

Dear Legislators,

We have asked our children to sacrifice for long enough. My Kindergartener, while was patient and compliant for the past 2 years, is now asking when he can ditch the mask. People crowd in packed arenas, towns have lifted mask mandates, and vaccines are available if one chooses to get them.

We have reached a point where we need to learn to live with COVID.

We kept our child back from school to avoid being in a new place without seeing faces and he is now a 6.5 year old kindergartener who struggles with expression and speech. I correct him with problems with speech messing up his 'th' sounds and 'fr' sounds because he can not see the movement our mouths make with this. To say our children have not suffered with a mask on is ignorant at best. I can not imagine the impact of not seeing expressions, smiles and speech movement has done.

We can not expect our children to sacrifice for any longer. At what point does the benefit outweigh the risk?

Please allow parents the choice to unmask our children, after all, it is us who know them best, not politicians, school board members or law makers. We are the ones that see everyday what it would mean to unmask our kids.

Thank you for considering this.

Heather Gregan

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