



**Name:** Roozbeh Matin

**Summary of main points for the issue/ concern:**

Against mask Mandate in schools in absence of similar Mandate from Ottawa Public Health.

**Recommendation(s) for resolution of issue:**

I am a family physician with 3 kids in primary school. I am fully in support of all evidence based public health measures that protect my children while they are at school. However, I would like to point out that there is no evidence for school masking in the context we currently find ourselves – namely that the Public Health Ontario and Ottawa Public Health are not implementing mask mandate in concert with school boards. Currently the children who are at risk of complications from RSV and Influenza are toddlers. They are the ones requiring hospitalization and ICU admissions. Masking in schools does not target this group except for kindergarteners who already have difficulty donning masks properly. If the goal is to protect this vulnerable group by masking their older siblings in school, then we require provincial mandates to limit spread outside of the school as well. It makes no sense for a child to mask for 7 hours in school only to go to a crowded hockey changeroom without a mask that night and bring the virus back home to their family. I understand the impulse to protect our kids in school and our hospitals from overcrowding. I simply ask that the board does not make decisions in a vacuum and without proper evidence and consultation from public health units. Thanks for your consideration. Dr. Roozbeh Matin Board 11/18/2022