



*National  
Association of  
School Nurses*

1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
866-627-6767 (phone)  
301-585-1791 (fax)  
nasn@nasn.org (email)  
www.nasn.org

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## NASN Statement on Schools Providing In-person Learning

### **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Carol Walsh

National Association of School Nurses

[cwalsh@nasn.org](mailto:cwalsh@nasn.org)

### National Association of School Nurses Statement on Schools Providing In-person Learning

**(Silver Spring, MD, July 21, 2021)**—The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) supports the [AAP COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#) recommendation for universal masking in schools (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use) given the current reality that a number of students are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

As states, school districts, schools, school staff, students, and families prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) emphasizes key takeaways from the Centers for Disease Control updated [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) including:

- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

NASN places a priority on equitable, in person learning, located in healthy and safe school environments. NASN recommends collaboration with state and local education, health, and public health entities to plan layered COVID-19 prevention strategies that consider local community transmission levels, percentage of fully vaccinated individuals, ventilation in schools, and ability to physically distance indoors.



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NASN President Linda Mendonca, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, NCSN, FNASN, notes “School nurses across the country have played critical roles in reopening schools and helping to keep students safe, healthy, and ready to learn. As schools look to make data and science driven decisions for the coming school year, school nurses provide experience and expertise that are critical in interprofessional and collaborative planning and implementing COVID-19 prevention strategies.”

**About NASN:**

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, representing school nurses exclusively. NASN has more than 18,000 members and 50 affiliates, including one in the District of Columbia and one serving school nurses overseas. The mission of NASN is to optimize student health and learning by advancing the practice of school nursing. Please visit us at [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org).

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