

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF YUBA**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE)
RETURN OF GOVERNING POWER)
FOR SCHOOL COVID SAFETY)
PROTOCOLS TO LOCAL SCHOOL)
DISTRICTS)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-129

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) announced that as of June 15, 2021, masks would be required for all individuals in indoor K-12 school settings, pending updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”); and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF both state that children 5 years and under should not be required to wear masks, and advise that decisions whether to impose a masks requirement upon children ages 6-11 should be made based on several factors, including the impact of wearing a mask on a child’s psychosocial development; and

WHEREAS, the WHO also recommends against children wearing masks during exercise or play, as it recognizes that masks can be harmful because they compromise a child’s ability to breathe; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that wearing masks over a prolonged period of time may result in physiological or psychological effects for certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, there is no conclusive evidence that children are more likely than adults to transmit COVID-19;

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that children are less likely to get symptomatic COVID-19 than adults; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies and the CDC confirm that children are at a low risk of severe disease, long-term side effects, and death from COVID-19, with a mortality risk substantially less than from influenza or common activities such as riding in a car or swimming; and

WHEREAS, teachers are no more likely to be hospitalized due to Covid-19 than other occupations or the public as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the ability to see, appreciate, and communicate through facial expressions is crucial to a child's social development, mental health, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, compared with 2019, the proportion of mental health reported by the United States Centers for Disease Control beginning in April 2020-related visits for children aged 5-11 and 12-17 years increased approximately 24% and 31%, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in Yuba County, persons 0-17 years old account for ZERO total deaths due to Covid- 19, and only approximately 15.86% of all Covid-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the majority of adults and children over 12 years old-including those at high risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19- have had ample opportunity to get vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, many highly credentialed, well-respected medical professionals have recently and publicly advocated for the universal elimination of mask mandates for children;

WHEREAS, the Local Health Emergency Declaration (Resolution 2020-023) was lifted in Yuba County by the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 2021

WHEREAS, local School Districts and parents are in the best position to determine the need for safety measures to protect students and faculty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yuba County Board of Supervisors hereby advocates for Parental Choice for masking and vaccinating their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yuba County Board of Supervisors supports and affirms that the decision-making authority regarding school safety protocols, including masking requirements, resides with the local school districts themselves who are best suited to understand and respond to the needs of the children and families in their care as informed by local experts and data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yuba County Board of Supervisors demands the state follow through with the promise to empower local governments. In 2020, Governor Newsom said he would empower local governments as they are the experts in their jurisdictions and that has not come to fruition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yuba County Board of Supervisors continue their commitment to assisting the local school districts in giving students an opportunity to return to normalcy in the classroom, including optional face coverings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Yuba County Government will seek out the assistance of government agencies directly involved in the decisions regarding safety protocols in California schools, specifically requesting assistance to make masks optional and relinquishing safety protocol decision making power to the school district itself.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yuba, State of California on the 14 day of September, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Vasquez, Blaser, Fuhrer

NOES: Supervisor Bradford

ABSENT: Supervisor Fletcher

ABSTAIN: None



Chair

ATTEST: RACHEL FERRIS
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



MICHAEL J. CICOZZI
YUBA COUNTY COUNSEL
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


