

Hello, My name is Stephanie Hager. I am a resident of Mandan ND and I am in support of HB1323.

Mask mandates have more than likely done nothing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There is NO scientific evidence that supports the claims that masks prevent the spread of a virus such as this.

Most people I see are wearing either the common blue surgical masks OR cloth/cotton masks with a fun design. First of all- those blue surgical masks- right on the box it states “non-medical use”. My sister is a CNA and is required to wear them and she personally showed me the box that was provided to her by her employer. The manufacturer is Guru Nanda and they were made in China. Now on to those “cute” masks being worn as fashion statements- do you REALLY think some hand sewn fabric is going to stop a deadly disease? No. First of all- this disease isn’t deadly- it has a 99.7% survival rate and secondly the only mask that MAY prevent the spread is an N-95 mask that has been properly fitted to the individual wearing it. And lastly, the most recent recommendation to wearing 2 masks, just goes to show you that wearing one mask for the last year wasn’t effective- wearing 2 won’t be effective either. People who wear masks re-inhale their exhaled breath containing carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide produced is a waste product that needs to be removed. If we don’t remove it from our blood, it would take up all the carrying capacity of our blood and we wouldn’t be able to get oxygen to the rest of our body. There are certainly more health issues to wearing a mask than wearing one to “prevent” the spread of a virus.

Wearing a mask is an INDIVIDUAL choice and should not be mandated by anyone including the government or an employer. There are people out there who physically can’t or shouldn’t wear a mask. What about them? Doesn’t their health matter, too?

Thank you for your time.

What do studies & Data Say?

CDC: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article May 2020 meta-study on pandemic influenza found that face masks had no effect, neither as personal protective equipment nor as a source control.

Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine: July 2020 review found that there is no evidence for the effectiveness of cloth masks against virus infection or transmission.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.01.20088260v1.full.pdf>

University of East Anglia- COVID-19 cross-country study found that a mask requirement was of no benefit and could even increase the risk of infection.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.01.20088260v1.full.pdf>

University of Illinois- April 2020 review by two professors in respiratory and infectious disease concluded that face masks have no effect in everyday life, neither as self protection nor to protect third parties (“source control”). <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>

New England Journal of Medicine - May 2020 article came to the conclusion that cloth face masks offer little to no protection in everyday life. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>

Cochrane Review- April 2020 preprint article found that face masks didn't reduce influenza-like illness cases, neither in the general population nor in health care workers.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20047217v2>

Norwich School of Medicine- April 2020 preprint review found that “the evidence is not sufficiently strong to support widespread use of face masks” but supports the use of masks by “particularly vulnerable individuals when in transient higher risk situations.”

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1>

Japanese Researchers- July 2020 study by Japanese researchers found that cloth masks “offer zero protection against coronavirus” due to their large pore size and generally poor fit.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13523664>

British Medical Journal Open: 2015 study found that cloth masks were penetrated by 97% of particles and may increase infection risk by retaining moisture or repeated use.

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/4/e006577>

German Researcher: August 2020 review by a German professor in virology, epidemiology, and hygiene found that there is no evidence for the effectiveness of cloth face masks and that the improper daily use of masks by the public may actually lead to an increase in infections. [https://www.thieme-](https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/html/10.1055/a-1174-6591)

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