Pediatricians emphasize importance of masks and vaccines for children during pandemic

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 1, 2021)

Pediatricians are glad that children are back in school after a year of prolonged closures for many. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues in California, particularly with the current surge due to the delta variant, we reiterate the importance of a layered strategy to protect the youngest members of our communities.


Vaccines against COVID-19 for all eligible individuals are another strategy and layer of protection to keep children safe. Research studies have demonstrated that currently authorized mRNA vaccines provide protection against coronavirus variants, including the delta variant [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html). Getting to herd immunity on school campuses is an effective and important strategy to protect younger children who are unable to receive the vaccine at this time.

“Our priority should be to have children in person for school this fall and to keep them as safe as possible,” says Dr. Alice Kuo, Professor and Chief of Medicine-Pediatrics at UCLA and Past-President of the Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics. “Masks and vaccines are important strategies to be able to keep children in school as we approach the winter months.”

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The Southern California chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 1,500 primary care pediatrics, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

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