



MISSOURI CHAPTER  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS  
INCORPORATED IN MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

CONTACT:

Kelsey Thompson  
[kthompson@moaap.org](mailto:kthompson@moaap.org)

Selena Hunter  
[shunter@LentsAndAssoc.com](mailto:shunter@LentsAndAssoc.com)  
(816) 509-5763

### **Missouri Pediatricians Urge Schools to Implement COVID-19 Safety Measures**

Missouri -- As COVID-19 cases continue to see an uptick throughout the state of Missouri, and where children have accounted for more than 66,000 (or more than 11% of) cases\* since the beginning of the pandemic, the Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MOAAP) urges all Missouri schools to implement safety measures as the 2021-2022 school year begins. It is shown that when schools follow public health precautions, children can learn safely, in-person.

“It is critical that we continue to place layers of protection around children as the pandemic continues,” said Dr. Kristin Sohl, MOAAP President and pediatrician. “Children can, in fact, get COVID-19; they do get sick, and more of them are being hospitalized for treatment. Implementing mitigation strategies such as masking, vaccination, testing and proper cleaning is key to keeping our school communities safe.”

MOAAP echoes the recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that anyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status, should be masked indoors, including in the school setting.

Vaccination is a key tool to stopping the spread of COVID-19. MOAAP encourages all Missourians aged 12 and over to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment today. It is important to surround children under 12 -- who cannot receive the vaccine -- with this additional layer of protection. MOAAP encourages parents, caregivers, guardians, teachers, and school officials to receive the vaccine. For those with questions or concerns about the vaccine, please reach out to your local primary care physician.

A multi-pronged approach to stopping the COVID-19 virus, like vaccinations for those 12 and up, masking, distancing, testing, as well as appropriate cleaning & disinfecting in schools, will help ensure children can learn safely, in-person.

Not only have children felt the impact of COVID-19 as a respiratory disease, but also from a mental health perspective. Children have been impacted by grief related to the illness or loss of parents, caregivers, family members, and friends. MOAAP encourages schools to provide resources and education to their teachers and staff on assisting children with these needs.

*\*Source: [Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report \(aap.org\)](#)*

###