

NYS AAP–Chapter 2

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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STATEMENT

New York Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics Strongly Recommends Masking in Schools

The Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 1500 pediatricians across the region, continues to recommend in the strongest possible terms that masking for children in schools continue in a manner consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are almost 100 studies which demonstrate the ability of proper masking to reduce the impact of airborne diseases, and 18 major studies which specifically show the effectiveness of masking in mitigating COVID-19. With a 7-day positivity rate across Long Island of 11-12% and a case rate over the same period of over roughly 100 per 100,000 – the potential for transmission in schools is high, especially when completed vaccination rates for children 5-11yrs remain only 17-27%. There will come a time when masking in schools and other indoor facilities is no longer required, but that time should be determined by physicians and public health experts, not by judges. For those who want to see that time come sooner, we encourage all children greater than 5yrs to be vaccinated against COVID-19.