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Comments for School Board Meeting on 10/11

1 message

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I am writing this statement in an effort to curb the misinformation included in the agenda item to discuss masking and preventing the board from addressing the issue in the future.

I would first like to call out the quote included in the agenda item about the study of infections among vaccinated people in Israel and masks. While the included quote was part of the study - the study did NOT conclude that masks do not work. In fact, the conclusion **recommended the use of masks** in spite of the cases of transmission that were found.

Below is a link to the entire article/study. I have included the Conclusion from this article/study for your reference.

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2021.26.39.2100822>

Conclusion

This nosocomial outbreak exemplifies the high transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant among twice vaccinated and masked individuals. This suggests some waning of immunity, albeit still providing protection for individuals without comorbidities. However, a third vaccine dose may be needed, particularly in individuals with risk factors for severe COVID-19. Appropriate use of masks, especially in high-risk settings is advised.

Secondly, a quick Google shows that the statement made by Norway's Institute of Public Health was misquoted/misconstrued and they did NOT classify Covid as no more dangerous than the flu. I am including just a few examples of reputable sites that fact-checked this claim and found it false - and include the entire statement made by the Norway Institute of Public Health. The last link included some statistics comparing the deaths from influenza and Covid that I have included for your reference.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2021/sep/30/blog-posting/norway-public-health-officials-did-not-say-coronav/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-coronavirus-norway/fact-check-norways-institute-of-public-health-did-not-say-covid-19-is-as-dangerous-as-the-common-flu-idUSL1N2R30WH>

<https://www.deseret.com/coronavirus/2021/10/1/22702253/norway-covid-flu-same>

But that is not the case. In one year, the flu often leads to somewhere between 290,000 to 650,000 deaths amid 1 billion cases per year. The coronavirus has killed 4 million people amid 233 million cases in 18 months, showing the virus spreads faster and kills more people, per Johns Hopkins University data.

Regarding the agenda item to make masking options for all students AND preventing the board from addressing it again in the future - I disagree with this approach and agree with the statement made in the agenda advising against this recommendation (below):

It is not recommended that the Board approve this proposal.

This proposal is not aligned with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Dunn County Health Department, the SDMA Medical Advisors, the SDMA District Administrator, the SDMA Administrative Team, the district's liability insurance carrier, and the advice of SDMA legal counsel.

My objection is not specific to the masking portion of this item, but more so to the misinformation that has been included in an attempt to make a case for optional masking, and MOSTLY for the included item that would prevent the board from addressing the strategy in the future. The Board needs to remain flexible in the approach to Covid mitigation measures as the situation changes in our region/schools.

Thank You,
Sherry Luoma
Menomonie, WI