

# **Massachusetts Chapter**

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

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INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

## **MCAAP Supports Masking for All in School this Fall**

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP), along with parents, caregivers, and schools, is committed to returning all of the Commonwealth's children to full-time in-person learning this fall while mitigating the risks from COVID-19. We have two mainstays for reducing COVID risk. The first is vaccination. The MCAAP strongly urges all who are eligible to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Doing so protects individuals, families, schools, and communities. The second includes strategies such as masking. In accordance with AAP and CDC guidance, MCAAP also urges all school districts in the Commonwealth to require students, teachers, staff, and visitors who enter a school building to wear masks when indoors to ensure a successful start to this school year and allow continued in person learning for all students.

As the pandemic evolves, our primary prevention strategy remains vaccination of all eligible children and adults. At the same time, we must closely monitor disease prevalence and other key metrics to inform our decisions about other risk-reducing strategies. The evidence-based combination of prevention and mitigation will bring about the most expedient end to this public health challenge.