

From: [Levy MD, Scott](#)
To: [Damsker, David C.](#)
Subject: RE: School Guidance
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:00:19 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

David, maybe we should chat by phone.
Do you have availability late morning 11:30 or so
Our overall positivity rate is back to where it was in March with nearly as many tests;
fortunately many vaccinated with obviously mild disease
With the marked increase in transmissibility of the Delta variant; kids back in school without
masks nor vaccines; the outcome is clear that the community spread will even more
dramatically increase
I fully support "back to school"; however to do so given our increase in cases (even before
school starts) and contrary to the guidance of nearly all professional organizations who have
crunched the number is indefensible in my view.
WE have mandated masks at Children's Village a month ago and have no expectation of
eliminating that requirement.

Scott Levy, MD
VP-CMO
Doylestown Hospital
215-345-2010



From: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Levy MD, Scott <SLevy@dh.org>
Subject: RE: School Guidance

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How does that compare to the busy 2 week periods over the winter and spring?

David C. Damsker, MD, MPH
Director
Bucks County Health Department
1282 Almshouse Road
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215-345-3320
dcdamsker@buckscounty.org

From: Levy MD, Scott [<mailto:SLevy@dh.org>]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Subject: RE: School Guidance

We have had 25 (+) tests in the pediatrics population in the last 2 weeks-with school closed

Scott Levy, MD

VP-CMO
Doylestown Hospital
215-345-2010



From: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 11:57 PM
To: Levy MD, Scott <SLevy@dh.org>
Subject: Re: School Guidance

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I meant for schools. If I had followed CDC guidelines last year, not one school in Bucks County would have opened in-person.

From: Levy MD, Scott <SLevy@dh.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 11:39:30 PM
To: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Subject: Re: School Guidance

At Doylestown we have followed CDC guidelines (at least) given their resources to crunch huge quantities of data. Numerous organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal indoor masking for children. I have seen no creditable literature for an alternative approach.
Scott

Scott Levy, MD
VP-CMO
Doylestown Hospital
215-345-2010

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On Aug 15, 2021, at 6:21 PM, Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org> wrote:

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Immunocompromised people will continue to be susceptible to serious disease, whether it's

COVID or something else. But they definitely need to be more careful right now, for sure. Stay masked in public and get the booster. Yes, there are also unvaccinated people out there (why they still are, I have no idea.) But when we are dealing with a disease that will be here for years to come, the long term non-virus effects on children themselves have to be considered here. It's not 2 weeks or 2 months: we'll be going on 2 years soon and it's now a 3rd consecutive school year that will likely be negatively affected. Kids are resilient, but only to a point. That's becoming a pretty big price to pay. We may have to agree to disagree on that.

Scott, we have worked well together for a while now, and you've seen I haven't always done everything according to the CDC guidelines and other "credible" sources during this pandemic if I didn't think it made total sense for us here. But I think it's worked well for our County locally so far, has it not? That's what I'm continuing to do here with our school guidance.

I'm watching what's happening, too, believe me. If a change needs to be made, I'll make it.

Thanks,
David

From: Levy MD, Scott [<mailto:SLevy@dh.org>]
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Subject: Re: School Guidance

With all due respect, my greatest fear is not an 8 year old developing Covid-likely mild. It is that child as a vector bringing the disease to unvaccinated parents and/or vaccinated immunocompromised adults susceptible to serious disease. The case count is growing, the trends Re obvious, the objective should be proactive, not mitigation after the fact. BC needs to be seen as following the science and most creditable sources of expertise.
Scott

Sent via iPhone
Scott Levy, MD
VP-CMO
Doylestown Hospital
215-345-2010

On Aug 15, 2021, at 3:55 PM, Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org> wrote:

This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and the message. **THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK OR REPLY.**

Hi Scott,

If it came to it, I can recommend that masks be put on overnight if necessary, so that part doesn't concern me as much. As you are well aware, we are trying to keep our hands on all of our local data for cases and hospitalizations. And of course I'm watching everywhere else, too.

Much of the difficulty on this is about benefits of mitigation in children versus the risk. The schools see the problems too, believe me, or they would all just throw masks on all the kids regardless of what I said. Learning loss and mental health issues are real, and have to be weighed against another school year like last year. Masking 100,000 kids isn't harmless to every one of those children. And once delta settles down, and the next greek letter appears that doesn't work with the vaccine as well, more school mitigation will be proposed. 18 months of a developing child's life is much more important than 18 months of ours. So when cases go up, what we do at Pine Run or Neshaminy Manor SHOULD look different than what we do in schools – the risks aren't even in the same stratosphere despite what we see on TV.

But yes, all options are always on the table, and my guidance can be very flexible. The calculus is different this year, both from the virus perspective AND from the long-term mitigation cost to children perspective. Hope that makes sense.

Thanks,
David

From: Levy MD, Scott [<mailto:SLevy@dh.org>]
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Damsker, David C. <dcdamsker@buckscounty.org>
Subject: Re: School Guidance

Hope all is well
Given the plethora of recent data, changes in our understanding of delta, transmissibility, and ability of even the vaccinated to transmit live virus; I'd suggest this is a good opportunity for BC to reassess school masking recommendations.
Scott

Sent via iPhone
Scott Levy, MD
VP-CMO
Doylestown Hospital
215-345-2010

On Aug 15, 2021, at 11:26 AM, Damsker, David C.
<dcdamsker@buckscounty.org> wrote:

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Colleagues,

Please see the attached school reopening guidance and frequently asked questions document. It will be distributed broadly later today.

Thank you all for your hard work and collaboration.

David

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<BUCKS SCHOOL REOPENING FAQ 8-15-21.pdf>

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