

"From Where I Sit ..."

School Days in a Covid World!



At the writing of this article, public schools have resumed amid the Covid Mask controversy. School age children are now being required to learn their "A-B-C's", their "1-2-3's" and how to live in a Covid-19 world. I remember the joy of my public-school Fall days in Beatrice, Alabama where I only worried about maintaining my annual records of "perfect attendance" and my maternal grandparents only worried about completing the Fall harvest and the preparations for Winter. My, how things have changed!

Today, some parents, and some school districts, are divided over the Mask Mandate and are taking their differences to the streets. The core of the differences of the two sides rests with public protection on the one hand and individual rights on the other. Unfortunately, our children, especially our youngest children, are caught in the middle of this controversy. And what is most unfortunate is that our youngest children (ages 5 to 12) still do not have access to an approved vaccine.



It is quite clear that our country continues to languish in the division created during the prior administration and science and sound reasoning is still taking a backseat to misinformation that has been publicly advocated by many federal and state officials.

Had more people opted to take the life-saving vaccines earlier in the year, the overall percentage of those vaccinated could well have been near or over the 90% range and thereby creating what had been termed as "herd immunity." With this herd immunity vaccination rate achieved, we could well have avoided the "Delta" variant and most likely not have needed masks at all. At the same time, the lives of so many of our friends, acquaintances, and friends, who chose not to take the vaccine would have been saved from a lonely death.



The bottom line is that these vaccines save lives, are free to the public, and help to protect others. And the mask mandate helps to protect not only ourselves but, also, others within the confines of our 6-ft bubbles including our children who are not yet eligible to get the vaccine. When we fly, we are instructed that when oxygen masks are needed, we are to fit it on ourselves first and then on our children traveling with us. The same applies with vaccines and masks. We should all take the vaccine, and we should all wear masks. **Or at least that's the way it looks to me...**

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