

Mask Mandates Lifted in Texas

By: Mallory Erickson

As we know, we have all been wearing masks for over a year now. Well this winter 2021, some states lifted mask mandates and I had some questions to see if this helped them at all etc. Many people are upset how Texas got to lift this rule, but Ohio is still wearing them. I think that it helped us a lot this year by wearing masks because the numbers for influenza have gone down tremendously. I asked some people I know from Texas some questions about this change that happened over this year.

My first interview I did was with a girl named Cardin Mills. Apparently Texas stopped wearing masks March 10, 2021. She has not seen a change in the number of people getting sick before masks. She doesn't know if they will never have masks again, but she hopes not. Cardin does still see some people wearing their masks, but very few probably like 25% of people in the area she's around.

Talia Mills is the next person I talked to that lives in Texas. The mask limits in Texas have been gone for about a month and a half now. Maddy said she likes having no masks around, she said it definitely was weird at first. She said she has been in person during school this whole pandemic. Talia said that this is good and bad, bad because there is more of a risk of people getting sick, good because they are finally getting things back to normal. She does think that other states will lift their mask limits as well, it just depends when and how long.

I also interviewed my friend Maddy Mealy from Perry, Ohio, and asked her some questions on how she feels about Texas mask mandates. First I asked, "Is it unfair that Texas lifted their mask mandates and we didn't?" She said not really because ours will probably get lifted as well at some point. Maddy also believes we won't have to wear

masks soon, she's thinking by over summer or next school year they will be gone. Maddy doesn't think it's helping Texas at all by lifting their mask mandates, but other states are lifting theirs as well so hopefully we will too. She thinks the cases still dropped in Texas because most people are getting their vaccine and that could be a reason why they got rid of the mask mandates. She thinks all states will eventually get to the point of getting rid of masks; it's just a matter of when they do.

That was some of the people I talked to about their opinions on the Texas mask mandates getting lifted, hopefully ours will too! I saw a positive side to this and a negative. Positive because we might actually get things back to normal soon, and negative because there is a slim chance that this could be a big problem once again.