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AN OPEN LETTER TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS & ADMINISTRATORS

At [**Kids Plus Pediatrics**](#), we want to see our patients, and all the other kids in our communities, back where they belong this fall: in school, in person, learning.

To do that safely, so that students, teachers, staff, administrators, and their families are as protected as possible, we strongly recommend two simple, essential, highly effective safeguards:

VACCINES

Everyone age 12 or over (who is able) should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

These safe, incredibly effective, almost miraculous vaccines protect against infection and transmission of all variants of the virus, including delta. They dramatically reduce hospitalizations, and deaths. (As of July 26th, with over 156 million Americans fully vaccinated, symptomatic breakthrough cases have occurred in only 0.1% of the vaccinated population. COVID-19 deaths have occurred in just 0.001%.) They are, quite simply, the best protection you can get. And the best way to keep your schools safe.

MASKS

For another layer of protection — or as the primary layer of protection for children under 12, and anyone else unable to be vaccinated — everyone age 2 and older (who is able) should wear face masks.

Masks have been proven to reduce transmission of COVID-19. They are safe, simple to maintain, easy-to-monitor safeguards against infection and transmission of all variants of the virus, including delta. We've been using them, to great effect, for well over a year to protect unvaccinated people.

Masks are especially critical in schools with children under age 12. Kids who haven't been vaccinated will be learning and interacting in enclosed, crowded spaces — classrooms, hallways, buses — for long periods of time. These are the conditions under which COVID-19 is most likely to spread.

We urge you to do the right thing. So do the medical and public health experts at the [**American Academy of Pediatrics**](#). And the [**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**](#).

To get kids back in classrooms as safely as possible — and to keep them there, by greatly reducing the possibility of COVID outbreaks that will necessitate closures and disruptions to in-person learning — require masks for everyone in your schools.

You have the power to protect your students, your families, and your communities. Please use it.