

**From:** ICWA [contact@informedchoicewa.org](mailto:contact@informedchoicewa.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Response to July 9 Letter  
**Date:** August 1, 2020 at 2:01 PM  
**To:** Fehrenbach, Lacy M (DOH) [lacy.fehrenbach-marosfalvy@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lacy.fehrenbach-marosfalvy@doh.wa.gov)  
**Cc:** DOH Secretary's Office [DOH.Secretary@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:DOH.Secretary@DOH.WA.GOV)



Dear Lacy M. Fehrenbach,

Thank you for your response by our requested date. However, you did not provide the evidence we requested. We are therefore asking again that you provide by August 15, 2020, the following information:

- Evidence of physical safety for children to wear masks or shields 7 hours a day;
- Evidence that mask or shield wearing is safe with respect to emotional and psychological health;
- Evidence that social-distancing and promoting fear of pathogens is safe with respect to immune, physical, emotional, and psychological health;
- Evidence that mask and shield wearing by children and educators does not negatively impact learning and brain function;
- Evidence that masks and shields prevent virus transmission rather than enhance it, given real-world conditions such as homemade masks, poor fit, constant mask or shield and facial touching;
- Evidence of necessity of masking and social-distancing based on most current data;
- Evidence that the risk of severe disease in children is not rare;
- Evidence that children have been significant sources of transmission to individuals at risk of severe disease;
- Evidence that avoidance of natural exposure, natural immunity, and natural herd immunity is a safe approach for children.

Please note that since our original letter, the CDC has released a new preliminary report on cloth masks, which qualifies all of its recommendations with “may” and “might,” includes citations that do not definitively support their recommendations, includes reference to asymptomatic transmission numbers based on computer modeling rather than real-world tracking and tracing data which suggests it is extremely rare. Most importantly, the CDC states:

"The general public should be educated about mask use because cloth masks may give users a false sense of protection because of their limited protection against acquiring infection. Correctly putting on and taking off cloth masks improves protection (Table). Taking a mask off is a high-risk process because pathogens may be present on the outer surface of the mask and may result in self-contamination during removal."

Given this, please also provide:

- Evidence that children wearing masks in a school setting for long periods of time are capable of adhering to the strict safety procedures required when putting on and taking off masks.

And again, if you have no evidence that the experimental measures in your Guidelines would do no harm to the physical, emotional, and psychological development of our children; if you have no evidence that children are at anything but very rare risk of poor infection outcome, or that they are important sources of transmission, then eliminate them. Please promote the existing effective treatment protocols, and set our children free to learn in a normal and socially interactive environment.

Public Health polices must consider ALL impacts upon health and well-being. Our children are suffering from the extreme measures that have been taken and they will continue to suffer under the conditions proposed.

And finally, you kindly thanked us for our letter and "concern for our students." But they are first and foremost OUR children, who we entrust to you to educate.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Pajer  
Public Policy Director, ICWA

On Jul 31, 2020, at 7:02 PM, Fehrenbach, Lacy M (DOH) <[lacy.fehrenbach-marosfalvy@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lacy.fehrenbach-marosfalvy@doh.wa.gov)> wrote:

Dear Board Members,