

Scientific basis doesn't exist for a Westfield mask mandate (Letters)

Why is the Westfield Board of Health [now considering mandating mask wearing](#)?

The infection rate may be up, but there have been no deaths reported. As cases rise, our community moves closer to “herd immunity.” If we follow the science, most flu and viruses produce new strains, with each new strain or variant becoming weaker than the original. This is nothing new.

Where does the law give a Board of Health the authority to mandate wearing masks, especially with schoolchildren?

First of all, a [“state of emergency” no longer exists](#) in Massachusetts.

The U.S. Senate voted on Dec. 8 to block Biden’s OSHA vaccine mandate for large employers. This vote followed shortly after the 6th Circuit Court overruled the same mandate.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ended a school mask mandate by ruling that the acting secretary of health did not have the authority to require schoolchildren to wear masks, and that only parents and local officials have the power to make health and safety decisions in our schools.

That power comes with obligations to review the facts and act in the best interest of our communities.

What peer-reviewed scientific evidence is the Board of Health citing that paper or cloth masks prevent transmission of COVID-19?

Why is the Board of Health considering mandating people wear masks in public, when the average age of death from COVID-19 is 80 years old, in people with pre-existing health conditions, at the same time the average age of death in the United States is 80 years old?

Local leaders should provide the public with evidence that it is healthy for schoolchildren to wear masks all day long.

Our focus should be on informing the public on how to boost their immune systems, with vitamin D, zinc and other things, and treating COVID-19 to reduce the severity of symptoms and stress the public is experiencing, not prolonging the outbreak by constantly moving the goalposts that are being dictated by the big pharmaceutical companies.

Americans pay the highest prices for drugs and have the worst health outcomes among the top 75 nations. The over-prescription of opiates, which doctors were told by the pharmaceutical industry were not addictive, has now led to 50,000 Americans dying annually, making pharmaceuticals the third-largest killer of Americans.

Good health does not come in a pill, but from building a strong immune system. It is not healthy for anyone to wear a mask all day long, especially for school-age children or those with respiratory conditions.

Students and our children have had their lives and education turned upside-down. Parents and local school boards should make decisions about our children’s education, health and safety.

If our local leaders cannot provide adequate evidence and an explanation for imposing a mask mandate, then the decision to implement one should not be done until such evidence is presented.

[Source: MassLive.com](#)