

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/8/2021 18:39	John Doe	Constituent called in because she is concerned about the lack of a mask mandate in schools. She states that she has two school age children and that since Utah's vaccination rate is not high, they are at risk.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/9/2021 22:01	Margaret Holloway	<p>There are syringes all around the park mixed into the grass, people and dogs are getting stuck. They are becoming a huge problem. Seems they are tossed around every night. Some caring people have had to get shots and tested after being nicked by the needles. This is a serious health concern. The grass needs to be eliminated so to see the syringes or it needs graveled around the edges or something. Because this is set back from the street. The persons can not be seen and makes it a perfect a spot to sleep or shoot up and then move on in the morning. This has become a very dangerous situation. It is like they are daring you to do anything. But this has become a health hazard. Again there were syringes by the water bowls mixed into the grass this morning. We know keeping the users out is hard to do since they might just be tossing their used syringes as they walk by. But if we can get the surface area less sense then these can be seen more easily. Gravel is a horrible surface for dogs versus grass. But when you can't see the needles in the grass. It makes it dangerous. Kids like to run and play too. If you did not know they had been stabbed in the foot by a needle and get the necessary treatment. It could be deadly for anyone The sharps containers people thought might make a difference only makes things more complicated. They break them open and spread those all along the fence. It is a game with them. But the substrate at the park hides the deadly contaminates. With the long grass. We are asking you take this into review. Nobody wants to get a deadly illness from going to the dog park. But it is becoming worse sometimes you find 10 needles around the park. Margaret Holloway</p>	Homelessness

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9/9/2021 22:02	Annette Wheeler	I was dismayed and disappointed to learn of the intent of the Utah State legislative executive Appropriations Committee to purchase the property at 252 Brooklyn Avenue as an overflow homeless shelter proposed and did not deem it necessary to consider the affects on the surrounding community that currently has 3 operating shelters. As a licensed social worker, I am fully aware of the needs of this vulnerable population, but I do not believe our neighborhood can sustain an additional shelter. As a resident in the neighborhood, I respectfully request the opportunity to address the committee as a neighborhood prior to the Committee's vote on this decision that I believe will have a detrimental effect on our neighborhood. I believe that the opportunity to help our homeless citizens should be distributed more evenly among neighborhoods throughout the community. Respectfully, Annette Wheeler	Homelessness
9/9/2021 22:03	Tessa Arneson	Hi, I know we are all working hard on solving the needs of our homeless population and the needs of our growing city. But... pushing this through quickly without proper input from the neighborhood is not the way to do it. Housing is the way. Not another shelter. I own a building at 945 S. 300 W. with 40 businesses, 30 apartments and majority of those businesses are female owned and single operator. This neighborhood is already having issues with safety and I worry this will increase them even more. Please, let's slow down with this. -T	Homelessness
9/9/2021 22:13	John Doe	Constituent called in to express opposition to the overflow homeless shelter at 3rd Avenue and Brooklyn Avenue. He states that he recognizes that there is a need for additional homeless shelters but since the Ballpark District and the 9th Central District already have two adult shelters and a youth shelter, it would just cause a larger concentration of homeless in the area.	Homelessness
9/13/2021 11:32	David Casteel	James and other council members, I'm writing you today as the parent of two beautiful girls currently attending Whittier Elementary school. I've looked at the data, I'm confident you've looked at the data, there is an easy conclusion to take from the Covid infection data: masks work. My daughters love being in the classroom and love their teachers, please listen to our medical professionals and continue the mask mandate until we have this thing stomped out of our communities. Signed, Proud member of the west site community	Mask Mandate in Schools

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9/13/2021 12:47	Ashley Michelle Anderson	Hi Chris, I assume you are planning to vote to extend the mask mandate. One of the more banal reasons to do this is school funding. Our legislature waived truancy reporting this year but the USBE is keeping 10-day counts to fund schools. If students miss 10+ days, their per pupil allocation is reduced and impacts school budgets for up to five years. If only to preserve consistent funding for our schools through reliable attendance, the mandate should be extended. Without it, some families like mine will pull enrollments, others will be quarantined, and worst of all, students will be ill. Schools should not lose state revenue this year due to the stranglehold of the legislature. The Mayor did the right thing and the City Council can do the same. Thanks for your work on the council, Ashley Anderson	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/13/2021 12:49	David Casteel	James and other council members, I'm writing you today as the parent of two beautiful girls currently attending Whittier Elementary school. I've looked at the data, I'm confident you've looked at the data, there is an easy conclusion to take from the Covid infection data: masks work. My daughters love being in the classroom and love their teachers, please listen to our medical professionals and continue the mask mandate until we have this thing stomped out of our communities. Signed, Proud member of the west site community David Casteel	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/13/2021 12:50	Heather Ludermann	Dear Rep. Mano, I am a Salt Lake City resident (zip code 84105). I have an 8-year old daughter at Emerson Elementary who is not eligible for vaccination. Covid has been a disruption for all of us, but now is not the time to drop our vigilance as the more easily spread Delta variant - even for those vaccinated - runs unchecked throughout Utah. Masks are effective at reducing risks to our children who cannot yet be vaccinated. It reduces risks to teachers, staff, and family members at high risk, regardless of whether or not they can be vaccinated or are indeed vaccinated. It reduces the likelihood of further disruptions to in-person instruction that is important for all of our children. I saw the effectiveness of masks first hand, as a peer in my daughter's class tested positive for Covid. After multiple subsequent tests of other students in the same classroom, no other students tested positive. All students in the classroom were masked and the masks stopped the spread of Covid! Part of being a Utahn is concern for the life and well-being of others. I urge you to support Mayor Mendenhall's continued mask mandate. Kind regards, Heather Ludemann	Mask Mandate in Schools

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Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/13/2021 14:05	Katie Munt	<p>My name is Katie Munt and I am the parent of two elementary school children at Uintah Elementary. And I am also family physician. I am writing to you today during my clinic hours to ask you to please extend the mask mandate for Salt Lake City Schools. Masks are a proven and effective method of reducing transmission of respiratory viruses such as COVID-19. This is especially important for our younger population under the age of 12, who are not yet able to get vaccinated. By continuing the mask mandate you are helping to protect thousands of children but also helping to protect their families and the greater community. Those vaccinated and those who are not. Regardless of the mask mandate I know that my family will continue to mask indoors. The mask mandate is important as it allows educators to encourage students to put their masks back over their nose and mouth, and thus protect them. I know that you as a Council are taking the pandemic seriously as you continue to hold your meetings virtually. I ask that you take that same seriousness and protect our children. Thank you for your time. Please reach out to me with any questions. Sincerely, Katie Munt.</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/13/2021 17:07	Jason Stevenson	<p>Dear Council Member Darin Mano: I am writing to ask you to extend the Mayor's emergency order requiring masks in the City's K-12 schools. I think this is a simple and prudent measure we can take to protect our kids, their teachers, and anyone else they come in contact with. While the data on the impact of the mask requirement is still limited, I think it shows some benefit. See the attached PDF with some data I pulled from the SLCO Health COVID19 dashboard that shows the SLC schools with the lowest or second-lowest COVID19 infection rates compared to other school districts in the county. Please vote to to extend the Mayor's emergency order requiring masks in the City's K-12 schools during your Tuesday meeting. Thank you, Jason Stevenson ---- Jason Stevenson</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/13/2021 17:24	Karen Nelson	<p>The scale of the construction proposed by Harbor Bay developers is astounding! As is the impact it would have on the surrounding residential community. My husband and I are long term residents of the the University historical district. I spoke in favor of this historical designation at the City Council meeting where it was ultimately approved and I am horrified that this project with all associated issues and impacts might even be considered!. It is a terrible idea! Please do not let this happen to us!</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/13/2021 17:31	Jacob Hamilton	<p>Hi Darin, This is Jacob Hamilton. He has a student in Kindergarten at Hawthorn Elementary. He asked that you vote yes to extend the mask mandate. Thank you,</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

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9/13/2021 17:34	Anonymous Constituent	Hi Darin, She has a son in Kindergarten in Hawthorn Elementary. She asked you to vote for to keep the mask mandate.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 6:59	Elizabeth Craft	Dear Council Member Mano, We write to request your strongest support for extending Mayor Mendenhall's K-12 mask mandate. Evidence shows that in these pandemic conditions, school mask requirements work. They keep kids safe; they keep kids in school; they keep parents working. Like many parents, we agonized this summer over whether to send our child to school in person and where, given the limitations the state placed on schools' ability to require COVID safety measures. On day 6 of school, our worst fears for the school year were realized when we received a close contact quarantine notice for our daughter from her first grade class at Emerson Elementary School. The boy who sits right next to her -- not even 3 feet apart, since the large class size and small classroom size don't permit it -- had tested positive for COVID. Amazingly, after waiting the requisite amount of time, our daughter tested negative. How did she avoid catching the highly contagious delta variant from the child right next to her? Both children were wearing masks. We very much want to keep our child in public school, and the mask mandate is the reason we feel comfortable doing so. With COVID rates remaining high, this is the best way to keep kids, families, and our community safe, healthy, and able to work, Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions. Thank you for your work on behalf of Salt Lake City's children and families. Sincerely, Elizabeth and Josh Craft	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:03	Kurt Allen Fisher	I wholeheartedly support the Mayor's SLC School District Mask Order. Please extend it. I am a District 4 resident. Kurt A. Fisher SLC UT 84101.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:04	Anil Seth	As the parent of an 11 year old at Emerson Elementary, where we have already had nearly 3% of the student body get covid, I would strongly encourage the city council to extend the mask mandate. Despite the bad outcome at my daughter's school, the mask mandate is working. The rate per 10,000 students in each of the districts last Thursday over the past 14 days was: Salt Lake: 58 cases out of 24142 students —> 24 per 10,000 Jordan: 245 cases out of 57771 students —> 42 per 10,000 Canyons: 150 cases out of 35127 students —> 42 per 10,000 Granite: 190 cases out of 66276 students —> 29 per 10,000 Please let us keep our children safe! - Anil	Mask Mandate in Schools

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9/14/2021 9:06	Megan Engar	<p>I am writing to encourage the Salt Lake City Council to extend the mask mandate. While I do not enjoy sending my 1st grader to school in a mask, it is a small price to pay to keep him from spreading or catching COVID. With the Delta variant causing a spike in cases, I believe a mask mandate is warranted until more of the population gets vaccinated and cases start decreasing. The data I have seen shows that schools in the Salt Lake School District, which is mandating masks, are showing less cases than schools that are not requiring them. I had my 1st grader in Granite School District last year, and moved him to Salt Lake School District this year because the Salt Lake District is requiring masks. My son's grandparents on both sides are high-risk for contracting COVID. We feel much safer letting them see our son since he is masked at school. We have family who attend schools that do not require masks and have seen other kids bully those who do wear masks. There is already enough bullying in schools; a mask mandate will moot the issue (as to wearing masks) since everyone will be in the same situation. It has also been my experience that most kids do not mind wearing them, but that they are influenced by the politics of their parents. Please do not let the desires of those who are choosing not to follow the science showing the benefit of masks sway you in making a decision that puts children at risk. Sincerely, Megan Engar</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:09	Mary lou Reitz	<p>Dear Council, As the Audiologist for Salt Lake City School District I can attest that the mask mandate is working. We have been able to undertake school wide hearing screenings and we can do this because we are masked. It is important that we continue to be able to identify students with hearing issues in order to make sure all students have equal access to instruction. I see several hundred children pass through the hearing screenings daily and I have not seen even one student without a mask nor one student that had an issue wearing a mask. It's not easy for them but they do it. It's not easy for adults either but because we care about our students we do it too. We can do this. We are doing this. We just need you to vote your support please. Thank you, Dr. Mary Lou Reitz Sent from my iPhone</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

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Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 9:10	Pamela Geber	<p>Dear Council Members, I am a parent in the Salt Lake City community. I know that you have heard from many parents regarding the mask mandate. I understand you are voting on this tomorrow. I am urging you to extend the mask mandate and I will briefly explain why. I am writing as a parent of a child with disabilities (down syndrome, sensory differences, and a challenged respiratory system since he was born with a congenital heart defect warranting surgery). My son’s pediatrician made it very clear to us early on during this pandemic that our son is high risk if exposed to covid. He is also too young to be eligible to receive the vaccine. His health depends on the community around him to mask up. Children with various disabilities often have more complicated medical needs, relying on everyone around them to be extra responsible. Should the mask mandate go away right now, many families like mine would be in a horrible position, fearful to send their children to school since they are high-risk. Children like mine with documented disabilities and IEP’s, especially need in-person education in order to meet learning goals. These include academic, social and behavioral goals often necessitating many specialists and therapists (speech, OT, PT, etc....) in order to learn and progress. These services are not “extra” and they often necessitate in-person learning. My child and all children with disabilities have a right to a safe, in-person education just like everyone else. For the people who are complaining about their freedoms being taken away when asked to mask, I propose another way to think about this---my child’s right to an in-person education is undermined when those around him are not masking up; Essentially, his freedoms to attend school safely, learning like everyone else, could be at the detriment of his health. My son has a big sister, age 17 who is vaccinated and wears a mask to school every day. Should the mask mandate go away, her freedoms to attend school in person might be challenged because she could carry covid home to her brother if those around her aren’t careful and wear masks. It is a community effort to protect ALL of our children. Removing the mask mandate at this time, prior to vaccine eligibility for the kids under age 12 especially as the Utah Covid case counts today have risen to over 4000 new cases, could be disastrous for many of these children with disabilities and their families. I urge you to continue the mask mandate in order to protect the rights and the health of my child along with many others like him. Thank you,</p> <p>Pamela Handman Pamela Geber Handman Professor, School of Dance University of Utah</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

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Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 9:11	J Longwel	<p>Dear Council, I am a father of a 8 year old that absolutely loves attending Highland Elementary School. This is her third year and she has thrived because of the inclusionary practices held at that school. She is able to attend school, as typical children do, because of the Mask Mandate. If that mandate was lifted, my immunocompromised child would be at great risk. As a fully functional child with special needs she flourishes being around peers her age. The pressure to lift the mask mandate appears to be nothing more than the selfish wants of the loud minority. The needs of the general public should always outweigh wants regardless of how inconvenient wearing a mask might be. It is a very small price to pay to keep our children as safe as we can. If extending the mask mandate prevents even one child, one teacher, one administrator from getting sick, wouldn't that alone make it worth it? I hope you think it is as important to keep our friends, neighbors, and strangers as safe as I do. Please extend the Mask Mandates and keep our families as safe as we can for as long as we can. Sincerely, Jordan Longwell</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:11	Marie Nugter	<p>Hi, Please PLEASE keep the mask mandate in SLCSO schools!. It keeps our kids in school. Keeps our our teachers in the classrooms, keeps parents at their jobs. This pandemic is hurting our schools. How are schools going to stay open if enrollment is down, many will leave if no masks.?.Are schools going to get funding to stay open? Our kids have the right to an education. The mask mandate also helps our economy. It helps keep people in their jobs so they earn money to support their families. If they are earning money they will buy things for their kids. Who can afford to be out of work for 10 days quarantine or worse probably more if they get COVID. This will hurt businesses because they will be short employees which will affect their production/service. PLEASE PLEASE keep the mask mandate. Marie Nugter</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools



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Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 9:13	Marie Nugter	Hi, Please PLEASE keep the mask mandate in SLCS D schools!. It keeps our kids in school. Keeps our our teachers in the classrooms, keeps parents at their jobs. This pandemic is hurting our schools. How are schools going to stay open if enrollment is down, many will leave if no masks.?.Are schools going to get funding to stay open? Our kids have the right to an education. The mask mandate also helps our economy. It helps keep people in their jobs so they earn money to support their families. If they are earning money they will buy things for their kids. Who can afford to be out of work for 10 days quarantine or worse probably more if they get COVID. This will hurt businesses because they will be short employees which will affect their production/service. PLEASE PLEASE keep the mask mandate. Marie Nugter	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:14	Marie Nugter	HI, I am pleading with you to vote to KEEP the mask mandate in K-12 schools in the Salt Lake City School District. The masks are working! The school I work at hasn't had one COVID case in the school. The kids are blossoming being back in school. I am sure the parents are happy because they haven't had to miss any work due to quarantine or sick kids. Teachers get to be in the classroom in person where they can teach our future politicians, doctors, teachers, nurses, construction workers, electricians, plumbers, grocery clerks, etc. The hospitals are already in a dire situation, imagine if we didn't have a mask mandate. Today KUTV channel 2 news reported 935 positive COVID-19 cases in children: of those positive cases 424 were children ages 5-10, 253 were ages 11-13 and then there were 258 age 14-18. Look at the SLCS D COVID dashboard, you'll see masks are working. I don't want any of my kids or their families to get sick. Medical workers are quitting daily because they are exhausted, 18 months and no break in sight. Who will be there to take care of our kids? We need to do what we can to help them. Having a mask mandate is a win win for all of us. Kids get to learn and socialize. Parents get to work. Teachers get to teach. I read today that the Pfizer vaccine may be available for 5-11 year olds as soon as October! We need to keep our kids safe til then. PLEASE KEEP THE MASK MANDATE! The mask mandate also helps keep our schools open because teachers and staff stay well. Thank you for your time.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:15	Don Polster	Hello, I would like to voice support for extending the mask mandate in K-12 SLC schools. I have two children in SLC schools and there is no opportunity for social distancing so I feel having a mask mandate is essential to providing a safe learning environment. Thank you. Don Polster SLC, UT 84105 Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools

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Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 9:16	Nicki Fuller	Please vote to continue the mask mandate in our schools. This was the deciding factor in whether to send my children in-person. This needs to be left in place for at least a semester. The fact that this is even a discussion when the infection numbers in our community and schools is as high as it is is baffling. One of my students isn't old enough to get the vaccine and I cannot in good conscious send him to school if masks are not required for everyone. I wouldn't allow my 7th grader in person without a mask requirement either. They both need to be in school; another year stuck online would be detrimental to their education and mental health. Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:16	Colleen Santelli	Greetings, Please vote in favor of the mask mandate to be extended in schools. While my 3 kids have been vaccinated, numbers prove masks are effective in keeping kids from getting sick. (This includes not only COVID but colds and other respiratory illnesses.) This is especially true for those too young to be vaccinated and the Special Needs students. Please protect these populations by continuing to mandate masks and keep the schools open! Thank you! Colleen Santelli Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS < <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/aol-news-email-weather-video/id646100661">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/aol-news-email-weather-video/id646100661</a> >	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:17	Toni Tietjen	To all on the council: Mayor Mendenhall's mandate that students in SLC schools wear masks is in the best interest of my children's health and I totally support her in this decision. It is also in the public interest as cases of Covid are crippling our health care facilities and stressing out health care workers! My son's father, who refused to get vaccinated or wear a mask, just got out of the ICU unit, was on a ventilator and nearly lost his life so this is up close and personal for my family. My sons are happy to wear a mask and are not "traumatized" by it. Traumatized is what my family just went through when I had to let my sons know that their father may not make it through the night! Most sincerely, Toni Tietjen Mother of twin boys at West High School.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 9:19	Mary ann Anderson	Please follow the science and extend Mayor Mendenhall's 30-day mask mandate for Salt Lake City schools. Mask wearing and vaccinations are keeping kids in K-12 and staff healthier. As you know, Salt Lake City's schools have the lowest rate of transmission among the county's five school districts. Thank you, Mary Ann Andersen	Mask Mandate in Schools

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 9:55	Stephanie Goldstein	<p>Dear Council members, I write to you today to urge you to support continuing the mask requirement in Salt Lake City. We are in the midst of a huge spike of COVID-19 infections, as you know, our children are not able to be vaccinated yet, and masks are our only defence. 1. Masks work to decrease infection transmission, particularly when worn by most of the community - Below is a summary of evidence from the Journal of the American Medical Association (Graph A) - Here is a recent large scale randomized trial showing that increased mask wearing decreased the spread of COVID-19. <a href="https://www.poverty-action.org/publication/impact-community-masking-covid-19-cluster-randomized-trial-bangladesh">https://www.poverty-action.org/publication/impact-community-masking-covid-19-cluster-randomized-trial-bangladesh</a> - Below is a comparison of COVID-19 rates in children in SLCounty without SLCity and SLCity once school started. This clearly shows that SLCity, with a mask requirement indoors at all schools, has significantly decreased transmission of SARS CoV2 (Graph B) 2. COVID-19 is affecting children significantly more-so than prior. - Below is a graph showing last year compared to this year in total cases in children (Graph C and D - ages 5-12 and 12-17) - Infections are skyrocketing in children, and though there is a low hospitalization rate, it is still on average 0.9% (as reported by the AAP). - As the case numbers rise, so are hospitalizations and ICU stays (Graph E), and there is a large portion of kids who are hospitalized who do not have any underlying conditions (Graph F). - Primary Children's Hospital is surging - as it is the only children's hospital for the entire state, and covers a 5 state region. They are needing to double up children in rooms, and cancelling some surgeries. 3. Masks are not dangerous to children, even in children less than 2years of age (last reference) - Ruba A. L., Pollak S. D. (2020). <b>*Continued 1/2*</b></p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

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	Stephanie Goldstein	<p><b>*Continued 2/2*</b> Children's emotion inferences from masked faces: Implications for social interactions during COVID-19. PLOS ONE, 15(12), e0243708. 10.1371/journal.pone.0243708 "Children were still able to make accurate inferences about emotions, even when parts of the faces were covered." - Scheid JL, Lupien SP, Ford GS, West SL. Commentary: Physiological and Psychological Impact of Face Mask Usage during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Sep 12;17(18):6655. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17186655. PMID: 32932652; PMCID: PMC7558090. "In healthy populations, wearing a mask does not appear to cause any harmful physiological alterations, and the potentially life-saving benefits of wearing face masks seem to outweigh the documented discomforts (e.g. headaches)." - Lubrano R, Bloise S, Testa A, Marcellino A, Dilillo A, Mallardo S, Isoldi S, Martucci V, Sanseviero M, Del Giudice E, Malvaso C, Iorfida D, Ventriglia F. Assessment of Respiratory Function in Infants and Young Children Wearing Face Masks During the COVID-19 Pandemic. JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Mar 1;4(3):e210414. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.0414. PMID: 33651109; PMCID: PMC7926283. "This cohort study among infants and young children in Italy found that the use of facial masks was not associated with significant changes in Sao2 or Petco2, including among children aged 24 months and younger." - There are studies showing dermatologic changes in the masked-area of the face. In summary, Masks are safe and effective at decreasing rates of COVID-19 in our children in Salt Lake City. Please support the extension of the mask requirement in Salt Lake City until our children can be vaccinated. Thank you, Stephanie A. Goldstein, MD Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care</p>	
9/14/2021 10:13	Meghan Everette	<p>As a parent and educator in Salt Lake, I urge the council to extend the mask mandate in Salt Lake City Schools. The numbers show that mandates are keeping our students and families healthier than surrounding areas. I was exceptionally nervous to send my children into West High School this fall with nearly 3,000 other students despite being vaccinated. They feel more comfortable with masks, and so do I. They don't see them as an imposition and indicate they see all kids wearing them without complaint at school. Please, keep our schools and families healthy by continuing to have students mask.</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:28	Emily Mallory	<p>Hello Salt Lake City Council Members, I have a niece attending Highland High School as a freshman this year. I want her and her classmates to continue to be protected as much as possible from contracting COVID-19. Therefore, I implore you to continue the mask mandate for students, staff, and faculty in the Salt Lake City School District. Thank you for your service. Regards, Emily Mallory Salt Lake City, UT 84105</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

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9/14/2021 10:30	Troy Bennett	Dear SLC Council, My name is Troy Bennett. I live at [REDACTED] Please extend the mask mandate for SLC school district. I have two children in SLC schools, one at Highland High School and another at Hawthorne Elementary. For their safety, please support the basic and minimal requirement that masks should be worn in schools where large numbers of people are congregating in an enclosed space. Thank you, Troy Troy Bennett	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:40	Amanda Longwell	Dear Council I have 3 kids in the SLCS D school district. 2 can access the vaccine and are fully vaccinated, my youngest, who is 8, cannot. My 8 year old also has Down Syndrome, multiple medical issues which includes Crohn's disease of which the treatment weakens her already weak immune system.. Just this weekend she was hit with a respiratory illness which thankfully was not Covid, but it went right to her lungs so we had to treat her immediately with Nebulizers to prevent it from putting her in the over-crowded children's hospital. The continuation of the mask mandate, not only helps prevent Tori from getting Covid, while waiting to access the vaccine, it helps ensure she continues to get proper access to her education which has already been substantially comprised since spring of 2020. As hospitals are bulging at the seams, doctors are pleading for all of us to do the right thing, nurses are beyond exhaustion, help us help our medical community and our at risk. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE CONTINUE MAYOR MENDENHALLS MASK MANDATE. PLEASE. From one desperate momma just trying to keep her at risk child alive while accessing her already uphill battle in education due to her disability. please, for the love of god, do this simple thing to help prevent this nasty virus from exploding in our schools. Thank-you Amanda Longwell Sent from TypeApp	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:43	Heather Brown	To Whom it May Concern, My child is a student in the Salt Lake City School District. My child cannot, yet, receive the vaccine. Please, PLEASE vote to extend the mask mandate in the schools. It is safe and important for all children to access the education they deserve. Thank you, Heather Brown	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:45	Jenny Makosky	I want to encourage the city council as a resident of Salt Lake City and parent of 2 Salt Lake City school district elementary students to renew the mask mandate. Please follow the data and keep this important safeguard in place. Our schools, as the mayor has pointed out, have had a drastically lower infection rate than the rest of the county in part because of this mandate. Sincerely, Jenny Makosky Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools

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9/14/2021 10:45	Kevin Scott	Subject: (EXTERNAL) Mayor Mendenhall's K-12 Mask Mandate Hello, I urge you to extend the K-12 mask mandate in the next meeting. I know that there is a very vocal minority that is fighting hard to make sure our kids are subjected to disease, but I am not one of them. I have lived in Westpointe since 1986 and my grandkids live here as well. They have no problem wearing the masks and don't feel safe going to school in person because of the opposition to masks. Thank you, Kevin Christensen	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:46	T Richards	I am emailing you to ask you to please vote in favor of continuing mask wearing at Salt Lake City schools. It keeps our kids safe and helps stop the spread of Covid. It is especially important for children who are not old enough to be vaccinated yet. Thank you for putting the safety of our children first. Tarynn Richards	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 10:47	Jen Colby	<p>_____ Please vote to extend the emergency declaration and mask mandate for K12 SLC schools until the pandemic is controlled September 14, 2021 Dear Members of the Salt Lake City Council, I strongly support the mayor’s local emergency declaration and mandatory masking in our K12 schools. Given the arbitrarily limited time frame for any executive order due to the state legislature’s prior action, I ask that you take local legislative action to extend it. Instead of an arbitrary time limit or date, please tie its expiration to measurable public health milestones such as 90-95% vaccinated (staff, students, instructors) in the school system, level of community transmission (well below R0), and/or cases systemwide. COVID-19 doesn't care about dates, it cares about finding its next hosts and victims. My husband and I are childless by choice, so why do we care? Because we are community-minded, pay a disproportionate amount of our tax dollars into the school system compared to parents, and because what happens at school and at home doesn’t stay at school or at home, especially in a pandemic. The Delta variant is the most transmissible one to date and spreads like wildfire. Breakthrough cases among we the “responsible vaccinateds” are happening with increasing frequency. We are all in this together and must act in solidarity. My 7-year-old nephew – in California, in a school district with strict COVID-19 rules and high community vaccination rates – already had to go home to quarantine due to an exposure at school the first week. Luckily, no one else tested positive – because of the strong measures taken at school. But his parents had to work from home or take time off to be with him during quarantine. We simply cannot have a functioning society and economy with a raging pandemic and large percentage of residents who refuse to comply with sensible and proven control measures - and often lie about it. As soon as the CDC released its misguided “the vaccinated can take off their masks policy” the obvious next thing happened – the radicalized unvaxed were happy to visibly lie about their status and go unmasked. That is why we need one consistent rule that all of us follow. The anti-masker anti-vaxers (and anti-science anti-evidence anti-critical thinkers) are ruining it for the rest of us. <b>*Continued 1/3*</b></p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
	Jen Colby	<p><b>*Continued 2/3*</b> They must not be allowed to run rampant and perpetuate the pandemic. The rapidly increasing case loads and hospitalizations - most egregiously of children - show that this emergency is far from over. I also support this mandate for all Salt Lake City-controlled or contracted indoor venues and buildings and, if at all possible, for all licensed public business indoor areas, including common areas of the proliferating mid-rise multi-unit apartment complexes. At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, science and epidemiology were scrambling to characterize and understand how this novel respiratory pathogen spread. A lack of understanding of science as a process and poor or misleading media stories led too many people to dismiss the now-proven value of masking as one of the key strategies against the spread of this deadly pathogen. [Note to school leaders - our education system is failing to teach science and critical thinking broadly enough in arguably the most technologically advanced era and nation.] Masking is especially valuable to protect those who cannot be vaccinated or whose immune systems are strongly compromised. It also helps protect the masses of people who have either been grossly misled by disinformation and are vaccine resistant or who have circumstances that so far have prevented them from getting vaccinated. Additionally, steps like better ventilation, social distancing and smaller class sizes, holding outdoor classes when possible, hybrid classes should continue into the future. This is a community-wide public health emergency that requires collective action. Masking is a minor inconvenience to save lives, prevent devastating and expensive illness and hospitalization. It also helps keep schools, the economy, and our fragile arts and restaurant/hospitality sectors afloat. It is part of the proven multi-pronged "swiss cheese" approach to controlling the spread of COVID-19. As some have quipped it's a minor inconvenience to wear a mask, but it is a major trauma to be intubated with failing lungs. Unfortunately, politicization of mask wearing – largely by an increasingly cynical and evidence-rejecting radical-right wing – has made this topic unnecessarily fraught. We need to call it for what it is – both-sides-ism is false in this pandemic. One major political party and ideology is actively undermining our ability to control the pandemic by deliberately taking away proven tools. What if they said that fire departments could no longer use ladder trucks, hoses, and fire hydrants? Or turnouts and breathing apparatus to enter burning buildings? That is basically what the supermajority Republican legislature has done. Its mindboggling. Please ignore the loud and selfish anti-maskers who are acting more like they belong to a cult than a civil society.</p>	



Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
	Jen Colby	<p><b>*Continued 3/3*</b>The prison of their misguided belief system, honestly, is leading to more mass death than Jim Jones and the People’s Temple, Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles and Heaven’s Gate or other narcissist-driven pseudo-religious cults. In 2021, it is unbelievable that our county, state, and country are in this mess. Hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of illnesses could have been prevented had we behaved better to this point. Countries that responded in a more unified, less politicized manner have done so much better than these United States, and especially Republican-led individual states. I had expected Utahns to rise to the occasion to save lives and protect children – to show how to do this well. Instead, a different social virus has infected far too many people, one that seems harder to combat, honestly. But we must try. There is no time like the present. Let’s do this and get COVID-19 Delta – and any other emerging variants – under control. It also removes the social pressure among children to remove their masks to be cool among their peers and put themselves and others at risk. As I have slowly returned to a more normal life including some air travel, I have been impressed by the willingness of children to comply with masking, and often to make it fun and personal, accessorizing their little masks and feeling like they are helping. Children by their very nature want to be good and help others. Unfortunately too many adults have forgotten to be the helpers and set good examples. So-called personal freedom is a form of nihilism right now. Personal freedom doesn't apply when it negatively affects others. Liberty requires responsibility. We cannot trust a large segment of adults to do the right thing right now, so regulation is necessary. I ask that you vote unanimously to show that this is not a partisan issue – even though the council is formally non-partisan, you each have your own partisan affiliations. I hope that as a team you will act as responsible community leaders. Extending the mask mandate is the right thing to do based on the best evidence we have to date. Follow the evidence. Protect the children and their teachers and staff and families and community. As Glennon Doyle says, we can do hard things. Masking isn't even hard. If we cannot do that, what have we become? I despair for our future if we cannot act collectively for this short-term emergency, when we face the much more dangerous climate emergency too. Sincerely, Jen Colby, SLC D4 Resident, and fully vaccinated but still mask wearing in public since April</p>	

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 10:47	Casey Walrath	Subject: (EXTERNAL) Bueno Park Apartment Project 100 S 700 E Regarding the Planning Commission's recent negative recommendation of the proposed Bueno Park apartments zoning and master plan amendment on the 100 S 700 E block, I am disappointed and angry that, in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis caused primarily by a regional shortage of affordable market-rate units, that a planning commissioner member would oppose an SRO project on the grounds that she "would much rather see a lower scale of development like townhouses < <a href="https://www.buildingsaltlake.com/developers-of-boarding-house-concept-get-thumbs-up-then-down-after-procedural-error-causes-do-over-at-planning-commission/">https://www.buildingsaltlake.com/developers-of-boarding-house-concept-get-thumbs-up-then-down-after-procedural-error-causes-do-over-at-planning-commission/</a> > " on the site. Simply put, we need more, not less, intensive development in this city, particularly near the downtown area, and for an appointed official whose home value, per county records, has appreciated nearly 40% in just five years to deny an affordable market rate project on the basis of arbitrary aesthetic preferences is deeply insulting to those of us being priced out of the city, whether we as individuals prefer the typology or not. I am writing this as an SLC resident to urge Planning Commission members to remember the needs of people who are not in a position to profit from the housing shortage, and for the council to ignore the commission's recommendation on this project and future ones like it. Thank you. - Casey Walrath	Shared housing (SRO)
9/14/2021 10:48	Kate Lewis	_____ (EXTERNAL) Please renew mask mandate for schools Ms. Fowler, I have become aware of the Salt Lake City Council's meeting this evening. As a resident of Salt Lake City, I have four children enrolled in schools within the Salt Lake City School District. I was thrilled when Mayor Erin Mendenhall issued a mask requirement for Salt Lake City schools. I am concerned for the health of all my children, but I am especially concerned about the health of my 11-year old daughter who is too young to be vaccinated but is also old enough to potentially encounter more severe illness and side effects from COVID-19. Please vote this evening to renew the mask mandate for schools. It has brought me so much peace of mind, and I greatly fear the effects if the mask mandate is allowed to expire. Thank you, Katharine Lewis Salt Lake City	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:50	Helen Thatcher	Please approve an extension on the SLC schools mask mandate. I love a five year old boy and want him to be as safe as possible. Although he is expected to wear a mask, mandate or not, his safety is improved if everyone around him wears one as well. Please keep him safe. Thank you. Helen Thatcher Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:51	Sylvia Afo	Please Don't give in to this reckless power hungry Mayor Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 10:53	Jen Colby	Hello, My name is Jenna Finegold, I am an attorney in San Francisco and own a townhouse at 745 S. 200 E in Salt Lake City. My tenants have alerted me that, for the past several months, they have had to call the police several times a day because of the homeless individuals who are constantly on our front lawn and the patch of lawn between the street and the sidewalk. This is day and night and although the tenants frequently ask them to move before calling the police, they do not. Even once they call, the individuals return a few hours after the police leave. Please see below for photographs. These individuals have been sleeping, having drinks, sunbathing, urinating and having meetings up, as you can see in the photographs. I have a simple solution to this problem, which also has the added benefit of helping given the current drought. I ask that the lawn (and ideally the trees, but at least the lawn) that is in between the street and the sidewalk be completely removed and filled in with rocks. This will prevent people from treating this residential area as a park, and also will not need to be watered by the city. If someone can please call me as soon as possible, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jenna Finegold Jenna Finegold Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, LLP	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:53	Grey McLean	I believe that the mask mandate in salt lake city schools should be extended. The rate of transmission in salt lake schools is much lower than other districts statewide, and this is directly attributable to the high rates of masking in our schools. I work as a paraprofessional at a local high school so I am faced every day with dozens of kids, and I am scared. I am scared that I will get sick, or that I will get someone else sick. I am scared that one or more of the kids I work with will die. I am scared that you will vote to remove the one protection we have available to us right now. Please, please, look at the science and the measurable good masks are doing. I know that this issue is controversial, but it is your job as elected officials to act in the public interest. I am pleading with you to do the right thing when you vote on the mandate.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:54	Coleman Herrod	I support continued required masking for our children in the salt lake school district. I have a child in at Highland High who has been vaccinated, Many of our school age children however cannot yet get vaccinated. Wearing masks seems the best mitigation strategy we have to prevent the spread of coronavirus in our schools and bringing it back into our homes and community. Coleman Herrod Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 10:54	Veronica Hill	<p>Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) Support for K-12 Masks in Schools Council Member Fowler, I have two children in the Salt Lake City School District and I fully support masking in schools. Due to the initial uncertainty surrounding school masking in August, our family made the decision to enroll our ten-year-old in the district's virtual elementary. This was not a decision that was made lightly; each child should have the opportunity to attend school in person, and each should have the opportunity to receive the same valuable education that comes from engaging and interacting with peers and teachers in a school setting. Unfortunately the onus to protect our young children has fallen largely on families while some leaders in our community refuse to act. Our twelve-year-old attends West High School as a 7th grader in the ELP program (virtual learning is not an option for this program). He is fully vaccinated, however it provides some degree of reassurance to know that an additional level of precaution has been taken (in the form of mandated masking) to further protect him and to reduce the possibility that he will transmit Covid to his younger sibling or any other vulnerable family member. I support Mayor Mendenhall's mask mandate for K-12 schools. This is a small, yet important, act of protection for the children of our community, and a simple solution to keeping students in schools. Respectfully, Veronica Hill Salt Lake City resident</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:56	Jan O'Neill	<p>Wharton, Chris Subject: (EXTERNAL) School masks Hi Chris, I live on F St and saw your booth. Good to see you! I have a request: keep the mask mandate in place. My granddaughter goes to Bryant Middle and needs the councils backing. The kids seem very used to their masks. They don't think twice about it. Plus it adds a layer of protection for them. Please keep the mandate until we can get this pandemic under control. Jan O'Neill Grandmother Teacher Writer Sent from my iPhone</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 10:57	Katy Andrews	<p>Valdemoros, Ana Cc: Deborah Candler; Alonzo Huntsman Subject: (EXTERNAL) Salt Lake Arts Academy Supports the Mask Mandate! Greetings, Council Member Valdemoros -- On behalf of our Salt Lake Arts Academy charter school community, particularly our unvaccinated 5th and 6th Grade students, we wholeheartedly support extending Mayor Mendenhall's mask mandate for K-12 public schools in Salt Lake City. We have had two cases of Covid-19 at school so far, but they have NOT spread to other students in the school; that would be an entirely different story if masks were not required, forcing entire classrooms of kids to quarantine . Masks keep kids in school, and will get us through this challenging time, until we can offer more protection to our youngest students. Please vote "aye" to extend the mask mandate. Thank you! Katy</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:00	Megan Wanzek	Dear Councillor Dugan, I am writing to you in support of the existing mask mandate for K-12 schools in the Salt Lake City School District. As both the parent of an elementary school student and as a district employee, I strongly support the mask mandate and have been grateful that Mayor Mendenhall was able to implement it. All of the data indicates that masks are working, and COVID rates in SLCSO have been significantly lower than other districts in Salt Lake County. This means that students, families, and school staff are healthier, and learning can continue in person without interruption. Additionally, students with disabilities and other medical conditions can count on an extra layer of protection to keep them safe, which is extremely important. Please vote to extend the K-12 mask mandate until COVID conditions improve significantly and/or younger children are eligible to be vaccinated. Respectfully, Megan Wanzek Salt Lake City resident	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:02	Molly Butterworth	To: Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) Please support mask mandate Hi Amy, I'm thinking you probably support the k-12 mask mandate already, but wanted yo reach out as your constituent to ask you to please vote in favor of masks. As the mom of a 2nd grader in Salt Lake District, I believe it is critical that we mandate masks at schools, particularly given that 1) kids like mine are too young to have be eligible for the vaccine, 2) our case numbers in Utah are very high, and 3) pediatric hospitals are full. Thank you! Molly	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:03	Eica Chamblee	Hello, I urge you to continue to support the mask Mandate in SLC schools for K-12 by voting to extend the Mayor's August 20 declaration of local emergency. Thank you, Erica Chamblee	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:04	Julia Light	To: Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) Please continue the mask mandate! Hi councilmember Fowler! I'm a constituent in Sugar House, I have a child in kindergarten at Hawthorne elementary, and I'm writing to ask that you please extend Mayor Mendenhall's mask mandate. The science supports masking, at least until these children can be vaccinated. Thank you, Julia Light 84105	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:06	Brian Avery	Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) vote to uphold mask mandate in schools Dear Councilmember Fowler, Please follow the science and protect our students by voting to uphold/reauthorize Mayor Mendenhall's school mask mandate. I'm privileged to be vaccinated as is my 10th grader, but we both still wear masks and support the mask mandate for schools to protect others who cannot yet be vaccinated. Please, please, please vote for this thing. thanks. brian avery 84106	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:06	Joseph Wanzek	Dear Salt Lake City Council member, I am writing to respectfully ask that you please support the existing school mask mandate in Salt Lake City. The empirical evidence at this point overwhelmingly indicates that masks work in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and our children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for protection through vaccination. Since initiating a mask mandate in schools, the COVID rates in Salt Lake district remain significantly lower than surrounding districts, which means our schools can continue in person without disruption, and our community as a whole will be healthier. Please vote to extend the mask mandate. Thank you, Joseph Wanzek Salt Lake City resident	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:07	Debbie Baskin	Hi Dan, Thank you for serving on the City Council! I am writing today to ask you to support a mask mandate in Salt Lake City schools. I have two children in school. Prior to having children, I worked as a Respiratory Therapist in Pediatric hospitals for 12 years. Having worked with children that are pulmonary cripples, I take respiratory disease very seriously. Our children have many years in front of them and I don't want to risk them having long term consequences when universal mask wearing could drastically reduce their chance of getting the virus. In all my years, working at a hospital, I never encountered a person who was incapable of wearing a mask. Yes, it is difficult to wear a mask for the long school day. However, the nurses, doctors, and therapists taking care of our COVID patients are wearing not only masks but face shields and gowns for 12 hour shifts. Please vote to extend the mask mandate in SLC schools! Thank you! Debbie Baskin District 6 resident	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:07	Christy Clay	: Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) Please vote to uphold emergency mask requirement in K-12 schools Dear Councilperson Fowler, As a constituent and parent of a student in Salt Lake City public school, I am asking you to vote to uphold the Mayor's mask requirement. This is one of the best tools we have to keep kids, teachers, families and our community safe. Thank you! Christy Clay	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:09	Michael Austin	<p>To: Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) Please vote to extend the mask mandate for Salt Lake schools Dear Representative Fowler, I'm writing this email to urge you to please vote to extend the mask mandate. I think the sharply increasing numbers of covid cases in school age children and across the state of Utah is proof that we should have kept the mask mandate state-wide. I appreciate that Mayor Mendenhall had the political courage to enforce a mask mandate. There have been many studies done showing that masking does help prevent the spread of covid. With the more infectious strain of Delta it's more imperative than ever to protect our most vulnerable, our children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated. I have two school-age children who are in schools where masking is not enforced and I am deeply worried about their safety. Luckily both my girls have been vaccinated and they wear masks. But their teachers do not and many of their schoolmates do not. I think it's just a matter of time before the schools end up quarantining large numbers of kids like we're seeing across the South. The way to keep our economy open and keep our population safe is to enforce masks. I'm more than tired of hearing these anti-maskers talk about their personal liberties. As Thomas Jefferson said your Liberty ends at the end of your fist and the beginning of my nose. Because anti-maskers and anti vaxxers have been allowed to exercise their personal liberties, we now see hospitals having to end elective surgeries. In some states even seriously ill people cannot get a hospital bed. How is that fair? How does that respect the rights of the rest of the community to be healthy and safe and have access to medical care? We don't see people at Salt Lake City Council meetings protesting wearing shirts and shoes at stores or protesting having to wear seat belts. I was at the last council meeting and the chair did not seem open to discussions about masks but he did allow the very first speaker, a gentleman from New York, to speak at length, spouting a bunch of unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about how masking doesn't work. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, the health industry and science would say otherwise. I would urge the council to listen to facts and Dr Angela Dunn and other credible health organizations when deciding on policies that affect the health and safety of our children. Thank you. Sincerely, Mr and Mrs Austin</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:09	Angela Winters	<p>Hello Mr. Dugan, I live in your district and I am here to request that you keep the mask mandate for the schools, in place. I, like many others, have a child with extensive medical issues. We've done all we can with vaccinating, masking and distancing for the past year and a half. When the mayor put the mask mandate three days before school in place, we were so excited to be able to send our child back to in person school. My kids have expressed how very few of their classmates complain about the masks. Nearly everyone is compliant and it is working. Thank you, Angela Winters</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:10	Lance Lindberg	Dear Dan, I am writing to you about the current SLC School District mask mandate. I would encourage you to follow the lead of Mayor Mendenhall by extending the current mask mandate for the SLC School District. As a pharmacist I believe in following the science which clearly indicates masks help decrease the spread of COVID-19 as well as vaccination. It is important to continue this until all school age children have the same opportunity to be vaccinated as those 12 and older. Please vote today to show you care about the health of all children by extending the current mask mandate. Sincerely, Lance Lindberg, PharmD, BCPS	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:10	Matthew T Sutton	To: Fowler, Amy Subject: (EXTERNAL) I support an extension of the mask mandate for k-12 Hello Amy, I am a resident of district 7, with two children (4 and 8) in the Salt Lake School District. I am simply writing to communicate my support of an extension of the the mask mandate for k-12 in the SLC school district. Thank you. Matt Sutton	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:11	Melaney Birdsong Farr	Hello Council Member Dugan, I'm an SLC resident who as a child in SLC school district. I'm writing to ask you to please extend Mayor Mendenhall's effective mask mandate for K-12 schools. From the data presented, it's evident that the mask mandate is working at protecting our kids, teachers, and public school staff. Please also consider the graphics attached that compare SLC (5-17) child covid infections to SLCounty child covid infections. This seems to be an even more appropriate comparison than comparing SLC schools (which include county schools) to other school districts. In addition, the mandate makes uninterrupted in-person school far more sustainable. The kids are used to masking and don't find it as onerous as many adults believe. My son doesn't see it as an issue at all and is grateful that he won't have another year of interrupted or online learning. I ask that you please stand up for SLC being the state leader in protecting children. Thank you for your service to our city and our kids. Melaney Birdsong Farr SLC resident	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:12	Mahan Khalsa	Dear Amy, Please vote yes for continued mask mandate in Salt Lake City schools. Thank you! Meherban Khalsa, District 7, loving and concerned Grandma	Mask Mandate in Schools



Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:12	Andrew Lagrone	<p>Dan, I have two children at Whittier Elementary, and we live in district 5 boundaries. My daughter started kindergarten this year, and my son is in 4th grade ELP. We want to let you know that we support extending the local emergency declaration, and mask mandates for K-12 students. COVID-19 has had such a traumatic impact on our lives. We've spent the last long year making sacrifices to ensure the safety of our community, and removing mandates at this stage in the game, while the Delta variant is growing in numbers, would mean all the sacrifices we've made were pointless. My wife has cut her hours in half, and realigned her schedule so that she works on the weekend, allowing me to work during the week. My offices are closed, and even my NOC team is working from home these days because my company takes this very seriously. My son and I both had COVID last year, and while he seems unaffected, I am still struggling with long COVID 18 months later. I used to be an avid runner and cyclist before getting sick, and now I can barely climb a hill or push myself like I could before. My lungs are still in terrible shape 18 months later, and it's infuriating that people refuse to wear a mask in public. My son caught COVID at daycare, and brought it home, and I'm concerned that if we lift mandates at school, we're likely to see a repeat. If you have any questions about our experience, I would be happy to have a conversation with you. Please know that we support extending the local emergency order, and stand behind the Mayor in her decision. Best regards, Andrew LaGrone</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:14	Melaney Birdsong Farr	<p>To: Wharton, Chris Subject: (EXTERNAL) Please extend SLC K12 mask mandate Hello Council Member Wharton, I'm an Avenues resident who voted for you and has a child in SLC school district. I'm writing to ask you to please extend Mayor Mendenhall's effective mask mandate for K-12 schools. From the data presented, it's evident that the mask mandate is working at protecting our kids, teachers, and public school staff. In addition, the mandate makes uninterrupted in-person school far more sustainable. The kids are used to masking and don't find it as onerous as many adults believe. My son doesn't see it as an issue at all and is grateful that he won't have another year of interrupted or online learning. I ask that you please stand up for SLC being the state leader in protecting children. Thank you for your service to our city and our kids. Melaney Birdsong Farr Avenues SLC resident</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:15	Gillian Stanfield	<p>I am writing as an Avenues resident, parent of a 4th grader at SLCS D's Whittier Elementary, and concerned citizen to voice my strong support for a mask mandate in our city's schools. Covid cases are once again at frighteningly high levels within our community. Our hospitals are more than full. And this time kids compose around a quarter of new cases. While we have been lucky that children tend to be less affected by Covid, they are certainly not immune. They can suffer serious illness or long-term effects; they can die. It is unconscionable that we might not try to protect them with the tools available to us. Masks have been proven to reduce spread of Covid, especially when worn universally. The available data from schools suggest that SLC's mask mandate is working to keep case numbers lower in our schools as compared to those in other districts. My 9 year old son happily wears a mask at school and whenever we are out in public, either indoors or in a more-crowded setting. It really isn't a big deal for him. He wants to stay healthy, and to keep others from getting sick. His classmates similarly are used to wearing their masks. The school is doing a wonderful job of reinforcing the importance of protecting one another, and they tell us that there have been essentially no issues with enforcing the mandate. We are still concerned about transmission at school, but feel that with a mask requirement and other mitigation measures, our son's being able to attend in person is worth the level of risk. His program (ELP) is not being offered online, and he receives special education services, so we have no reasonable option if we can't send him to his school. So this is our priority - and to reduce risk in other areas we will continue to avoid attending many of the events or doing activities that we would normally enjoy until cases are lower, especially until our son can be vaccinated. Please support an extension of Mayor Mendenhall's mask mandate - to keep as many of our kids as safe as possible, to reduce spread of Covid in our city, to help keep schools open. It is unfortunate that a simple measure supported by science and recommended by our public health officials is controversial in any way. But please know that there are many parents and other citizens who believe in science and are more than willing to wear a mask to protect our community. Sincerely, Gillian Stanfield</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:18	Jessie Mandle	Hello! I hope this email finds you well. I have a second grader at Wasatch Elementary. Please keep the mask mandate in schools going. I wish I had the right words to express just how much it has meant to have it, but we are so so appreciative of the mandate. Please please keep it in place. My second grader is thriving. She would double mask if it meant she could stay in school and be with her friends safely. Please help keep our kids stay in school and stay healthy. Thank you!! Jessie	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:21	K Stroud	Dear Salt Lake City Council Members, I am the West High School Community Council Chairperson. As our students come from all areas of the city, I am addressing this to all of you, on behalf of our entire School Community Council. At our SCC meeting tonight, we heard reports from the administration about our successful start to the school year, including the high compliance with the mask mandate and the comparatively lower COVID-19 case rates in our school compared to other districts. The mask mandate is working, and we unanimously support its extension for another 30 days. We are thankful that the City Council has stepped up to protect our children and our community where the county and the state have refused. Please support extending the mask mandate for all Salt Lake City schools. Respectfully, Katherine Stroud West High SCC Chair	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:22	Megan Wanzek	Dear Councillor Wharton, I am writing to you in support of the existing mask mandate for K-12 schools in the Salt Lake City School District. As both the parent of an elementary school student and as a district employee, I strongly support the mask mandate and have been grateful that Mayor Mendenhall was able to implement it. All of the data indicates that masks are working, and COVID rates in SLCSD have been significantly lower than other districts in Salt Lake County. This means that students, families, and school staff are healthier, and learning can continue in person without interruption. Additionally, students with disabilities and other medical conditions can count on an extra layer of protection to keep them safe, which is extremely important. Please vote to extend the K-12 mask mandate until COVID conditions improve significantly and/or younger children are eligible to be vaccinated. Respectfully, Megan Wanzek Salt Lake City resident	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:23	Jennifer Desha	<p>Dear Rep. Wharton, I imagine you will support continuing the mask mandate in SLCSO, but I want to add my voice so that you can cite constituent support. As a follow-up to my email below from before school started, I can say that my two Ensign Elementary school children are thriving in school with masks. They have been thrilled to be able to go back in person and they don't complain about the masks at all. My third grader says she feels safer wearing it. My husband and I have peace of mind knowing that we are doing all we can as a community to protect these kids until they can be vaccinated. I haven't heard of any pushback from parents or students in our school. My daughter says sometimes teachers have to remind kids to pull up their masks, and I am grateful the teachers are able to do that precisely because there is a mask mandate. The mask mandate is working, parents are relieved, and the kids are happy to be back in person. Let's keep it this way! Thanks,</p> <p>Jenny Desha Avenues On Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 5:43 PM Jennifer Desha &lt;jennifer.desha@gmail.com &lt;mailto:jennifer.desha@gmail.com&gt; &gt; wrote: Dear Members of the Salt Lake City Council, I live in the Avenues and have two elementary students preparing to return to school in person next month in the Salt Lake City School District. We are beyond ready for this after a full year of online instruction, but I'm worried they won't be safe enough from COVID without the proven mask requirements that kept students safe last year. My concerns: * COVID cases are rising, and in fact the graph of Utah cases nearly matches last year's, suggesting that it will rise further in the fall. * The Delta variant is more contagious. * Most elementary students are not eligible to be vaccinated due to their age. * COVID cases and hospitalizations are rising in children under 12, and children are susceptible to "long COVID" just as adults are. * It is my understanding that public school districts are not currently planning to require masks due to the state legislature's block on mask mandates. * Therefore, things are as bad or worse than they were last year and yet we are not going to be taking the precautions that allowed us to open schools last year. Of course my kids can wear masks, but they may not be willing to do so consistently if their peers aren't wearing masks and if there is no school enforcement. Even if they wear their masks, they will be exposed to other unvaccinated children not wearing masks all day. I urge you to allow school districts to exercise local control and implement mask requirements to keep our students safe, at least until all students have the chance to be fully vaccinated. Thank you, Jenny Desha</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:25	Janet Barnette	Dear Councilman Wharton, With Mayor Mendenhall's K-12 mask mandate expiring tomorrow, I ask that the Salt Lake City Council vote in favor of continued mandated mask-wearing in our schools. Data shows that Covid cases within Salt Lake district remain low, largely due to masks and vaccine eligibility. As a 6th grade teacher who works with an unvaccinated student population (<12 years) I know mask wearing is what will keep students in school and out of quarantine and hospitals. Please vote to continue mask-wearing in schools. Janet Barnette Wasatch Elementary 6th Grade Teacher Constituent - Janet	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:27	Sun Young Lee	Dear Mr. Wharton, I would like to express sincere gratitude to Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall's Leadership and Salt Lake City Council members' support to keep the Salt Lake City Community healthier and safer. My best part of the day is picking up my daughters from school. They talk about school, lunch and friends. Those conversations are nothing special. I never thought those things would become special. Watching my kids and other kids laughing and talking and running together is just a blessing. No one seems to be bothered with wearing masks. Today's report from the Mayor reassures us that we know how to keep in person learning safe. I sincerely ask you to support extending the Mask Requirement K-12 in the Salt Lake City School District. Thank you, Sun --	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:29	Concerned Coalition	<p>Salt Lake City Council members: We, the Concerned Coalition, write to you today in support of the mask mandate in the Salt Lake City School District and hope that you will vote to extend it. Concerned Coalition is a 504(c)4 organization that represents pro-public health parents, teachers, and residents across Utah, including hundreds in Salt Lake City. Our letter to the Salt Lake County Council before their vote on the county-wide mask mandate garnered over 1600 signatures in less than 36 hours. We have also organized parents of immunocompromised children to file a legal complaint against Governor Cox and legislation that is blocking local health departments and school boards from acting to provide these students a safe, in-person public education. All the evidence points the same direction: the mask mandate is working. Salt Lake City School District has a much lower rate of infections than surrounding districts in the county. As a result, many students have been able to avoid quarantine and stay in school in-person. Their parents are able to continue going to work, which keeps their families financially sound and our state economically healthy. Teachers have a safer work environment, and because of the mandate, our whole community has greater protection from Covid-19. We applaud Mayor Mendenhall's courage in standing up for our kids and our communities against many who are hostile to these common sense health measures. As members of the City Council, we urge you to stand up and continue to protect our community by renewing this mask mandate. Sincerely, Concerned Coalition</p> <p><a href="http://www.concernedcoalition.org">www.concernedcoalition.org</a> &lt;<a href="http://www.concernedcoalition.org">http://www.concernedcoalition.org</a>&gt;</p>	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:30	Mary Richards	The Salt Lake City Mayor today outright lied in her news conference. She claimed that the Covid case numbers are better in SLC than other districts because of masking. This is false. Checking each district's Covid dashboard shows Granite is doing better lately for example. But you can't compare easily anyway, because how do you prove they got a Covid case from school? And vaccination rates differ between districts, and other factors differ as well. Mayor Mendenhall also claimed masking is going well. It's not. Children are being bullied and pressured using fear tactics by teachers and staff to keep masks on at all times. It's not 100% compliant because of choice. Families fear speaking up, after such trauma last year when begging to have our schools re-open. My high schooler was chased down the hallway by a teacher who yelled at him that his mask had slipped while he got a drink. My son is fully vaccinated. The teacher surely is fully vaccinated. My kindergartner is struggling to learn to read or learn emotions without seeing faces. My ten-year-old in speech therapy shouldn't be in a mask. And sometimes he just wants a breath of air but the teacher acts like he has the plague if he shifts his mask. Surely she is fully vaccinated. My children can't even see their teachers over the plastic barrier around their desks (which studies even several months ago showed are useless). This is no way to treat children. The Mayor broke state law with her original order. Please don't allow her to continue to do so.	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:31	Michelle Watts	Please, please keep the mask mandate at schools! I am just reading KSL, I didn't know this was up for a vote. Thank You, Thank YOU! Michelle	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:34	Chris Savarese	Council, As I father of two Salt Lake City public school children I implore you to make the only choice you can. The mask mandate must continue for our school children, teachers and staff. You will be protecting our unvaccinated children and our community as is your first responsibility. You will be on the right side of history. Chris Savarese Salt Lake City, UT Sent from my iPad	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:34	Julie Livers	PLEASE continue the mask mandate!! My boys are 12 and 14 and at the salt lake arts academy and west. They are both luckily vaccinated and would much rather wear masks then do virtual school. They do not mind at all!! Please continue the mandate!! Julie and greg livers Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools

Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 11:40	Veronica Hill	Council Member Dugan, I have two children in the Salt Lake City School District and I fully support masking in schools. Due to the initial uncertainty surrounding school masking in August, our family made the decision to enroll our ten-year-old in the district's virtual elementary. This was not a decision that was made lightly; each child should have the opportunity to attend school in person, and each should have the opportunity to receive the same valuable education that comes from engaging and interacting with peers and teachers in a school setting. Unfortunately the onus to protect our young children has fallen largely on families while some leaders in our community refuse to act. Our twelve-year-old attends West High School as a 7th grader in the ELP program (virtual learning is not an option for this program). He is fully vaccinated, however it provides some degree of reassurance to know that an additional level of precaution has been taken (in the form of mandated masking) to further protect him and to reduce the possibility that he will transmit Covid to his younger sibling or any other vulnerable family member. I support Mayor Mendenhall's mask mandate for K-12 schools. This is a small, yet important, act of protection for the children of our community, and a simple solution to keeping students in schools. Respectfully, Veronica Hill Salt Lake City resident	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 11:41	Kate Lewis	Mr. Dugan, I have become aware of the Salt Lake City Council's meeting this evening. As a resident of Salt Lake City, I have four children enrolled in schools within the Salt Lake City School District. I was thrilled when Mayor Erin Mendenhall issued a mask requirement for Salt Lake City schools. I am concerned for the health of all my children, but I am especially concerned about the health of my 11-year old daughter who is too young to be vaccinated but is also old enough to potentially encounter more severe illness and side effects from COVID-19. Please vote this evening to renew the mask mandate for schools. It has brought me so much peace of mind, and I greatly fear the effects if the mask mandate is allowed to expire. Thank you, Katharine Lewis	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 12:00	Augusta Comey	Please please keep the mask mandate until our elementary kids gave the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. It puts my 4th grader at such a high risk to remove masks and she and her classmate have no problem wearing the masks. Give us till we are all vaccinated. Thanks, mom of 4th grader at wasatch elementary Sent from my iPhone	Mask Mandate in Schools



Public Comments 09.08.2021-09.14.2021

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment	Topic
9/14/2021 12:01	Christy Brown	I encourage you to extend the mask mandate in schools as cases among children are still increasing, kids under 12 do not have access to the vaccine, and most importantly to me personally is that a non-MRNA vaccine (the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) is not yet available to children of any age. I would be much more comfortable giving my kids a traditional, non-MRNA vaccine such as the J&J. Thank you for your consideration of these relevant concerns. Christy Brown	Mask Mandate in Schools
9/14/2021 12:02	Jen Farrell	Dear Council Members, Please vote yes to extend the mask mandate in schools for the sake of all our community members and especially our unvaccinated children. Our children and community need you and your leadership. PLEASE! Jen Farrell	Mask Mandate in Schools