



Resolution Number:	W-22-04	Sponsored By:	Senator Zachary Schmidt Senator Jeremy Huggins
Introduced On:	3-3-2022		
Voted On:	3-17-2022		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:			

A Bill to: Urge Grand Valley State University to re-examine its COVID-19 level alert system and to support the optional mask-wearing policy inside the Recreation Center.

Recognizing, that the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) administration’s timeline is unclear on when Lakers will be allowed to make an individual decision concerning mask wearing¹, and GVSU’s threshold to go mask optional is less than one case per week², meaning that the goal cannot practically be reached; and

Recognizing, that “Extended mask-wearing by the general population could lead to relevant effects and consequences” that could include but are not limited to “carbon dioxide retention, drowsiness, headache, feeling of exhaustion, skin irritation (redness, itching) and microbiological contamination (germ colonization)”³; and

Recognizing, that a current meta-analysis published in the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health found that facemasks, especially N95 respirators, can cause subjects to report significant discomfort and was “associated with a significant increase in end-tidal carbon dioxide levels” especially during vigorous exercise⁴; and

Recognizing, that the World Health Organization (WHO) advises that people should not wear masks during vigorous and intense physical activity because masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably⁵; and

Recognizing, that the health benefits of exercise, including antidepressant effects, are widely recognized by the medical community⁶; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/alert-levels-and-indicators-39.htm>
² <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/alert-levels-and-indicators-39.htm>
³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8072811/>
⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8053250/>
⁵ [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak/](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak/)
⁶ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.2165/00007256-200939060-00004>

Recognizing, Dr. Leana Wen, a Research Professor of Health Policy and Management at George Washington University, stated in a CNN interview that cloth face masks are little more than “facial decorations”⁷; and

Recognizing, that Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, stated in an interview with CBS that cloth masks “aren't going to provide a lot of protection [against COVID-19]”⁸; and

Recognizing, Dr. Gottlieb stated in an interview with “Morning Joe” that the US should be “aggressive” in removing COVID-19 measures, including mask mandates⁹; and

Recognizing, that a recent Public Health of Ontario study of the omicron variant found that the risk of hospitalization or death from omicron, compared to the delta variant, is 65% lower, and the risk of ICU admission or death was 83% lower¹⁰; and

Recognizing, that the United Kingdom (UK) has removed their COVID-19 preventative measures, including their indoor mask mandate,¹¹ because COVID-19 in the UK has “peaked.” Prime Minister Johnson added that “We will trust the judgment of the British people and no longer criminalize anyone who chooses not to wear one¹²”; and

Recognizing, that 72% of the United Kingdom’s population is vaccinated against COVID-19¹³; and

Recognizing, that Denmark has lifted all COVID-19 measures, including their indoor mask mandate, citing “high vaccination levels” and “the less serious nature of Omicron¹⁴”; and

Recognizing, that approximately 81% of Denmark’s population is vaccinated against COVID-19¹⁵; and

Recognizing, that the state of California has lifted their indoor mask mandate, effective February 15th, 2022, for vaccinated people, citing a 65% decrease in cases and a stabilization in hospitalizations¹⁶; and

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiSU17vKoZM>

⁸ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/airborne-illness-dr-scott-gottlieb-cloth-masks-protection-covid-19>

⁹ <https://news.yahoo.com/gottlieb-us-aggressive-lifting-covid-180432533.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.24.21268382v2.full.pdf>

¹¹ <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/uk-lifts-covid-restrictions-omicron-wave-peaked-82349201>

¹² <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/uk-lifts-covid-restrictions-omicron-wave-peaked-82349201>

¹³ <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/covid-19-vaccination-tracker/>

¹⁴ https://en.as.com/en/2022/01/28/latest_news/1643369989_282683.html

¹⁵ <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/covid-19-vaccination-tracker/>

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/GavinNewsom/status/1490827066454863873>

Recognizing, that the state of Delaware has lifted their indoor mask mandate, effective February 11th, 2022, with Governor Carney stating that the state is in a “much better place” with regards to COVID-19¹⁷; and

Recognizing, that the state of Rhode Island has lifted their indoor mask mandate, effective February 11th, 2022, with Governor McKee citing a decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations as a result of COVID-19. Governor McKee added that it is time to move to an “endemic management phase of the virus”¹⁸; and

Recognizing, that the state of Massachusetts has relaxed their masking guidelines for vaccinated people, and will allow their school mask mandate to expire on February 28th, 2022. Governor Baker cited the low risk of serious illness or death that young and vaccinated people face from COVID-19¹⁹; and

Recognizing, that the state of Nevada has lifted their mask mandate, effective February 10th, citing a decrease in cases and a stabilization in hospitalizations²⁰; and

Recognizing, that the state of New York has lifted their mask mandate, effective February 9th, 2022, citing high vaccination rates and a drop in COVID cases²¹; and

Recognizing, that the state of Michigan no longer urges local governments, local leaders and school leaders to require masks indoors, effective February 16th, 2022, citing an improvement in COVID-19 trends. Governor Whitmer added, “While Michigan hasn’t had statewide mask policies since last June, this updated guidance will underscore that we are getting back to normal”²²; and

Recognizing, that the difference in COVID-19 case rates in public schools that have mask mandates compared to those that do not is negligible²³; and

Recognizing, that GVSU’s seven day average of cases has dropped from seventy-five cases as of January 15th, 2022 to seven cases as of February 15th, 2022²⁴; and

¹⁷<https://news.delaware.gov/2022/02/07/governor-carney-announces-expiration-of-universal-indoor-mask-mandate-on-february-11/>

¹⁸<https://governor.ri.gov/press-releases/governor-mckee-ridoh-announce-plan-lift-statewide-school-mask-mandate-and-allow#:~:text=PROVIDENCE%2C%20RI%20%E2%80%93%20With%20COVID%2D,school%20districts%20a%20that%20time.>

¹⁹<https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2022/02/massachusetts-relaxes-covid-indoor-mask-advisory-for-vaccinated-people-as-cases-improve.html>

²⁰<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/governor-lifts-nevada-mask-mandate-effective-immediately-points-to-case-drops>

²¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/08/us/politics/new-york-mask-mandate.html>

²² <https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2022/02/16/michigan-masks-schools-covid/6815461001/>

²³<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2022/02/14/comparing-covid-19-cases-schools-and-without-mask-mandates/6756790001/>

²⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/data-dashboard-37.htm>

Recognizing, that according to the Virus Action Team there has been limited hospitalizations and deaths within the laker community as a result of COVID-19²⁵; and

Recognizing, that over 95% of the GVSU faculty population has been fully vaccinated²⁶; and

Recognizing, that over 89% of the GVSU student body has been fully vaccinated²⁷; and

Recognizing, that likelihood of death from COVID-19 is greatly decreased by being vaccinated²⁸ or through having natural immunity²⁹; and

Therefore, let it be resolved, that the Grand Valley Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, urges Grand Valley State University to update “alert level zero” to a more reasonable and prudent standard, meaning that it should allow for flexibility in mask optional policies rather than adhering to the average of one case per day standard; and

Furthermore, let it be resolved that, the Grand Valley Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, expresses its official support for the Grand Valley State University’s decision to move to alert level one effective March 2nd, 2022; and

Furthermore, let it be resolved that, the Grand Valley Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, expresses its official support of Grand Valley State University’s decision to permit an optional mask-wearing policy inside the Recreation Center; and

Finally, let it be resolved that, the Grand Valley Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, expresses its official acknowledgement to VAT for allowing a Student Senate liaison, to further the interests of the Grand Valley student body.

²⁵ Personal interview with a member of the VAT

²⁶ Dr. Aboufadel’s presentation to cabinet

²⁷ Dr. Aboufadel’s presentation to cabinet

²⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0607-mrna-reduce-risks.html>

²⁹ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1>