



**Southern California Chapter 2 Kern - Los Angeles – Riverside - San Bernardino – San Luis Obispo -  
Santa Barbara - Ventura**

Press Release

## **Pediatricians in Support of LAUSD School Board Vaccine Mandate**

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 9, 2021)

Pediatricians applaud Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD, the second largest school district in the country) for taking the monumental step in mandating COVID-19 vaccines for eligible students aged 12 and older. We also want to recognize other schools and school districts, including Culver City Unified School District, who have already taken this step to ensure the safety of school-aged children.

The LAUSD vaccine mandate acknowledges what the science has shown us: vaccines are safe and effective and play a crucial role in protecting children from COVID-19. With the current rise of the delta variant and increased COVID cases and hospitalizations among the pediatric population, more is needed (<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/09/03/covid-delta-variant-children-hospitalizations-090321>). A vaccine mandate for all eligible students is the next layer of protection to ensure that children within Los Angeles County continue to have access to in-person learning. Vaccine mandates for children attending school are not new in California.

After over a year of virtual learning for the majority of children in Los Angeles County, our priority must be to promote a safe school environment for children because in-person education addresses children’s learning, social, and emotional needs. “The COVID-19 pandemic school closures have been devastating for children, particularly those from low-income families and communities of color. Our priority must be to ensure safe, in-person learning environments for all children,” says Dr. Alice Kuo, Professor and Chief of Medicine-Pediatrics at UCLA and Past-President of Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“A school-based vaccine mandate for LAUSD is a smart step for a school district of their size,” says Dr. Karinne Van Groningen, pediatrician and Legislative and Policy Analyst for Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics. “This will go a long way in decreasing the delta variant infections in children in Los Angeles County. Other schools and school districts should consider similar mandates.”

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*The Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 1,500 primary care pediatricians, 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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