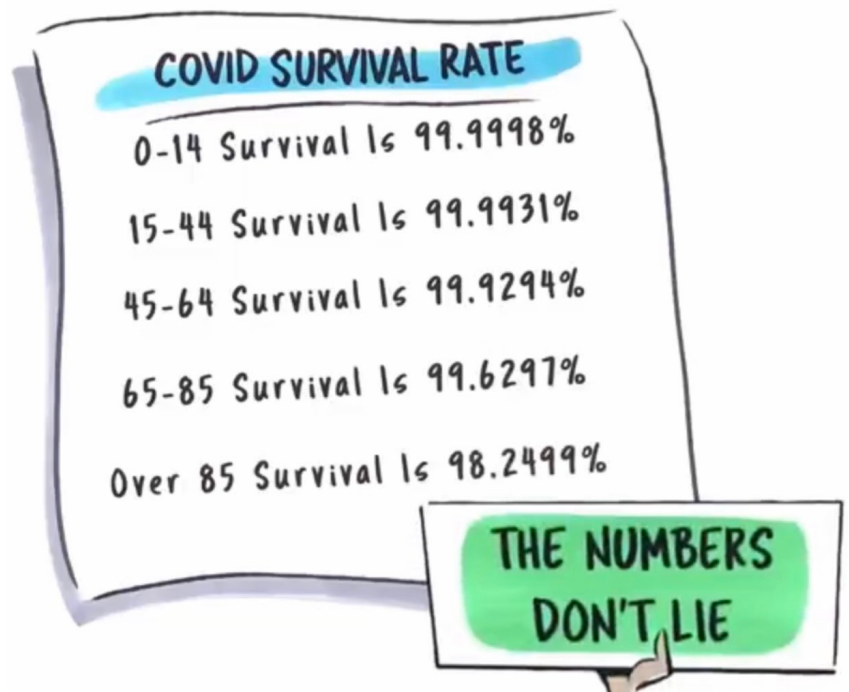
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.13.20101253v3>

Data now suggests (even though still nascent) that children not only have extremely low risk (as mentioned above) but also that they naturally have the capability of evading the SARS-CoV-2 virus due to the lack of the ACE-2 receptors in their nostrils. It escapes us as to why this deceit continues to be served to the public and has not been stopped forthwith.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03496-7>

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2766522>

The risk of CoVID-19 in children is so low that any imagined benefits cannot possibly outweigh the risks. Based on CDC data, the risk of children between the ages of zero and 19 years of age dying from CoVID-19 is an incredibly low risk of 0.00195%. This rate is much lower than the risk of children dying from influenza.



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Children do not readily acquire SARS-CoV-2 (very low risk), spread it to other children or teachers, or endanger parents or others at home. This is the settled science. In the rare cases where a child contracts Covid virus it is very unusual for the child to get severely ill or die. Masking can do positive harm to children – as it can to some adults. ... Whatever arguments there may be for consenting adults – children should not be required to wear masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Of course, zero risk is not attainable – with or without masks, vaccines, therapeutics, distancing or anything else medicine may develop or government agencies may impose.

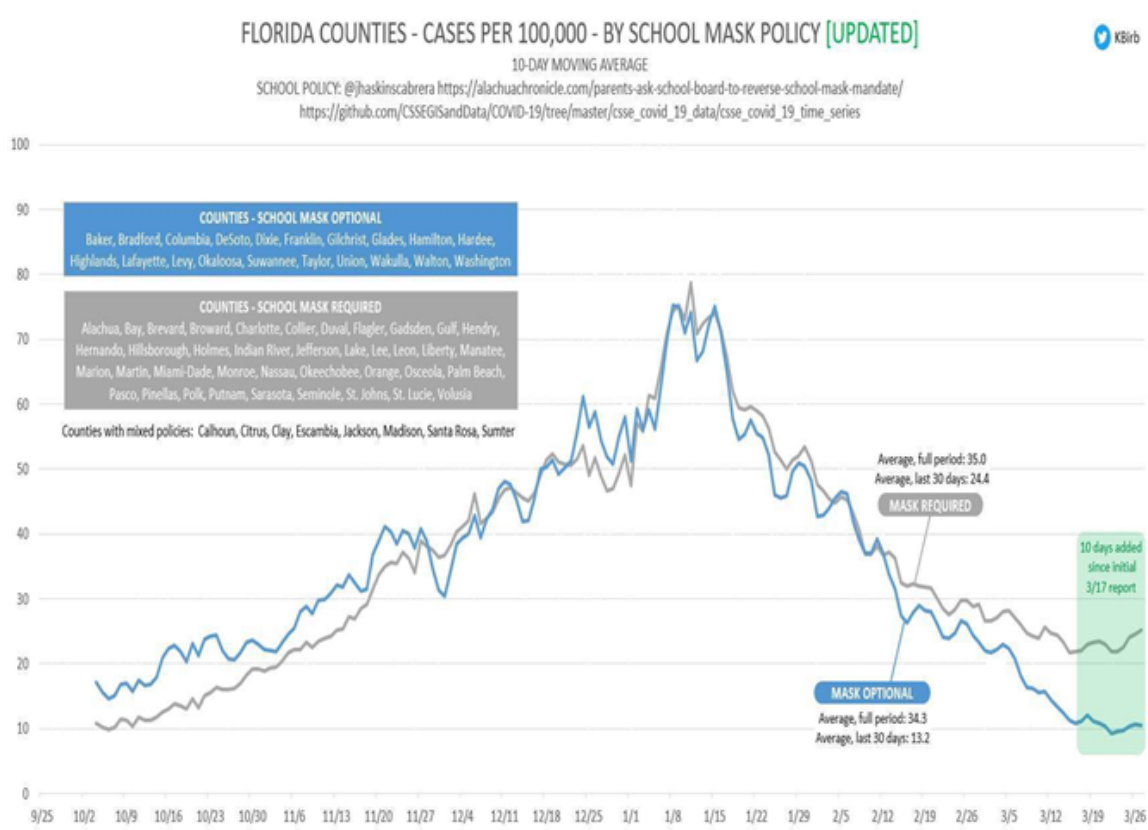
<https://www.aier.org/article/masking-children-tragic-unscientific-and-damaging/>

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Forcing masks on children can weaken their immune system. Exposure to nature, benign viruses and germs helps build a robust immune system. If they lack exposure to these microbes, it can and will lead to overwhelming and serious consequences to their health due to having a weak defense against a minor illness. We might be setting our children up for future disaster when they emerge from societal restrictions fully with no masks to then be at the mercy of normally benign opportunistic infections with a now weakened immune system. This cannot be disregarded as we consider the consequences of our actions today in this pandemic and the questionable lockdowns, school closures, and mask policies.

MASKING CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS IS UNNECESSARY

School and daycare transmission studies show that transmission of Covid-19 among unmasked children is remarkably low.



There is a large amount of evidence that children do not play a significant role in the transmission of COVID-19, in school or elsewhere. It was also noted that this apparent fact has been misused as an argument for the effectiveness of masks in stopping transmission. If children don't really spread COVID, but you put masks on them, they still won't spread COVID. But masks will look like they work—so long as you forget to ask whether children spread COVID in the first place.

MASKING CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS IS UNNECESSARY

German study finds low Covid-19 infection rate in schools. Tests of pupils and teachers in Saxony suggest children may act as brake on infection. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-schools/german-study-shows-low-coronavirus-infection-rate-in-schools-idUSKCN24EIR1>

“Of the almost 2,000 samples, only 12 had antibodies,” said Reinhard Berner, a professor of pediatrics at the hospital. In other words, in Saxony’s open and unmasked schools 0.6% of school children demonstrated SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. All cases were asymptomatic. There were no fatalities.

Sweden and Finland: 0.05% of children infected by Covid-19

Sweden kept schools open and unmasked during the pandemic, yet their decision to adhere to the science and do what has always been done before, did not lead to a higher rate of infection among their children compared to neighboring Finland, where schools were closed temporarily.

Based on Covid-19 case data collected from each country during the time period, Feb. 24 to June 14, the percentage of children between the ages of 1-19 infected by Covid-19 was the same:

- Sweden: 1,124 cases 0.05%
- Finland: 584 cases 0.05%

Separate studies by Sweden’s Karolinska Institutet (KI), an independent medical research institute, and the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children and Unicef, showed that Swedish children fared better than children in other countries during the pandemic, both in terms of education and mental health.

COVID-19: Guidance for School Reopening, Division of Infectious Diseases, The Hospital for Sick Children (“Sick Kids”), University of Toronto, Canada. [https://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School Reopening-SickKids.pdf](https://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf)

- The use of [Non-Medical Masks (“NMMs”)] in the school setting should be driven by local epidemiology with age-specific considerations.
- When transmission in the community is low, the use of NMMs throughout the entire school day should not be mandatory for elementary, middle or high school students returning to school.
- Safe masking practices (e.g. proper wearing/storage/removal) should be reinforced with educational materials provided to parents, students and teachers.
- Given the current epidemiology, the use of NMMs is not recommended for elementary school students.

A Covid-19 cross-country study by the University of East Anglia in England found that a mask requirement was of no benefit and could even increase the risk of infection.

- Hunter, et al., Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions against COVID- 9 in Europe: a quasi-experimental study, May 6, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.01.20088260>
- “We found that closure of education facilities, prohibiting mass gatherings and closure of some non-essential businesses were associated with reduced incidence whereas stay at home orders, closure of all non-businesses and requiring the wearing of face masks or coverings in public was not associated with any independent additional impact.”

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“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul,” “than the way in which it treats its children.”

-Nelson Mandela

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"By that standard, our society now has the soul of an abusive parent. The pandemic has turned American adults, or at least the ones who make the rules, into selfish neurotics who have been punishing innocent children for over a year—and still can't restrain themselves.

It became clear long ago that the virus is less dangerous to children than the flu, and that keeping schools open poses minimal risk of spreading infections. Yet despite this evidence—and despite the widespread availability of vaccines to teachers and other adults—many schools have yet to reopen full-time, and others are still making students as miserable as possible."

https://www.city-journal.org/masking-children-unnecessary-and-harmful?wallit_nosession=1

"The science is clear and thus the question becomes, what is the benefit of masks for children? Is masking of children really more about seeming to be doing something even if it is ineffective or possibly harmful? If the possible harms outweigh the negligible and questionable benefit in such a low-risk group, then why must they wear masks indoors and outdoors at school? Masks in children with such near zero risk of transmission and illness from Covid is not necessary and illogical and irrational. This is similar to the need for vaccination of children, especially young children. ... A move to vaccinate children based on the existing risk evidence has no basis in science and there is no net benefit. "

<https://www.aier.org/article/masking-children-tragic-unscientific-and-damaging/>

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SUMMARY

The facts show that the negligible and questionable benefit in such a low-risk group does not justify mandatory masking.

- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among children in schools and daycares is very rare.
- Masks worn properly are well documented to cause harm to their wearers. Masks worn improperly, re-used, or contaminated are dangerous.
- The majority of the population is at very low to almost no risk of severe or lethal disease from CoVID-19. Children are at an extraordinarily low risk of dying from CoVID-19. Based on CDC published data, 99.99815% of children that contract CoVID-19 survive.
- Any reasonable risk to benefit analysis of medical masks concludes that the risks overwhelmingly outweigh the benefits.
- Those arguing for masks are relying on low-level evidence (observational retrospective trials and mechanistic theories), none of which are powered to counter the evidence, arguments, and risks of mask mandates.
- Children are at imminent risk of harm from mask mandates.
- Decades of the highest-level scientific evidence (meta-analyses of multiple randomized controlled trials) overwhelmingly conclude that medical masks are ineffective at preventing the transmission of respiratory viruses, including SAR-CoV-2.