

Olivia Kendall, RN
507 E 10th St
Winona, MN 55987
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Henry Schantzen and the Bluffview Board of Directors
Bluffview Montessori School
1321 Gilmore Ave
Winona, MN 55987

Henry Schantzen and the Bluffview Board of Directors:

The Delta Variant continues to become more prevalent in our community, and I would imagine that Bluffview staff and the board are working hard to determine what precautions to take in order to ensure our children are returning to school this fall as safely as possible. I wanted to take the opportunity to provide my personal feedback as both a parent and an RN who has witnessed the toll this virus has taken on our community. The CDC has recently reversed the mask guidance for the Fall 2021 return. Bluffview should follow this guidance and reinstate a mask mandate in keeping with CDC guidance.

We know that masks work. Masks are an effective way to reduce transmission of the virus. CDC Data has shown remarkable reduction in human transmission with cloth mask use. The Delta Variant has been proving to be more communicable in general, but also among children. Not only is evidence suggesting it is more transmissible, but it is also making children sicker than the COVID-19 strain that was the most ubiquitous during the 2020-2021 school year.

Bluffview is not offering a distance learning option this year. If Bluffview is choosing to forego a distance learning option, then it is the responsibility of the school to do everything possible to maintain a safe learning environment. Allowing children and parents an option to mask puts children in a situation of social inequity. Children that have parents who want them to mask, or have chosen to mask with their own personal judgement, may not feel comfortable masking if their peers are not. If masks are required, there is no option or opportunity for a socially uncomfortable situation for kids.

The following page provides a few links to resources that provide data to support these arguments.

With Kind Regards,



Olivia Kendall, RN

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Helpful Links and Resources:

[CDC School Guidance for K-12](#)

[Study on Mask Efficacy](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics Recent Data Report](#)

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