

**From:** [John Gaudet](#)  
**To:** [\\* City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Concord City Council Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:12:22 AM

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Dear Concord City Council,

As a citizen of Concord, I respectfully request that an after-action review be completed by the Council with respect to the Covid-19 mask ordinance that was imposed on the city in Sept. 2020 and renewed in Jan. 2021. Now that the Governor has lifted the State mandate, I believe it is time to reconsider the City mandate. Despite my disagreement with the mandate, I do believe that the Council was acting in a good faith attempt to protect the citizens of Concord, so please accept this request as a desire to move the City back to normal.

The initial proposal was made, and ultimately approved, by the City Council to accomplish two stated goals: reduce infections/hospitalizations and increase shopping traffic on Main Street as certain shopkeepers were reporting concerns that the lack of a mandate would reduce visits and revenues. So, I ask that the following be completed:

- Review the trend of infection and hospitalization rates in Concord to determine if the implementation of the mandate had any impact (positive or negative) on the actual results in Concord.
- Review City financial receipts to determine whether or not visits and spending increased in Downtown as hoped.

I will admit that I do not expect that either of those results will be significantly positive, but in fairness, I must ask instead of assuming.

Additionally, I also request that each Council member review this item (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7680614/> from the National Institutes of Health, US National Library of Medicine that was published by Stanford University researchers. In this scientific review of the efficacy of mask usage, you will see the following in their conclusion (emphasis added):

- “The existing scientific evidences challenge the safety and efficacy of wearing facemask as preventive intervention for COVID-19. ***The data suggest that both medical and non-medical facemasks are ineffective to block human-to-human transmission of viral and infectious disease*** such SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, supporting against the usage of facemasks. Wearing facemasks has been demonstrated to have substantial adverse physiological and psychological effects. These include hypoxia, hypercapnia, shortness

of breath, increased acidity and toxicity, activation of fear and stress response, rise in stress hormones, immunosuppression, fatigue, headaches, decline in cognitive performance, predisposition for viral and infectious illnesses, chronic stress, anxiety and depression. Long-term consequences of wearing facemask can cause health deterioration, developing and progression of chronic diseases and premature death. Governments, policy makers and health organizations should utilize prosper and scientific evidence-based approach with respect to wearing facemasks, when the latter is considered as preventive intervention for public health.”

I believe that it is time to remove mask mandate in Concord, and I do hope that you will add this to the agenda for your May Council meeting as opposed to simply allowing the clock to run out on June first based on your January vote. Even if you choose to dismiss the study I have attached, the aggregate CDC data across the country clearly show that the locations that are lifting their mask mandates are objectively faring much better than the locations that are not. Furthermore, beyond the clear health benefits attached to lifting the mandate, lifting it in May instead of waiting until June will allow the City to get the word out to boost Summer tourism. This is a HUGE economic opportunity, and I implore you to seize it. If any of you would like to discuss the merits of this request and proposal, I would be happy to do so, and I have included my contact information with my signature for that purpose.

To close, I will leave you with this last consideration. This Friday, I will be eating inside a NH restaurant for the first time since the mask mandates were instituted. Please know that I will be doing so at a restaurant in Hooksett, not Concord, because Hooksett has no local mandate. I am quite certain that I am not the only person making the decision to go to a surrounding town to have dinner in lieu of wearing a mask in a Concord restaurant. Let's set our restaurants up for success. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Gaudet

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