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Board meeting Community Feedback - Please keep the mask mandate through Jan 3, 2022

1 message

Damon Wilkinson <damon.wilkinson@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM

To: janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us

Cc: Damon Wilkinson <damon.wilkinson@gmail.com>, Damon Wilkinson <dwilkinson@winston.com>

My name is Damon Wilkinson. I have two children in the district 4th grade and 6th grade .

Normally I would be there in person but I am busy getting Covid shots for my children and will not return in time to be at the Board meeting in person, so this is the best I can do.

I direct you to the bottom half of page 4 of SDMA Covid-19 Plan for 2021-2022 Under Guiding principles. Point 2

“The health, safety, and overall well-being of SDMA students and staff is the district’s top priority.”

Today’s agenda has two proposed dates to end the district mask mandate. One of these is for essentially “now” for grades k-12, – the other proposes Dec 13 and doesn’t explicitly state ages so that implies all ages.

I propose that we end the mask mandate when we return from break on Jan 3, 2022.

I realize some of you may feel that is too much time to wait, so I can only relay my own difficulties in scheduling Covid shots for my own children.

This is a summary of the process, but I assure you more time was spent.

On Wed Nov 3, there were rumors that Red Cedar Mayo was scheduling appointments – the first schedule date available date being Monday Nov 8. I called various Mayo lines myself.

At 4:45 pm on Nov 3, I was informed that while certain people with special needs were being setup, the dates for the general public to schedule would start on Tuesday Nov 9.

On Thursday morning Nov 4, I heard that Mayo had changed their mind and had started to schedule general public dates, and in fact were now out of dates through Thanksgiving.

I called Mayo Red Cedar myself at noon on Thursday Nov 4 and basically said “ can we now schedule appointments and what happened?”

They said yes, and the first day that I could get any appointment for was Nov 16, and the first day to get two slots together was Nov 17.

One must wait three weeks to get the second shot. That means best case scenario (Mayo won’t schedule the 2nd shot until the first one is administered) I can schedule the shot for Dec 8 but not until after Nov 17, and there is no way to know if shots will even be available for that day.

All of the guidelines state 7-14 days for full immunity after the 2nd shot.

Being conservative, the earliest date for full immunity is Dec 23.

This seemed reasonable, but only because I expected the mask mandate to remain long enough for people to get vaccinated as people cannot schedule shots when they want but rather when they are available and when they fit, and there are only so many shots available per day.

Later Thursday night I was told that some board members already want to end the mandate sooner. I do not know what the reasoning is for this. Even if you are lucky enough to get your first shot today, and the second shot in three weeks – the earliest date with full immunity is Dec 13.

Most people in the community will not have finished their shots by then – remember up above I just told you the earliest day I myself could get at Mayo Red Cedar was Wed Nov 17.

“The health, safety, and overall well-being of SDMA students and staff is the district’s top priority.”

Upon hearing of the proposed date changes, my wife spent a lot of time Thursday night looking for alternative shot times. We were fortunate enough to get shots in Eau Claire available for late today, Nov 8, and that is why I am not at the Board Meeting today.

Also note that Walgreen will allow us to schedule the second shot before the first shot, and the best we could do is Sat Dec 4. Full immunity will not be obtained until Dec 18 for us.

As you know more than I do, we have members in our community who are less fortunate. They will not be able to adjust their schedules, tell their boss they are taking off from work when they want to and drive 30 miles away with little warning.

They will be looking at dates further out on the calendar – in fact, I need to cancel my Mayo dates so that someone can call in and ask for them for Nov 17 in the afternoon.

Therefore, we need to allow time for everyone to schedule and obtain both shots.

This is why I suggest Jan 3, 2022. It will be easy for everyone to remember “hey the mask mandate is over when we come back from break”.

“The health, safety, and overall well-being of SDMA students and staff is the district’s top priority.”

Please follow up your own Covid plan words with actions, and keep the mask mandate in place until we return to school from break on Jan 3, 2022.

Thank you.

Damon Wilkinson