

August 26, 2021

Regarding: Hazardous Condition Letter - Warning
To: School Bus Driver

Dear School Bus Driver,

By now you know that anyone can get sued. If you are receiving this letter, the school board of the children you are transporting likely received a certified letter with additional information regarding this issue. You need a copy of that letter.

I'm sorry. I know bus drivers work hard with little to no appreciation. However, you can no longer say, "My hands are tied." They are not. You are driving the BUS!!! It is a huge responsibility. This is a warning for you or a protection depending on how you direct children on YOUR bus.

I am a concerned parent with school age children that attend school in Minnesota. I am also a concerned professional engineer that has worn masks for many years. I have voiced by 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 to take my concerns to the next level.

This letter is a **Formal Notice of a Hazard Condition Situation** that may arise due to **your** direct or indirect involvement with mandating that children wear face masks while on the bus you drive. You are the authority that the children look to while riding the bus. There are health risk associated with blindly mandating that masks be worn by children who are required to follow the direction of a school appointed authority. Specifically, the following items must be considered in your decision making:

1. Masks restrict the free flow of breathing. By now, any logical person cannot deny this fact.
2. In certain environments masking can quickly lead to increased breathing rates, an accelerated heartbeat, impaired thinking, impaired coordination, light headiness, and nausea.
3. Testing the air within and immediately around face masks indicates a reduction in oxygen.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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-DEFIEICIENT condition. The video 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, I feel a warning is required to safeguard the welfare of the general public, specifically, innocent children. This is that warning.
5. This letter is not professionally certified letter; however, it 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 letter. 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 school activities.
 - d. chooses to reframe from instructing and/or enforcing a child to wear a face covering.
7. This test does not represent all the mask variations that the general public has utilized.
8. 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 physical exertion due to sports or gym class, anxiety due to common stress related to normal school activities including testing, student-to-student interaction, brisk walking from room to room, allergies, medications, stuffy nose, flu, colds, asthma, coughs, injuries, heat exhaustion, or other conditions which may increase further distress.
9. Are you confident that you have correctly assessed each child on your bus and will monitor their condition for the full ride and that by YOU verbally instructing them to “mask-up” it is in their and your best interest? You better make sure you know.

Sincerely,
Abbott Consulting Forensics & Design LLC

Richard T. Abbott, PE