

AN OPEN LETTER TO BESE, LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, AND SUPERINTENDENTS:

“There comes a point where a man must refuse to answer to his leader if he is also to answer to his conscience.”

Ann Tusa, The Nuremberg Trial

That time has come. For months, our state’s treasure - our children - have been subjected to the whims of public health agencies. The precautionary principle, the overriding ethic of public health, has been tossed to the wayside to the detriment of the physical and mental wellbeing of our children.

“In an absence of knowledge, governments should not make policies that have a hypothetical potential to cause harm. The government has an onus barrier before it instigates a broad social-engineering intervention, or allows corporations to exploit fear-based sentiments.”

Dennis Rancourt, PhD.

rcreader.com/commentary/masks-dont-work-covid-a-review-of-science-relevant-to-covide-19-social-policy

Before any vote was cast by BESE for the Strong Start 2020 guidelines, evidence was requested regarding the physical and mental SAFETY of long term mask use in children. As no safety testing had ever been conducted in that population, there was simply no information to provide. Despite mounds of evidence that children were minimally affected by SARS-CoV-2 and were not significant vectors of transmission, our children were forced to attend school for up to 8 hours a day in masks.

Evidence continues to contradict the need for the Strong Start 2020 guidelines established by BESE:

Open Schools, Covid-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity in Sweden

“Despite Sweden’s having kept schools and preschools open, we found a low incidence of severe Covid-19 among schoolchildren and children of preschool age during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Among the 1.95 million children who were 1 to 16 years of age, 15 children had Covid-19, MIS-C, or both conditions and were admitted to an ICU, which is equal to 1 child in 130,000.”

“Social distancing was encouraged in Sweden, but wearing face masks was not.”

nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670

More importantly, in regards to the SAFETY of long term mask use in children, the precautionary principle can no longer be ignored. The following study raises serious concern for the physical safety of children forced to wear masks for hours on end:

Need for assessing the inhalation of micro(nano)plastic debris shed from masks, respirators, and home-made face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic

“There seems to be, however, an important piece missing in the suite of standards and volumes of research on inhalable environmental contaminants. None of these standards, including the ASTM standards and NIOSH regulation, which are adopted by the FDA in regulating medical face masks and surgical respirators in the U.S. (FDA, 2020a), regulate respirable debris such as micro(nano)plastics that may be present in these products. In fact, such neglect is not unique to US standards: a review of current ISO standards, EU standards and Chinese standards on masks and respirators found no information pertinent to this particular type of hazard. With these becoming a necessity for many in their daily life and work, **questions must be raised over this apparent regulatory gap concerning their long-term use safety. This is especially important given that there is already a growing body of evidence on the inhalation of micro(nano)plastics and their adverse effects in humans and animals (Prata, 2018).**”

“Whether these plastic debris could cause stress and inflammation in the human respiratory tract and exacerbate vulnerability to viral infection is a further question that warrants investigation.”

“A special note must be given on home-made cloth face coverings. For fabrics repurposed as face masks, as per the current guidelines by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, 2020), debris is likely to be generated from cutting and tearing...Detergent



residues and lint generated from machine laundering and tumble drying may also be present as inhalable contaminants in washed garments.” ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7537728/

The seriousness of this **unknown** cannot be stressed enough. In addition:

“Concern has been expressed that new kinds of nanofibres being made by nanotechnology industries might pose a risk because they have a similar shape to *asbestos*.”

Ken Donaldson, Professor of Respiratory Toxicology ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/nanofibres-220812

An April 1, 2021 article in Ecotextile News, adds to the growing concern:

Exclusive: Chemical cocktail found in face masks

“Initial analytical tests by both of these experts have now thrown into doubt the wisdom of whether people should be wearing certain types of masks for hours on end. Particularly schoolchildren, factory workers and long-haul flyers who may be at a greater risk from the long-term damage to lungs through exposure to both restricted chemistry and microplastics – perhaps outweighing the short-term risk of any exposure to the coronavirus?”

“What we are breathing through our mouth and nose is actually hazardous waste,” said Professor Braungart, who ran preliminary tests on used surgical masks that found traces of chemicals such as the known carcinogen aniline as well as formaldehyde and optical brighteners – both heavily restricted on consumer goods by European and US authorities to minute parts per million concentrations.

Separate studies by Dr. Sedlak have also shown the presence of compounds such as 2-butanone oxime (carcinogenic) blocked diisocyanates used as crosslinkers for perfluorocarbons (PFCs) on face masks. Used in the textile sector as oil and water repellents on fabrics, by-products of PFCs are known to be bio-persistent and their use is heavily restricted by authorities in Europe and the USA. Last year, a group of US scientists called for all per- and poly-fluorinated substances (PFAS) to be treated as one single class of chemistry and said they should be avoided for non-essential uses due to their hazardous toxicological and eco-toxicological profile.

“Honestly, I had not expected PFC’s would be found in a surgical mask, but we have special routine methods in our labs to detect these chemicals easily and can immediately identify them. This is a big issue,” explained Dr. Sedlak.

“It seems this had been deliberately applied as a fluid repellent – it would work to repel the virus in an aerosol droplet format – but PFC on your face, on your nose, on the mucus membranes, or on the eyes is not good.” Along with PFCs, he also detected – besides the PFC crosslinkers – compounds such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde whereas a GCMS chromatogram showed “100s of peaks from other contaminants.”

Microfibre concern

Like Sedlak, Braungart noted that surgical masks have been designed to be worn for very specific purposes such as by clinicians or for a short period of time before being discarded. They are not designed to be crumpled up in people’s pockets where the “friction and damp environment promotes both fibre abrasion and encourages bacterial colonisation over time,” he said.

This abrasion can, he says, cause the release of tiny microplastics as the polypropylene fibres break down from mechanical wear and tear, finding in tests that some masks shed microfibrils classed as hazardous ‘dust’ by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV). Fibres of this type of geometry that meet this dust standard are also referred to as ‘WHO fibres’ after earlier work by the World Health Organisation on asbestos.

Textiles preferable to nonwovens?

During the on-going pandemic most people are now also wearing masks and face coverings made from traditional textile materials that would normally be used to make our clothing.

Thankfully, the risks associated with harmful chemicals on clothing are lower than ever, but the risks aren’t zero. “The risks associated with clothing tend to be due to skin contact, apart from babies that tend to suck anything they can get near their mouth – and therefore it is normal to have tougher, more stringent chemical standards for babywear textiles,” according to textile chemical expert, Phil Patterson of Colour Connections, who also works with the highly respected ZDHC Foundation on chemical management.

“In my opinion, textile masks do not begin to pass this most basic hazard test for kids, for whom the risks of COVID have been categorically demonstrated to be miniscule,” he said.

Potential litigation risks?

One unforeseen problem for those mandating the continued and long-term wearing of face masks, such as governments and businesses, is the potential for future litigation if they are proven to have any long-term adverse impacts on human health – especially since long-term studies have yet to be undertaken.

Patterson, who has advised some of the world’s biggest clothing retailers and brands on chemical management agrees this could be an issue.

“I’d be very wary of mandating masks, as some chemicals and fibres may have long-term effects – and that possibly opens the floodgates of personal injury claims at some stage in the future.”

ecotextile.com/2021040127603/dyes-chemicals-news/exclusive-chemical-cocktail-found-in-face-masks.html

A physician shared this during a school board meeting in Alachua County, FL:

Parents ask school board to reverse school mask mandate

Dr. Ross Hauser, a medical doctor from Ft. Myers, FL, said he does transcranial Doppler examination of people’s brains: “I’ve tested children from the age of 6 and up, with and without masks. When a child puts a mask on, immediately... within the first few minutes, they get vast-dilation of their blood vessels in the brain that you can see and measure, so that means that within a few minutes, the child’s brain is feeling stress. When you have hyperemia – that’s what this condition’s called – of the blood vessels, the circulation of the brain can go from, let’s say, 50 cm/s to over 100. So imagine a child’s brain for 10 hours a day, that the blood’s rushing through their head at twice the normal speed because the brain is feeling stress... because it’s blocking the body’s ability to get rid of a waste product called carbon dioxide.

“When I tested the children, when they exercised... it’s actually worse – way, way, worse. When I had the children do squats or jumping jacks... the hyperemia, or the stress that the brain is feeling, that you can see on transcranial Doppler, got much worse... Because of the accumulation of carbon dioxide, the brain is feeling a lot of stress. You can only imagine what’s gonna happen long-term to the kids. Now, hyperemia normally causes, in human beings, it causes anxiety... Then we also did autonomic nervous system testing, specifically it’s called heart rate variability... When kids were masked, their heart rate variability went way down, meaning that the body was feeling stress. Their vagus nerve, which is the most important nerve in the body, was feeling stress, and wasn’t as active. So I can tell you... that children who wear masks, it’s gonna cause their body to feel stress...” He ran out of time at that point.

<https://alachuachronicle.com/parents-ask-school-board-to-reverse-school-mask-mandate/>

With undeniable evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is not a significant threat to the vast majority of children - children have a **better chance** of being struck by lightning than dying of Covid-19 - it is imperative that these concerns regarding the safety of long term mask use be made known to Louisiana families along with accurate risk assessment. Parents and teachers alike need to know what the true risk is.

The decision to mask or not should be made with full and informed consent by the parents.

Furthermore, knowing that there was no safety data on the effects of long term mask use by children prior to the implementation of the Strong Start school reopening standards, BESE negates the immunity from liability afforded to them in ACT 9 as this can be viewed as **“grossly negligent or wanton or reckless misconduct.”**

E.(1) Public and nonpublic schools, public and nonpublic school systems, public or nonpublic school governing authorities, charter school governing authorities, and the officers, employees, and agents thereof may not avail themselves of the immunity provided by this Section if the action or failure to act was in violation of a policy, rule, or regulation adopted by the public or nonpublic school, public or nonpublic school system, public or nonpublic school governing authority, or charter school governing authority or was in violation of any procedure mandated by law or by rule or regulation

adopted by a federal or state agency in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, and such action or inaction is **determined to be grossly negligent or wanton or reckless misconduct.**
<https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=1187095>

Emails can be obtained via public records request showing the lack of acknowledgement for the safety of this mitigation measure by those charged with their general health and well-being while on school campuses: BESE, LDH, and LDE.

Louisiana parents demand to exercise their right to choose what's best for their children. This right is recognized in the foundational ethics of Louisiana's Children's Code, Article 101:

“...that parents should make the decisions regarding where and with whom the child shall reside, the educational, moral, ethical, and religious training of the child, **the medical,** psychiatric, surgical, **and preventive health care of the child.** . .” <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=72534>

Louisiana School Superintendents and School Board Members, parents have the utmost right to choose which medical procedures - both preventative and therapeutic - are appropriate for their children, and this includes wearing masks. Relegating these decisions to government agencies has done incredible harm to children nationwide as evidenced by a white paper released by Fair Health Inc., [The Impact of COVID-19 on Pediatric Mental Health: A Study of Private Healthcare Claims](#), which discloses the incredible **333% increase in self harm in one part of the US.** [Numbers released by the CDC](#) show “the average proportion of children’s mental health–related ED (Emergency Department) visits was approximately 44% higher in 2020 (1,673 per 100,000) than that in 2019 (1,161 per 100,000).” Of the devastating increase in mental health concerns for children, how much of it is due to the emotional and physical stress of masks? There have been **NO** studies, so we just do not know. What we do know: the children are **NOT** all right. To continue to ignore the known and unknown harms posed by this mitigation measure increases the liability of those involved.

“For children and adolescents, masks are an absolute no-no. Children and adolescents have an extremely active and adaptive immune system and they need a constant interaction with the microbiome of the Earth. Their brain is also incredibly active, as it has so much to learn. The child’s brain, or the youth’s brain is thirsting for oxygen. The more metabolically active the organ is, the more oxygen it requires. In children and adolescents every organ is metabolically active. To deprive a child’s or an adolescent’s brain from oxygen, or to restrict it in any way, is not only dangerous to their health, it is absolutely criminal. Oxygen deficiency inhibits the development of the brain, and the damage that has taken place as a result CANNOT be reversed. The child needs the brain to learn, and the brain needs oxygen to function. We don’t need a clinical study for that. This is simple, indisputable physiology. Conscious and purposely induced oxygen deficiency is an absolutely deliberate health hazard, and an absolute medical contraindication.”



Dr. Margarite Griesz-Brisson, COVID-19 Masks Are a Crime Against Humanity and Child Abuse¹

Because #SmilesAreEssential, The Smile Project aims to reject the harmful new normal imposed on our children - it has stolen their smiles.

👤 **TheSmileProject.Global/blog** dives into the data in their multi-part series: [Part 1: The Role of Children in COVID-19 Transmission in Schools](#); [Part 2: Understanding Relative Risk](#); [Part 3: Mask \(In\)Effectiveness in Limiting COVID-19 Transmission](#).

👤 An **Action Plan** to unmask children in schools can be found at healthfreedomla.org/2021/03/the-smile-project-action-plan

👤 Children have not been shown to be at increased risk of severe outcome following infection, nor increased transmission of SARS-CoV-2.^{2,3,4,5}

👤 No studies have evaluated the physical and mental SAFETY of long term mask use in children.⁶

👤 Subjecting vulnerable populations to medical experiments violates the medical ethic of informed consent and several tenets of human rights treaties, including those listed in The Nuremberg Code and UNESCO’s Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights.^{7,8,9}

👤 The only study (in pre-print) to attempt an analysis of the effects of mask use in children, found considerable impairments, as reported by parents, among children including: irritability (60%), headache (53%), difficulty concentrating (50%), less happiness (49%), reluctance to go to school/kindergarten (44%), malaise (42%) impaired learning (38%) and drowsiness or fatigue (37%).¹⁰

👤 The risk of long term inhalation of nanoparticles present in surgical and homemade masks has not been evaluated.^{11,12}

👤 Children are suffering from the mitigation efforts of SARS-CoV-2, not the virus.^{13,14}

👤 A compilation of mask studies can be found healthfreedomla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Mask-Studies.pdf

¹ perma.cc/Q568-Y2H2

² nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670

³ ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7268273/

⁴ science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6514/286

⁵ covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics

⁶ ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6908682/

⁷ ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/pediatric-decision-making

⁸ history.nih.gov/display/history/Nuremberg+Code

⁹ unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000146180

¹⁰ researchsquare.com/article/rs-124394/v3

¹¹ ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7537728/

¹² ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/nanofibres-220812

¹³ bit.ly/whitepapercovidimpact

¹⁴ nytimes.com/2021/01/24/us/politics/student-suicides-nevada-coronavirus.html