

Minnesota Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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August 3, 2021

I am writing to you on behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), to share our recommendations for opening schools in ways to prevent COVID-19 infections. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently came out with strong recommendations for both the use of universal masking as well as vaccinations ([COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools \(aap.org\)](https://www.aap.org/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Safe-Schools)).

The AAP recommends, and the MNAAP support, the following key points:

- The importance of in-person learning
- Urges all persons who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- Universal masking in all K-12 schools

This will now be the third school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and it is well documented that this pandemic is taking a huge toll on our children's learning as well as their mental health and nutritional status and that these effects are more pronounced in communities of color.

We support the AAP recommendations and urge you to consider mandating masking for all students, teachers, staff and visitors in K-12 schools this year in the hope of allowing our children and youth to have in-person, safe learning this year. Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Berkowitz MD, FAAP".

Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, FAAP

President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics