

NYS AAP–Chapter 2

INCORPORATED IN NEW YORK

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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To Whom It May Concern:

New guidance from the CDC has lifted mask wearing requirements for vaccinated individuals in most cases. Despite this new guidance, the CDC states that schools should continue to implement and layer prevention strategies and should prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.

Currently, there is no COVID vaccine for children under age 12. This means that masks are still an important way to protect them along with social distancing. Furthermore, since unvaccinated children can still transmit the virus to others, mask wearing protects others as well.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) continues to advise universal mask wearing for all students at this time. NY Chapter 2 of the AAP, which comprises the 1500 pediatricians across Long Island, Queens and Brooklyn, fully supports this and advises that the current mask requirements in our schools designed to protect children stay in place pending further CDC guidance.

In addition, we encourage vaccination in children 12 years and older to further reduce rates of transmission and accelerate implementation of policies which would help reduce or limit mask requirements in schools. We recommend that parents reach out to their children's primary care physicians to address questions and concerns regarding mask wearing and COVID vaccination in children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Shah".

Shetal I. Shah MD FAAP
President, NYS AAP - Chapter 2