



RESOLUTION NO. 069-2021

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") and UNICEF both state that children 5 years and under should not be required to wear masks, and advise that decisions whether to impose a mask requirement upon children ages 6-11 should be made based on several factors, including the impact of wearing a mask on a child's psychosocial development; and

WHEREAS, the WHO also recommends against children wearing masks during exercise or play, as it accurately recognizes that masks can be harmful because they compromise a child's ability to breathe; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that repeated exposure to mask wearing over longer periods can be measurably harmful; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that children are less likely to transmit and less likely to get symptomatic COVID-19 than adults; and

WHEREAS, children do not typically spread COVID-19, even without wearing masks and teachers are no more likely to be hospitalized due to Covid-19 than in other occupations; and

WHEREAS, the ability to see, appreciate and communicate through facial expressions is crucial to a child's social development, mental health, physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, compared with 2019, the proportion of mental health reported by the United States Centers for Disease Control beginning in April 2020-related visits for children aged 5-11 and 12-17 years increased approximately 24% and 31%, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in El Dorado County, persons 0-17 years old account for ZERO total deaths due to Covid-19, and only 12% of all Covid-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, schools in El Dorado County have had minimal Covid-19 transmission occurring on campus; and

WHEREAS, the majority of adults and children over 12 years old-including those at high risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19- have had ample opportunity to get vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, many highly credentialed, well-respected medical professionals have recently and publicly advocated for the universal elimination of mask mandates for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors hereby Advocate for Parental Choice for masking and vaccinating their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because both the Local Health Emergency Declaration (Resolution 051-2020) and the Proclamation of a Local Emergency (Resolution 052-2020) was lifted in El Dorado County by the Board of Supervisors on June 22, 2021, data no longer warrants a universal mandate regarding masking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports and affirms that the decision-making authority regarding school safety protocols, including masking requirements, resides with the local school districts themselves who are best suited to understand and respond to the needs of the children and families in their care as informed by local experts and data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors demands the state needs to follow through with the promise to empower local governments. In 2020, Governor Newsom said he would empower local governments as they are the experts in their jurisdictions and that has not come to fruition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors continue their commitment to assisting the local school districts in giving students an opportunity to return to normalcy in the classroom, including optional face coverings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that El Dorado County Government will seek out the assistance of government agencies directly involved in the decisions regarding safety protocols in California schools, specifically requesting assistance to make masks optional and relinquishing safety protocol decision making power to the school district itself.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 29th day of June 2021, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Hidahl, Turnboo, Thomas, Parlin

Noes: Novasel

Absent: None

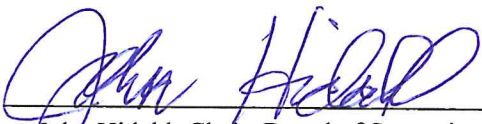
Attest:

Kim Dawson, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:



Deputy Clerk


John Hidahl, Chair, Board of Supervisors