



American Academy of Pediatrics  
Orange County Chapter  
INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA

# AAP-Orange County Chapter Back-to-School Statement

California pediatricians witnessed the impact on academics, social and emotional skills, reliable nutrition, physical activity, and mental health that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had. Schools and their programs are essential to the development and well-being of children and adolescents.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California and the AAP-Orange County Chapter, strongly advocate that all policy considerations for school plans should start with the goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school.

Vaccination is an essential piece of the layered safety practices designed to ensure safe in-person learning for California's children. Pediatricians wholeheartedly support the state's efforts to ensure that teachers and staff are protecting our children and each other from COVID by being vaccinated or regularly tested.



Additionally, universal masking for all students, teachers, and employees while on campus is a safe additional layer of protection. Medical experts agree that masks/cloth face coverings and social distancing are essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As the next school year begins, every effort must be made to keep students in schools in-person, especially those that are vulnerable or are not eligible to be vaccinated. All children should be ensured safe equitable access to education.

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