Stay vigilant to maintain low positivity rate

As the Midway sees it ...

Walking through Lab’s hallways on Jan. 16, you would never be able to tell that the country and the state were experiencing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases. Students walked through school with their masks under their noses, talked in the hallways with peers, “half-masking,” or the practice of wearing masks below the nose, do not have anywhere near the dramatic benefits of a tight-fitting mask.

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OPINION

At least for now. The science has been in for months: tight-fitting masks curb the spread of COVID. At the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year, numerous studies confirmed this fact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention claiming that mask mandates cut outbreaks in schools by 3.5 times. Unfortunately for many of our peers, “half-masking,” or the practice of wearing masks below the nose, do not have anywhere near the dramatic benefits of a tight-fitting mask. This defeats the entire purpose of wearing masks as the nose is the area of the body that is most quickly and significantly infected by the coronavirus. As air passes through the nasal passages, it carries virus particles with it, potentially infecting others.

Additionally, new evidence shows cloth masks are much less effective than surgical or N95 masks at preventing the spread of the virus. Thus, students should avoid cloth masks entirely and opt for masks like the N95s distributed this week (or masks with equivalent protection like N95 or KN94 masks).

All of this seems common sense by now, and most people will agree — at least in principle. Still, many students choose to ignore the benefits citing pandemic fatigue or continued positivity, which has overshadowed the efforts of a blood-curdling pandemic. This is our suffering and oppression.”

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City council renames iconic drive
Lake Shore Drive now honors early Chicago settler

by PETER COX
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In a ceremony that took place on Oct. 28, 2021, Mayor Lori Lightfoot took down a Lake Shore Drive sign and replaced it with signs with the new name of the roadway: Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive. The change came after extensive campaigning from aldermen David Moore (17th) and Sophia King (4th) that culminated in a June 25 vote. The change gives recognition to the founder of the city, who has been frequently overlooked in people’s understanding of its history and also represents the prominence of Chicago’s Black community, for whom DuSable is representative of their importance in the city.

“DuSable was the figure who had been largely ignored in the city’s history until that point as a way to give recognition to both DuSable himself and the Black community of the city,” Dr. Branham said. “It’s a reparation of that is an acknowledgment, of actually the political conditions were ideal for me causing in part by the national racial reckoning of 2020, when political conditions were ideal for memorializing historical figures who had been sidelined in the popular understanding of Chicago history. At the October 2021 ceremony, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said, ‘By telling the story of our founder on this roadway, we are further unifying our city and residents in a moment of historical and racial reckoning.’ The political angle of this decision demonstrates a core component of the memorialization of DuSable, the founder of one of the most important cities in the country was a Black man. Acknowledgment of that is an acknowledgment of the role Black people have played in the creation of the city. Dr. Branham said, ‘It’s a recognition, of actually the political power and prominence of the African American community in Chicago.’

The political angle of this decision demonstrates a core component of the memorialization of DuSable, the founder of one of the most important cities in the country was a Black man. Acknowledgment of that is an acknowledgment of the role Black people have played in the creation of the city. At the October 2021 ceremony, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said, ‘By telling the story of our founder on this roadway, we are further unifying our city and residents in a moment of historical and racial reckoning.’

NEW NAME, SAME ROAD. Lake Shore Drive now bears the name of Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, Chicago’s first non-Indigenous settler. Along with a museum, bridge and statue, the roadway memorializing DuSable represents the growing influence of the Black community in Chicago. Pictured above is the view of DuSable Lake Shore Drive from the pedestrian crossing at 51st Street.

QUICK Q:
What figure would you memorialize in Chicago?

FREDERICK DOUGLASS “Frederick Douglass would be cool. Just because recently, I’ve been learning a lot about him and... I’d see him as like sort of his name on the peripheral, but I didn’t fully understand his contributions to sort of abolishing slavery and sort of how much he established for, like, resistance of minority groups. And so, I would want to see him be, like, more prominent in the cultural consciousness, and that might be a way to do it.”
Suggested by Aasha Athuri

FRED HAMPTON “He was one of the Black Panthers, and he was unjustly killed in his home, and I think it would resonate with a lot of the recent upticks in police violence that African Americans have faced. So I think Fred Hampton would be good.”
Suggested by Martaah Bender

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Suggested by Aasha Athuri

TAMMY DUCKWORTH “I really like Tammy Duckworth because she’s a Thai Chinese politician, and she’s done a lot for Asian American rights. And I think specifically during this time period with COVID-19 and the Stop Asian Hate Movement she’s been very influential, so I really admire all the work she’s done for the Asian American community.”
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Suggested by Ameile Liu

CHIEF KEEF “Well, I feel actually though he was kind of like revolutionary for the rap game and I think, like, in that time, his music became really popular when, like, police brutality and racial, like, problems kind of started up, and I think his music really a gave a, like, a lot of people motivation to be like, ‘F** the police, you know, even though you know, respectfully. Yeah, I think he was a voice for a lot of minorities, actually.’”
Suggested by Kennedi Bickham

LORRAINE HANSBERRY “She’s a great playwright and she died way too young. She’s a brilliant, inspirational human being, and we need to remember her. And then there needs to be a building on the University of Chicago, named after her because she lived right across the Midway.”
Suggested by Paul Horton

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