



## GRATTON School District

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[www.grattonschool.net](http://www.grattonschool.net)

July 27, 2021

Dr. Mark Ghaly  
Secretary, State of California Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Naomi Bardach  
Safe Schools for All Team Lead  
California Department of Public Health

Dr. Tomas Aragon  
Director, California State Public Health Officer

California Department of Public Health  
P.O. Box 997377  
MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Re: Masking of Students

Dear Drs. Ghaly, Bardach, and Aragon:

I am writing on behalf of the Gratton School District urging you to revoke the masking mandate requiring that students wear masks while indoors. Following are some of the facts that support this request:

1. The CDC's data shows that if you are less than 20 years old (K through 12 range), you have a 99.997% survival rate. Children have a higher risk of dying from seasonal influenza than from Covid-19 and we have never required the masking of children during influenza season.
2. Masks harbor bacteria and cause children to breathe excessive amounts of carbon dioxide causing a higher rate of anxiety, illness, learning difficulties, depression, and suicidal ideation. Masks also inhibit the connection between children and teachers as facial expressions are hidden from view.
3. Asymptomatic spread is not common as was originally believed.
4. A study published in JAMA shows the risk of Covid-19 spreading from students to teachers is extremely low.

5. All teachers who wish to be vaccinated have had the opportunity to do so.
6. Many studies have demonstrated there is no significant difference in the spread of influenza when masks are used.
7. Data shows that masks did not slow the spread of Covid-19.

We believe children can safely return to school without masks and ask that they be allowed to do so.

Respectfully,



George Tavernas, Board President



Ruth Villarreal, Clerk



Keith Counce, Member



Kristi Johns, Member

Phil Wagner, Member

