

China: Two 14-Year Old Boys Died While Wearing Masks in Gym Class



Two Chinese students collapsed and died within a week of one another while wearing face masks during gym class. While there was no autopsy, one of the boy's father said he believes the mask his son was required to wear played a role in his death. Though it's not known whether the masks were responsible, several schools in Tianjin and Shanghai have canceled physical education exams. -GEG

Two Chinese boys dropped dead within a week of one another while wearing face masks during gym class, according to a report.

The students, who were both 14, were each running laps for a physical examination test when they suddenly collapsed on the track, Australian outlet 7News reported.

One of the teens was only minutes into his gym class when he fell backward April 24 at Dancheng Caiyuan Middle School in Henan province, according to the outlet.

"He was wearing a mask while lapping the running track, then he suddenly fell backwards and hit his head on the ground," his father, who was only identified as Li, told the outlet.

His dad said teachers and students tried to help him, to no avail.

The death certificate listed the cause as sudden cardiac arrest, but no autopsy was performed, the outlet said.

The boy's father said he believes that the mask his son was required to wear to school played a role in his death.

"I suspect it was because he was wearing a mask," he said, adding that "it couldn't have been comfortable wearing a mask while running."

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LA Teachers Union Says Schools Cannot Reopen Unless Police Are Defunded and Charter Schools Are Shut-Down



A major teachers union is claiming that the re-opening of schools in its district cannot occur without substantial policy provisions in place, including a "moratorium" on charter schools and defunding of police. The United Teachers Los Angeles, a 35,000-strong union, also demands the implementation of a federal Medicare-for-All program, several new state-level taxes on wealthy people, and a "federal

bailout” of the school district. The Los Angeles and San Diego school districts announced they will not be reopening for in-person learning this Fall due to fear of the coronavirus. -GEG

A major teachers union is claiming that the re-opening of schools in its district cannot occur without several substantial policy provisions in place, including a “moratorium” on charter schools and the defunding of local police.

United Teachers Los Angeles, a 35,000-strong union in the Los Angeles Unified School District, made those demands in a policy paper it released this week. The organization called on local authorities to “keep school campuses closed when the semester begins on Aug. 18.”

The union outlined numerous major provisions it says will be necessary to reopen schools again, including sequestering students in small groups throughout the school day, providing students with masks and other forms of protective equipment, and re-designing school layouts in order to facilitate “social distancing.”

Yet the union goes even farther than those requests, calling for “local support” in the form of defunded police departments and the shuttering of charter schools.

Police violence “is a leading cause of death and trauma for Black people, and is a serious public health and moral issue,” the union writes. The document calls on authorities to “shift the astronomical amount of money devoted to policing, to education and other essential needs such as housing and public health.”

“Privately operated, publicly funded charter schools,” meanwhile, “drain resources from district schools,” the union states. The practice of “colocating” charter schools in existing structures, it continues, “adds students to campuses when we need to reduce the number of students to allow for physical distancing.”

The union also demands the implementation of a federal Medicare-for-All program, several new state-level taxes on wealthy people, and a “federal bailout” of the school district.

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Trump Turns Down Minnesota's Request for \$16-Million in Aid for Minneapolis



The Trump administration rejected a request by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for millions in federal aid to repair damage to buildings and infrastructure destroyed in riots that followed the killing of George Floyd. The Governor estimated that his state was eligible to receive \$16-million in FEMA funds, although the total damage in the city was estimated at about \$500 million. Earlier deployment of the National Guard to confront and arrest the destroyers could have greatly reduced the damage. The city council voted unanimously to approve a pledge to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department.
-GEG

The Trump administration has rejected a request by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) for millions of dollars in federal aid to

repair damage to buildings and infrastructure destroyed in riots that followed the killing of George Floyd on Memorial Day.

On July 2, Gov. Walz formally asked President Donald Trump “declare a major disaster for the State of Minnesota because of extensive fire damage to public infrastructure caused by civil unrest,” according to the governor’s office.

Walz sought financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), estimating the damage “eligible” for relief to be nearly \$16 million. The total damage in the city, he said, was estimated at about \$500 million.

But on Friday, the governor’s office confirmed that his request had been denied, according to the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*.

“The Governor is disappointed that the federal government declined his request for financial support,” said a spokesperson for Walz in a statement quoted by the *Star-Tribune*. “As we navigate one of the most difficult periods in our state’s history, we look for support from our federal government to help us through.”

President Donald Trump has been critical of Walz for what he said was a weak response to the riots that broke out after Floyd was killed in police custody on May 25.

On Wednesday, May 27, President Trump announced that he had directed the FBI and the Department of Justice to conduct a swift investigation of Floyd’s death.

But that night, rioters attacked a police precinct and set businesses ablaze. Local law enforcement did little to respond.

Though Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey requested National Guard troops the next morning, and Gov. Walz formally mobilized the

Guard that afternoon, the initial response was insufficient.

In his letter requesting funds, Gov. Walz wrote to the president that the state had acted to address the civil unrest “quickly.”

But state law enforcement officials told a different story.

As leaders of the Minnesota National Guard and Department of Public Safety testified before the Senate last week, the initial call-up of 200 National Guard troops was inadequate.

As the *Twin Cities Pioneer Press* reported:

Top law enforcement leaders on Thursday said earlier deployment of National Guard members to assist in the response to protests, arson fires and looting in Minneapolis and St. Paul could've mitigated the damage that resulted in May.

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Heads of the Minnesota National Guard and Department of Public Safety on Thursday told a Senate panel that their reaction lagged as civil unrest grew beyond what state officials expected and as National Guard officials attempted to reset plans to mobilize an appropriate number of members to address the scene.

Soon the state's entire 15,000-strong force would be mobilized. President Trump also offered the support of the U.S. military, which was placed on alert, but was not requested by the state in the end.

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