

## David Dickson

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**From:** David Dickson  
**Sent:** March 17, 2023 4:32 PM  
**To:** Drayton Valley-Devon  
**Cc:** Office of the Premier  
**Subject:** Questions for the immediate attention and response of the Alberta Health Minister  
**Attachments:** clp-ahs-use-of-masks-hcs-267-March132023.pdf

**Importance:** High

Dear Mark,

Thank you for meeting with us today. Taking account of the finite timeline you mentioned in our meeting and the critical nature of these questions, here are the two items you were prepared to take to the Minister of Health.

1. Alberta Health published COVID Case/Death data.
  - a. This data is published on the Alberta Health Website (although the button to download was removed from the web page on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022).
  - b. This data includes the following pieces of information;
    - i. ID (random reference number)
    - ii. **Date reported**
    - iii. Alberta Health Services Zone
    - iv. Gender
    - v. Age group
    - vi. **Death status**
      1. **Active**
      2. **Recovered**
      3. **Died**
      4. **NA**
    - vii. Case type
  - c. There are two dates associated with each piece of information made available.
    - i. The date of publication referenced as the period of time since the last report. i.e. this week's report on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, March 2023 included all the data and changes from Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to Monday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (inclusive).
    - ii. The **"Date reported"** on each line of the report.

### Question 1:

As a fixed field of factual data, what does "Date reported" mean for each of the "Death status" items listed above? i.e. Does "Date reported" for Death Status "Died" mean the date first diagnosed with COVID, the date the person Died or the date Alberta Health was notified of the death?

2. Despite the public statements as regards the known harms of masking children, AHS is still requiring the masking of children over the age of 2 years as visitors or patients in Care Homes and Hospitals, as it has since March 2020. This masking requirement also applies to disabled persons with a written medical exemption such as myself. As this Directive by AHS was just updated on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to expand the areas of mandatory masking of children and others and in September 2022 to expand to ANY VIRUS as justification, it is clear that this is intended to become a permanent restriction in Alberta. In addition, the official policy directions for modifying an adult mask for these children and infants (against the manufacturers' guidelines, OH&S and Health Canada safety guidelines) is a video produced by a young mainland China resident YouTube influencer

with no formal training in this area. This video was created in April 2020 and still remains as the direction from AHS and thus the Alberta Government and the Health Minister responsible for AHS. See Section 7.1.b of the attached AHS Directive HCS-267. A direct link to the video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaDKF5HK5hU&v=en>.

This Directive, which is being aggressively enforced by AHS staff including Protective Services, resulting in the injury of Albertans and refusal of care for children and disabled persons, is not supported by AHS's own Scientific Advisory Group. After receiving their July 2022 report which acknowledged the harms being done by this masking policy, the Alberta CMOH (Dr. Deena Hinshaw) at the time, removed masking from Alberta leaving most Albertans to assume masking had finally gone for good. Despite Dr. Hinshaw and Health Minister Copping having the ability to ensure the removal of masks from AHS at the same time, they neglected to do so. As a result, my grandchildren (3 years and 8 years), also in your constituency, cannot visit their great grandmother in her Care Home (for 3 years and counting), visit an emergency department, be transported by ambulance or receive any Health Care at an AHS facility without being forced to wear a mask.

Note that the policy is not applicable to executive and admin staff or staff not in direct view of the public. There are many exemptions (which are not being adopted by many AHS staff) which make this policy even more unacceptable especially when the Government's own panel of experts (from AHS) acknowledge the harms and suggest the policy is more about 'optics' than safety. As you pointed out, regarding some of the COVID government matters we discussed during our meeting, this is more about 'compliance' than 'safety'.

For reference: Section 7 of the latest HCS-267 Directive (attached).

## 7. Masking Requirements for Pediatric Patients

- 7.1 As a general principle, patients from three (3) to 18 years of age are expected to wear masks to appointments at AHS facilities (including emergency departments, urgent care centres, and outpatient clinics) or when visiting others at risk.
  - a) Wearing a mask may not be appropriate or tolerated for a small percentage of children. The health care team should work collaboratively with the parent/guardian to find the most appropriate and safest solution for the situation.
  - b) For those children over three (3) years of age who can tolerate a procedure mask, provide a child-appropriate procedure mask or an adult procedure mask adjusted to fit the child. As child-sized masks will be limited in availability, adult-size masks should be used for older/larger children and 'solutions' such as in this video can be used to adjust adult masks to fit a child.
- 7.2 For infants and toddlers who are two (2) years of age and under, masks are not recommended. For these children, consider alternative strategies to keep them calm, safe (e.g., in a stroller, infant carrier, parent's/guardian's arms), and faced towards the parent/guardian to minimize droplet spread.
- 7.3 Families should maintain two (2) metres of physical distance from others and try to prevent children from wandering.

### Question 2:

Based on the above information, how can the Minister of Health justify the forced masking of children and disabled persons or targeted discrimination of those unable or unwilling to wear a mask, for the same reasons Premier Smith stated regarding the harms they were causing children at schools and how can he continue to ignore the mental and physical damage caused by this policy including the forced separation of children and other family members from their loved ones in Care Homes?

David

David T. Dickson

**C.E.O. DKS DATA ([www.dksdata.com](http://www.dksdata.com))**

**Consulting C.I.O.**

*Management/Legal Consultant*

*Privacy and Cybersecurity Expert.*

**Email:** [david.dickson@dksdata.com](mailto:david.dickson@dksdata.com)



Microsoft  
Partner

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