

August 26, 2021

Regarding: Hazardous Condition Letter - Warning
Kristi Noem - South Dakota Governor
To: 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Kristi Noem,

I am a concerned parent with school age children that attend schools in Minnesota. I am also a concerned registered professional engineer that has worn masks for many years. I have voiced my concerns to a Minnesota School Board, but I feel it has fallen on deaf ears. Due to the serious nature of my concerns, I am obligated, based on the NSPE Professional Code of Ethic to take my concerns to the next level.

I am sending this you because I think this is both a local and a national crisis that is out of control. I am a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and I am giving my Professional Engineer's Opinion on the topic of mandating masks (especially as it pertains to children).

This letter is a **Formal Notice of a Hazard Condition Situation** that may arise due to instructing children to "mask-up". Actually, it is already here. Our children have been unnecessarily pushed to the edge emotionally. There are health risk associated with blindly mandating that masks be worn by children and adults who are required to follow the direction of a school appointed authority or bus drivers that have no training in assessing health. Specifically, the following items must be considered in each and every decision to instruct a child to put on a mask:

1. I have been wearing face masks for many years as a professional engineer to conduct inspections within hazardous environments. I have personal and professional knowledge and experience in wearing masks going back to 1984 and including up to the present (2021). I know, personally, the dangers associated with finding yourself out of breath while wearing a face mask.
2. Masks restrict the free flow of breathing. By now, any logical person cannot deny this fact.
3. In certain environments masking can quickly lead to increased breathing rates, an accelerated heartbeat, impaired thinking, impaired coordination, light headiness, and nausea.
4. Testing the air within and immediately around face masks indicates a reduction in oxygen.
5. The atmosphere generally has 20.9 percent oxygen by volume.
6. The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134) uses 19.5 percent oxygen as the level below which an oxygen-deficient atmosphere exists and requires, generally, that all oxygen-deficient atmospheres be considered immediately dangerous to life or health.

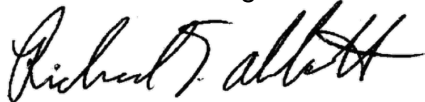
7. Therefore, to prevent these serious health effects from occurring when employees are exposed to oxygen-deficient atmospheres, the OSHA Standard requires employers to provide employees with either a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or a combination full-facepiece pressure-demand supplied-air respirator (SAR) with an auxiliary self-contained air supply.
8. I have created a short demonstration where a N95 mask was placed on my face. After only a few seconds, the alarm is triggered indicating an OXYGEN-DEFICIENT condition. The video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/MRzV1zWwBP4>
9. Additional information can be found at <https://abbottforensic.com/mask-warnings/>

Conclusions:

1. It is my personal and professional opinion that masks can be dangerous as they restrict free breathing.
2. It is my personal and professional opinion that mandating face masking of children that are not capable of assessing their own health risk is a dangerous situation.
3. It is my personal and professional opinion that mandating face masking of children that are not capable of assessing their own health risk is child abuse.
4. As a professional engineer licensed in the state of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Florida, California, I feel a formal warning is required to safeguard the welfare of the general public, specifically, innocent children. This is that warning.
5. This letter is a professionally certified letter that can be used in a court of law. I, Richard Abbott, can be subpoenaed as a fact witness attesting to these findings and conclusion of this report. I can also be subpoenaed as an expert witness with regard to certain related OSHA requirements.
6. This letter and/or my testimony can be used for or against an organization or an individual that:
 - a. chooses to instruct a child to place a mask on their face therefore constrict their breathing,
 - b. chooses to walk by or near a child when the child is in breathing distress when wearing a mask and under their care or direction whether they know of the distress or not.
 - c. chooses to give the impression to a child that a mask must be worn in a certain location or they will be disobedient whether that person is near or far removed from their presence including transportation to and from their facility, at school activities, or at school organized events.
 - d. chooses to refrain from instructing and/or enforcing a child to wear a face covering.
7. It should be noted that the face mask demonstration was done on myself, under my own free will while breathing calmly through a modified N95 mask.

8. This test does not represent all the mask variations that the general public has utilized.
9. This test did not make any determinations as to immediate health risk to children who may have elevated heart rates or breathing problems which may include:
 - a. physical exertion due to sports or gym class
 - b. anxiety due to common stress related to normal school activities including testing, student-to-student interaction, or brisk walking from room to room.
 - c. allergies, medications, stuffy nose, flu, colds, asthma, coughs, injuries, heat exhaustion, or other conditions which may increase further distress.

Sincerely,
Abbott Consulting Forensics & Design LLC



Richard T. Abbott, PE
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