

Monica Roque

From: Rosa Dominguez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:14 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment regarding reopening of schools

Categories: Green category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and Davis School Board Members,

I'm writing in the hopes that my comment will be considered. **I appreciate that you face difficult choices**, and do not envy you in this time of polarized decision making.

Nevertheless, I implore you to **consider the children as your primary concern** in making decisions about when to reopen in-person schooling. As Dr. Fauci has repeatedly gone on record to support reintroducing children to the classroom as soon as community transmission is controlled, I would argue that, **having met the state's tiered threshold to reopen schools, we have satisfied the "community transmission" consideration**, and should follow Dr. Fauci's recommendation as soon as possible - returning children to the classroom.

While almost every other Western Nation has returned their kids to classrooms - many despite a sharp uptick in COVID and many with similar or higher population adjusted mortality rates than we saw in the U.S., such as the U.K., Spain, France & Italy - we continue to delay. **Please note that homeschooling or DSIS-like options do not exist in Europe.** Everyone needs to attend in-person once schools open. I don't think that is wise, since it puts at-risk families in danger. But, fortunately, families here are able to choose homeschooling or DSIS (as a form of DL), even before COVID times. **We may see an uptick of critical cases in Europe that need not happen here**, where those at risk can continue with DL even if the school decides to open in-person.

If we don't offer in-person classes, we'll do so at the expense of our children, as it is not developmentally appropriate. I appreciate the hard work the teachers are doing. **We are lucky to have such dedicated and competent professionals teach our kids.** However, it is not working for us. There are other health considerations that must be included, and we feel like the balance under DL is negative.

I'm not asking for you to force all children back into the classroom. I'm simply asking that you give us the option to return, full-time or at least part-time so our kids benefit from socializing with their peers and educational supervision (which is different from childcare, as I discuss below), and allow us to make decisions in the best interest of our families. Based on the survey the district conducted, **only 26% of parents preferred DL.** The district could maintain a hybrid system, with some in person and some DL, or some students/teachers could be temporarily transferred to DSIS. If most parents are like me, they were not even aware of the DSIS option.

About 45% of the teachers preferred in person teaching, so it looks like about half of your staff would agree to going back to the classrooms. A higher proportion might prefer in-person now that we have experimented with DL for a few weeks.

Those of us who support the in-person school options have been mistaken either as inconsiderate to our teachers, insensitive to our elders and immunocompromised individuals, or to society as a whole. This is unfair. We are not suggesting everybody need to attend school in person. **The DL option should be made available to those**

who feel they need it (both teachers and students), either at DJUSD or at DSIS, but an in-person option should be available too.

Some think we parents **just want childcare**. While childcare needs should not be dismissed as frivolous, many of us don't need childcare per se. Our kids can watch and feed themselves, call us if they need anything, but that is different from being able to "police" themselves during DL, to be expected to manage the demands of school and the developmentally inappropriate nature of zoom meetings by themselves. **We don't need a teacher to "watch" our kids, but we need teachers to "police" them:** to make sure they don't get distracted, forget about schedules, get frustrated with instructions, or will simply prefer to do something else while in class. It is part of a teacher's job to help kids maintain focus, they cannot do that in DL, and it is humanly impossible for any adult at home to do that unless they dedicate themselves to that purpose. Since many parents have jobs that occur at the same time as school is in session, policing our kids during class means we have to disattend our jobs and face consequences. Since we live in a society where taking care of others is still considered a female role, **the decision to DL affects women disproportionately**, and it undoes the sacrifices we have done over the years, as women often have to work harder to get the same recognition in our careers as our male peers. **Please do not dismiss the broader societal consequences of your decisions.**

Even if Yolo County COVID metrics fluctuate, we are lucky **Davis has a very low rate of incidence**. Even though we constitute about one third of the population of the district, only 11% of the cases reported have occurred in Davis, only 2 out of the 55 deaths have occurred in Davis. We know a significant portion of the cases/deaths in Davis are associated with senior living facilities. If we exclude those, it is easy to see that the general public in Davis is relatively safe. Even if compliance will never be 100%, we are lucky **our community is, for the most part, compliant with mask and social distance recommendations**, which are very effective in limiting virus spread.

The goal of zero risk is unrealistic. We know that and accept other risks out there. Our kids are more likely to die from gun violence or a car accident than from COVID, yet we don't stop using cars or ban guns (unfortunately). A certain level of risk is normally accepted. As for teachers and staff, it has been shown that adults are more likely to be infected from other adults than from children, thus the district should ensure teachers do not need to share closed spaces such like copier or lounge rooms in order with other adults to prevent spread among teachers. **Measures should be taken so risk is minimized, but risk will never be zero.** This is accepted in European countries. Even if classrooms or even entire schools have to temporarily close due to outbreaks (which should be expected, anticipated, and then managed- this last part is the key), it is considered a success if most of the time/most of the kids get to have in person education. **The goal should not be zero risk, which is unrealistic. It should be minimizing it, and when outbreaks happen (and they may happen), managing them.**

I know there might be special considerations I am not aware of, and that you are facing a difficult choice, but I hope my comments can provide some additional perspective. Please consider expert advice and conduct an honest assessment of COVID risk and balance them against all the other risks to our kids, to the teachers, and to our society.

Best regards,
Rosa Dominguez-Faus

Monica Roque

From: Eric May [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 10:48 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment re: In-Person Instruction

Categories: Green category

I strongly urge you to direct staff to put plans into place to reopen elementary school classrooms for in-person instruction, at least for K-2, when the state restrictions expire after the county has been in the red tier for two weeks.

Even though Yolo County just recently moved out of the purple tier, our COVID numbers already qualify us for the orange tier. We're not able to go down merely because of the State-mandated technicality of having to be in the red tier for three weeks before moving to the orange tier. In fact, Yolo County has the best numbers in the region. And even being in the best-performing county in the region, the daily case numbers in Davis (1.8 cases/100K) are almost half those of the county's (3.1/100K). It's hard to get any better than things are in Davis.

I appreciate the concern about the spread of COVID, but our community has worked so hard to get our numbers down that it is time to send children back into the classroom. Private schools in town have opened; children should not be disadvantaged by virtue of being in the public schools. The risk-benefit for younger children is even more compelling, given the lower risk of transmission and the immense benefit from in-person schooling for this younger cohort.

Sincerely,
Eric May
Parent of BLE Student

Monica Roque

From: Adam Z [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:14 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

I urge the board to re-open elementary schools now that we have moved from Purple to Red status. We have three kids in the DJUSD system, and they are all desperately in need of socialization and human contact. Our son has ADHD, and he is simply unable to function in online classes.

I appreciate all the extra work our teachers are doing. I ran into one of our younger daughter's former teacher recently, and we talked at length about the intense stress she's been under teaching remotely.

For the sake of our kids and their teachers, please re-open the schools.

Thanks for your attention.

-Adam Zimbardo

Sent from my phone. Please excuse brevity and/or bizarre autocorrections.

Monica Roque

From: Jonathan F [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:10 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear board members,

As a parent of a kindergartener I emplor you to apply for a waiver for our youngest children to go back to school.

It does not take a parent or a teacher to realize that psychosocial development is crucial to the well-being of our children and that ZOOM classes for 5 year olds is not adequate and is in fact harming our future generations to protect us adults and our elderly.

My child needs to learn how to interact with his peers and be in classroom environment.

Adults can take measures to protect themselves from COVID19 if they are worried about it.

My child deserves to be a child.

Please help end this insanity.

Jonathan

Monica Roque

From: Daria Rostovtseva [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:59 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please reopen schools

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I'm writing in the hopes that my comment will be considered. I appreciate that you face difficult choices, and do not envy you in this time of polarized decision making.

Nevertheless, I implore you to consider the children as your primary concern in making decisions about when to reopen in-person schooling. As Dr. Fauci has repeatedly gone on record to support reintroducing children to the classroom as soon as community transmission is controlled, I would argue that, having met the state's tiered threshold to reopen schools, we have satisfied the "community transmission" consideration, and should follow Dr. Fauci's recommendation as soon as possible - returning children to the classroom.

While almost every other Western nation has returned their kids to classrooms - many despite a sharp uptick in Covid and many with similar or higher population adjusted mortality rates than we saw in the U.S., such as the U.K., Spain, France & Italy - we continue to delay. We do so at the expense of our children, as the preponderance of scientific evidence has shown. In those nations that have returned kids to school, despite surging Covid cases, each government has steadfastly refused to re-close the schools, citing ample evidence that schools are not driving the spread of the virus.

My child does not enjoy distance learning. While his teacher is doing his best, he truly suffers without the live interaction his school provides. He recently stated that he would do ANYTHING to go back to school in person. While my experience is anecdotal, it is shared by many, as I suspect you will find in other comments to the board.

I'm not asking for you to force all children back into the classroom. I'm simply asking that you give us the option to return, full time, and allow us to make decisions in the best interest of our families.

Regards,
Daria Rostovtseva
Mother of a Korematsu student

Monica Roque

From: Adeline Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:49 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

My name is Adeline Jones and I am in 7th grade at Emerson. I think that we should go back to school. It is very hard to learn doing distance learning and it can often be stressful and confusing. Not being able to socialize with other students is hard and humans were not made to sit in front of a screen all day not being able to see other people. I know that you guys are trying your best but I could never imagine having to do what we are doing for a whole year. Going back to school would be better for our mental health and would make lots of people very happy. My friends and I all want to see each other and miss getting to go to school. In my opinion the best thing to do is for schools to reopen.

Sincerely,
Adeline Jones

Monica Roque

From: Jennifer O [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:49 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the board,

We are writing to voice our support of a return to in-person schooling, preferably full-time. Distance learning is a poor substitute for school and we've seen the social and emotional effects firsthand in our children. Our kindergartener says she feels alone on Zoom. Our fifth grader regularly finishes his work by 10 am. Teachers understand the limits of this format - we've heard comments like "everyone is behind" and "all the kids are struggling with writing". It's not acceptable to allow a generation of children to fall behind.

We will not let the district sacrifice our young children's social and emotional well-being, when there are ways to safely return to in-person schooling. Guidance for this has been put out by the CDC and the state of California. We secured a spot for our second grader at an in person private school and will continue to pursue in person schooling options for our other children wherever it's available. Unfortunately, not all children have this option. The most equitable option is to reopen our public schools and allow children to be educated in a forum that is proven to work.

As Yolo county's COVID metrics drop and community spread declines, we should prioritize in person elementary school over everything else. It saddens us that our children cannot go to school, yet they can eat out at restaurants, go to the movies, tour museums, and play soccer. The DSIS format exists to allow families who are uncomfortable with in person learning to continue online, which should allow the rest of us to return to traditional instruction.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dr. Jamie Cassity
Jennifer Overturf

Monica Roque

From: Ferguson Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 8:50 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I'm writing in the hopes that my comment will be considered. I appreciate that you face difficult choices, and do not envy you in this time of polarized decision making.

Nevertheless, I implore you to consider the children as your primary concern in making decisions about when to reopen in-person schooling. As Dr. Fauci has repeatedly gone on record to support reintroducing children to the classroom as soon as community transmission is controlled, I would argue that, having met the state's tiered threshold to reopen schools, we have satisfied the "community transmission" consideration, and should follow Dr. Fauci's recommendation as soon as possible - returning children to the classroom.

While almost every other Western Nation has returned their kids to classrooms - many despite a sharp uptick in Covid and many with similar or higher population adjusted mortality rates than we saw in the U.S., such as the U.K., Spain, France & Italy - we continue to delay. We do so at the expense of our children, as the preponderance of scientific evidence has shown. In those nations that have returned kids to school, despite surging Covid cases, each government has steadfastly refused to re-close the schools, citing ample evidence that schools are not driving the spread of the virus.

My children do not enjoy distance learning. They do not appear to benefit from it much, if at all. While my experience is anecdotal, it is shared by many, as I suspect you will find in other comments to the board.

I'm not asking for you to force all children back into the classroom. I'm simply asking that you give us the option to return, full time, and allow us to make decisions in the best interest of our families.

Regards,

Ferguson Mitchell

Monica Roque

From: Scott and Diane McElhern [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 7:29 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment on Item VII.d -Steps to Return to Campus

Categories: Green category

Superintendent Bowes and the Trustees of the Board of Education:

We are the parents of a 5th grader at Pioneer Elementary and a sophomore at Davis High School. We previously submitted Public Comment in July urging the District to reopen the schools. We are not alone in this opinion as the vast majority of parents in the District want some form of in-person education. As you recall, 74% of parents polled over the summer wanted either full in-person education or a hybrid model. That survey was taken when corona virus cases were rising. Yolo County is now in the red category which under the District's own reopening plan allows for a hybrid model. In-person education is necessary for the development of children. This is especially true for elementary school students. Schools around the Sacramento region are beginning to reopen. We again urge the District to take a pro-active approach to reopen the schools.

Thank you,
Scott & Diane McElhern

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board,

What research supports elementary school students going back to school? Most COVID research released so far that focuses on young and healthy children. Our decisions that affect our children so strongly should absolutely be evidence based. To do otherwise is reckless – it is reckless to lockdown without evidence, and it is reckless to refuse to lockdown in the face of evidence. **At this time, evidence is showing we can return kids to school, and has for months.** Even evidence of returns to school in other states is supporting such a decision.

I appreciate the challenge the school board faces. These are complicated times.

School closures are hurting many families across California and the United States. This is beyond debate for many parents and educators. I, for one, know this from experience, and had to switch to Homeschooling due to so many issues with Distance Learning, which was hurting my daughters' passion for education. **This is at no fault to the teachers or school district; it is a losing game to teach elementary students online.** I feel like this is obvious to anyone who has raised a child. It is odd to me that I am finding myself to be the defender of kids going back to school, and that I am needing to provide educators large amounts of research for them to consider doing so. It is weird, and I never expected this.

How are elementary school lockdowns following the science? I do not know the answer to this. Science seems to contradict school closures for elementary school students.

Research definitely does not support distance learning over in-person, and research strongly supports that children suffer less severe symptoms than adults, spread the virus less, and have an extremely low mortality rate when infected with COVID-19.

I wish those advocating a return to school had to cite what research is refuting the many articles of literature that have come out this year supporting it's safe for kids to go back to school. Closure of schools should require evidence showing it's needed. Again, it is weird to me I have to state this to educators, but evidence has continued to show we can send kids back to school.

Before and after the COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent school closures in the US began, COVID-19 research has communicated a common message. The following has remained true based off research throughout the entirety of the lockdown:

- 1.) Children are infected by SARS-CoV-2 at a much lesser rate than adults**
- 2.) Children do not suffer as severe symptoms as adults when infected with the Coronavirus**
- 3.) Children do not infect others as frequently as adults**
- 4.) Patients of all ages that die from COVID-19 have a second condition in most cases**

This is similar to how SARS-CoV-1 behaved as well. None of this is a surprise or is new information to those

who have read SARS-CoV-2 or CoV-1 research. **Please refer to the below survival rates recently released by the CDC: 99.997% for those 0-19 years old.**

It seems hard to justify having our elementary schools forced to distance learn when it is so bad for kids and families. New case counts can be scary, but if you're not elderly and have a second illness, you are in a very good position to fight off the virus. It is NOT a 50% chance, 75% chance, or even a 90% chance of survival for non-high risk groups. It's even higher than that. We are learning COVID deaths may have been exaggerated after inappropriate rules for counting COVID deaths are being investigated.

My question is: **What science is being followed that supports imposed distance learning for elementary school students, if there is any?**

Remember, Vox and news articles are not research sources.

I have split my references below into two sections: Before Distance Learning was imposed and After Distance Learning was Imposed. The research result trends have not changed except that the mortality rate has decreased substantially in general. It is even suspected that many COVID-19 deaths are false positive deaths due to miscounting. Yet schools are closed all over in California and the US, and parents and kids are suffering as a result. They are suffering negative economical, physical, and mental health effects due to lockdown conditions. Even this last point is now supported by much research. Supported by research, not by news articles or anecdotes.

Here is research, so all may follow the science. Notice it's not just one or two articles. **Evidence from all over the world is showing we can return safely to school with proper management.**

How much research can be ignored by people while still maintaining scientific integrity?

COVID-19 RESEARCH REPORTED BEFORE DISTANCE LEARNING IMPOSED

1.) Systematic review of COVID-19 in children shows milder cases and a better prognosis than adults.

Jonas F. Ludvigsson, *Acta Paediatrica*, Mar. 23, 2020; 109:1088-1095.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/apa.15270>

A review of 45 relevant scientific papers and letters. The review showed that children have so far accounted for 1%-5% of diagnosed COVID-19 cases, they often have milder disease than adults and deaths have been extremely rare.

2.) Detection of Covid-19 in Children in Early January 2020 in Wuhan, China.

Liu et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*; April 2, 2020; 382.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2003717>

366 hospitalized children were studied, and the average recovery time was 7.5 days, and no children studied died from COVID-19.

3.) Epidemiological Characteristics of COVID-19: A Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis

Malahat Khalili et al. *medRxiv* Preprint. 4/6/2020.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20050138v1>

The overall mortality rate of COVID-19 patients is found to be 0.02% in this work.

4.) Coronavirus Infections in Children Including COVID-19

Zimmerman & Nigel; *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*; May 2020, 39:5.

https://journals.lww.com/.../coronavirus_infections_in_childr...

Shows children are less likely to be infected than adults, and mentioned that of all of their children studied, none died from COVID-19.

5.) Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics

Davies et al. *Nature Medicine*, 6/16/20.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0962-9>

Susceptibility to infection in people under 20 is approximately half of that found in those over 20 years. Clinical symptoms manifest in 21% of infections in the 10 - 19 year population. This number jumps up to 69% of infections in people aged over 70 years. The authors found that interventions targeted at children may have a relatively small impact on transmission.

6.) Clinical and epidemiological features of 36 children with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Zhejiang, China: an observational cohort study.

Qiu et al. *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.; June 2020, 20.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30198-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30198-5/fulltext)

This study shows more data supporting that children suffer less severe symptoms than adults. None of the patients that were examined in this study died.

7.) Impact of school closures for COVID-19 on the US health-care workforce and net mortality: a modelling study

Bayham et al. *The Lancet*. 5:5, May 20, 2020; Pages e271-e278.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(20\)30082-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30082-7)

Discusses the impact of school closures on healthcare workers with school aged children.

8.) Are children less susceptible to COVID-19?

Lee et al. *Journal of Microbiology, Immunology and Infection*; 25 Feb. 2020. 53.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7102573/pdf/main.pdf>

Highlights that COVID-19 seems to be uncommon in children. Of 44,672 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of Feb. 11, 2020, 416 (0.9%) were aged 0-10 years, and 514 (1.2%) were aged 10-19 years.

9.) Government Data: The Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

<https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/children-and-covid-19>

Children are much less likely to be infected than adults. Shown via numerous figures.

10.) No evidence of secondary transmission of COVID-19 from children attending school in Ireland

Euro Surveill, May 28 2020

“We examined Irish notifications of SARS-CoV2 in the school setting before school closures on 12 March 2020 and identified no paediatric transmission. This adds to current evidence that children do not appear to be drivers of transmission, and we argue that reopening schools should be considered safe accompanied by certain measures.”

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/.../1560-7917.ES.2020.25...>

11.) The socio-economic implications of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19): A review

Nicola et al. *International Journal of Surgery*, June 2020, 78, 185-193.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1743919120303162>

Discusses the socio-economic outcomes due to the lock down and school closures. Families feel economic pressure from not being able to work due to school closures. The lock down and school closures hit the lowest earning families the hardest.

12.) COVID-19, school closures, and child poverty: a social crisis in the making

The Lancet Public Health, 2020, [thelancet.com](https://www.thelancet.com), April 7, 2020

This research articles discusses how the school closures worsen food insecurity. Research has found that non-school factors are a main factor of inequalities in educational outcomes of children during the lock down and school closures. Children from lower income households are likely to struggle to finish homework and online work because of their housing situations.

13.) Mental health effects of school closures during COVID-19

The Lancet – Child & Adolescent Health, June 01, 2020, Vol. 4, Issue 6, P421
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32302537/>

Outlines numerous mental health issues children face from the lock downs and school closures.

14.) Effects of COVID-19 Lockdown on Lifestyle Behaviors in Children with Obesity Living in Verona, Italy: A Longitudinal Study

Pietrobelli et al. *Obesity*; April 30, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.22861>

This study shows that children are consuming higher levels of sugar during lock down conditions.

15.) COVID-19–Related School Closings and Risk of Weight Gain Among Children

Rundel et al. *Obesity*, 28:6, April 18, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.22813>

The authors here argue that COVID-19 pandemic worsens all of the risk factors for weigh gain associated with summer recess. School closings and shelter-in-place orders create food environment challenges for children, as well as physical activity challenges.

COVID-19 RESEARCH REPORTED AFTER DISTANCE LEARNING IMPOSED

16.) Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in children aged 0 to 19 years in childcare facilities and schools after their reopening in May 2020, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Eurosurveillance, Volume 25, Issue 36, Sept. 10, 2020
<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.36.2001587>

Our investigation suggests that child-to-child transmission in schools and childcare facilities is uncommon and not the primary cause of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children. Based on our estimation there could be one secondary case per roughly 25 infectious school days.

17.) The Wide Spectrum of COVID-19 Clinical Presentation in Children

J. Clin. Med., Sept. 12, 2020

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0383/9/9/2950>

“The youngest patients seem to present milder forms of COVID-19 without the need for ICU treatment and with a shorter length of hospitalization. More severe evolutions were observed in teenagers, with, however, favorable outcomes.”

18.) SARS-CoV-2–Associated Deaths Among Persons Aged <21 Years — United States, February 12–July 31, 2020

CDC.gov, Weekly / September 18, 2020 / 69(37);1324–1329

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6937e4.htm>

“Among these 121 decedents, 91 (75%) had an underlying medical condition,*

19.) Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by Children

Dtsch Arztebl Int. 2020 Jul 21;117(33-34):553-560.
doi: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.053. Aug 17, 2020.

Joanna Merckx, Jeremy A Labrecque, Jay S Kaufman

"In settings where schools remained open or using data prior to closures, there is little evidence of outbreaks or major transmission into the community.”

20.) CDC has revised the “Infection Fatality Ratio” (IFR) for Covid, current as of September 10th.

Sept. 10, 2020

The IFR is the ratio of those who, once infected w/ Covid, will ultimately succumb to the virus. Since somewhere around 35-40% will never contract the virus, your actual chances of survival are significantly higher than what is below. Nevertheless, here are the chances of survival, based on age group:

0-19 years: 99.997%

20-49 years: 99.98%

50-69 years: 99.95%

70+ years: 94.6%

<https://www.cdc.gov/.../2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html...>

Notice that nothing has changed over time except that the mortality rate keeps going down in general and we see research coming out showing lockdowns are bad for kids (though I will argue one shouldn't need research to show lockdowns are bad for kids). I can provide even more articles supporting the points of this post. There are many. If you follow the science, there is no justification to keep healthy young kids out of school. There are many good reasons to keep them in school. Also, this is just a fraction of the research supporting the points of this email. **Follow the science.**

My question is, again: **What science is being followed that supports imposed distance learning for elementary school students?**

Let's reopen for the kids. Thank you to the DJUSD School board for your service to the community. I have cited much research that supports the points of my letter. I hope this helps.

Respectfully,

Robert P. Van Ostrand
Concerned Davis Parent of 2

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 3:58 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - Board Meeting

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I'm writing in the hopes that my comment will be considered. I appreciate that you face difficult choices, and do not envy you in this time of polarized decision making.

Nevertheless, I implore you to consider the children as your primary concern in making decisions about when to reopen in-person schooling. As Dr. Fauci has repeatedly gone on record to support reintroducing children to the classroom as soon as community transmission is controlled, I would argue that, having met the state's tiered threshold to reopen schools, we have satisfied the "community transmission" consideration, and should follow Dr. Fauci's recommendation as soon as possible - returning children to the classroom.

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My children do not enjoy distance learning. They do not appear to benefit from it much, if at all. While my experience is anecdotal, it is shared by many, as I suspect you will find in other comments to the board.

I'm not asking for you to force all children back into the classroom. I'm simply asking that you give us the option to return, full time, and allow us to make decisions in the best interest of our families.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

Sent from my iPhone
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Bryan and Lori Stafford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 7:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for October 1 Meeting

Categories: Green category

Public comment for October 1 Meeting

I am a parent of an 11th grader, and have a 7th grade niece and 4th grade nephew, all in the Davis public school system. I am writing to ask you to re-open schools once you are allowed to do so as quickly as possible.

I see the stress my child feels not being with his peers and teachers to learn in person, spending his entire school day looking at a computer screen. This is not healthy, and it is not a good way to learn academics or social skills. Adolescents need to be able to interact with peers in ways that aid normal teen development.

When the Governor allows our county to send children back to school, please work to return all elementary, junior high, and high school students immediately. Please do not allow undue caution to keep our children out of school for additional weeks. Those who do not wish to send their children back, do not have to. But for those of us who believe the healthiest place for all children to learn and socialize is physically at school, there are no days to let slip by.

Sincerely,
Bryan Stafford

Monica Roque

From: Erica Bliss Pattni [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:34 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: School Board public comment for October 1

Categories: Green category

Public comment for October 1 Meeting

I am a parent of a 2nd and 4th grader and asking that we move to re-open schools once you are allowed to do so. For all ages. Let's not waste any time pondering this. They can go masked, distanced and we can be safe about it. I am a local business owner and state worker and the stress of overseeing the kids is not good for any of us, stress from being spread too thin, kids not getting peer to peer socialization and in front of screens all day. I recognize some health risk of children returning, but believe that risk to be smaller than keeping them at home.

When the Governor allows our county to send children back to school please work to return all kids, including junior high and high school students immediately. I am concerned that undue caution and too much planning will keep our children out of school for additional weeks. Please be decisive and strategic to return our children to classrooms. Those who do not wish to send their children back, do not have to. But for those of us who believe the healthiest place for all children to learn, socialize, and seek support is at a public school, everyday counts.

Sincerely,
Erica Pattni

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Erica Bliss Pattni

ROWDY

[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: J.R. Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:03 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Re-opening

Categories: Green category

Public comment for October 1 Meeting

I am a parent of a 7th grader and 4th grader and have an 11th grade nephew all in Davis public schools. I am writing to ask you to move quickly to re-open schools once you are allowed to do so. For all ages. Let's not waste any time in getting kids back where they should be. My children have a safe home with safe parents, but as a business owner and healthcare provider we are feeling the stress of overseeing their education. More than that, we see the stress they feel not being with their peers and teachers. My children and nephew spend their entire school day looking at a computer screen. This is not good for kids. This is not healthy for them. I know there is a health risk if they return to on campus instruction, but I truly believe it is a greater public health risk to keeping children, teens and teachers at home and isolated. Older children and their families truly suffer, as adolescents are not able to interact with peers in ways that aid normal teen development. I genuinely worry about increases in teen depression and suicide.

When the Governor allows our county to send children back to school please work to return all kids, including junior high and high school students immediately. I am concerned that undue caution and too much planning will keep our children out of school for additional weeks. Please be decisive and strategic to return our children to classrooms. Those who do not wish to send their children back do not have to. But for those of us who believe the healthiest place for all children to learn, socialize, and seek support is at a public school, everyday counts.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Jones

Monica Roque

Subject: Public Comment

From: Jenna Shaw-Battista [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 6:49 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education <boe@djUSD.net>
Subject: Public Comment

Members of the Board,

Thank you for considering my comments on future plans to educate children in our community as this pandemic continues. I appreciate that you face very difficult choices and are under enormous pressure during these unprecedented times.

As a mother and doctorally prepared health care provider, educator, researcher and public health practitioner, I am strongly opposed to returning to in person schooling in 2020 if not longer pending emerging data.

I'm not an expert on COVID-19 or related policies. However, my training and practice allow me to understand that we still know relatively little about the consequences of both the virus and distance learning for kids and their families. In my opinion, data are not currently sufficient to justify reopening schools and I'm dubious they will be before the end of the current school year much less calendar year. We could do it anyway based on existing prevalence and childhood mortality data (if it remains stable through this month), but some kids and adults would certainly be sacrificed to the virus as we learn more each day about transmission, treatment and morbidity with long term health impacts. Additionally, I don't think we have sufficient local testing, surveillance, public health or school funding or staff, or ventilation in places of learning, nor domestic PPE production or coherent and evidence based health policies at the state and national levels.

Please know I did not come to this opinion quickly or lightly. I have been greatly informed by my work in the public health care safety net, public health sciences education and private practice. I also joined an international clinical epidemiology group at the beginning of the pandemic which aims to discuss and disseminate all published COVID-19 research daily, in addition to any prepublication data obtained by MD/PhD members.

School closures and distance learning have not gone well for my kids or family, much less our finances or my career. In fact, trying to help a seventh grader, plus two first graders in two different Spanish immersion classes, has been fairly awful despite wonderful kids, two adults in the home each morning, very hardworking DJUSD teachers and some fantastic technological tools we are very grateful for. I still think distance learning is preferable to opening and closing schools repeatedly which seems likely if we move too quickly towards in person education. A hybrid schedule would make childcare and transportation that much more complicated along with upending the structure and daily rhythms we have finally established with kids in distance learning. I could be mistaken but it doesn't seem feasible to run in person and distance public school programs simultaneously to permit choice (in the context of structural inequalities), and DSIS cannot be the only choice for distance learning since not all DJUSD programs are available and some families would be forced to withdraw from their home schools or risk COVID-19 exposure in person to remain enrolled. More than any of

that, I don't want to have to comfort any more people through death, prolonged severe disease or bereavement due to the virus which I have already done for members of our community and people elsewhere too. I don't think that means I'm being fear-based but realistic about what is at stake.

Coincidentally, while I was writing this I got notified that one of my teams was exposed by somebody who came into clinic despite symptoms, failed to disclose symptoms when screened, and didn't have a fever when checked but tested positive later that day. As much as we hope people will do the right thing on their own, sometimes they just don't for many reasons which put others at risk. Further, asymptomatic infections put people at risk until accurate rapid testing is widely available. Please ensure we help keep kids and families as safe as possible for as long as possible, without relying on working guardians to keep kids home from in person school.

Thank you very much,
Jenna Shaw-Battista, PhD. RN, PHN, NP, CNM, FACNM

(sent from phone, please forgive any typos)

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