Department of Health and Human Services |  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Office of the Director

[**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

**COVID-19 Partner Update July 19, 2021:**  **COVID-19 and Returning to School**

1

00:00:00,076 --> 00:00:04,566

>> My name is Candice Floyd,

and I would like to welcome you

2

00:00:04,566 --> 00:00:10,236

to today's CDC Partner Update call on COVID-19.

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00:00:10,456 --> 00:00:17,726

This call serves as a way for CDC to share

updates on COVID-19 in our latest resources

4

00:00:17,726 --> 00:00:22,096

and guidance and to answer

questions submitted by participants.

5

00:00:25,966 --> 00:00:27,036

Next slide, please.

6

00:00:27,036 --> 00:00:28,056

Thank you.

7

00:00:28,156 --> 00:00:35,536

On today's call, we will share information

and updates on K through 12 school guidance.

8

00:00:35,916 --> 00:00:42,496

We will hear from Dr. Massetti who is the

Co-lead of the Community Interventions

9

00:00:42,496 --> 00:00:51,316

and Critical Populations, also known as

CICP, taskforce on CDC's COVID-19 response.

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00:00:52,636 --> 00:00:58,146

CICP is responsible for developing

guidance and practical tools

11

00:00:58,286 --> 00:01:03,376

for community mitigation activities

and attending to special populations,

12

00:01:03,756 --> 00:01:07,866

particularly those disproportionately

effected by COVID-19.

13

00:01:08,226 --> 00:01:11,946

After Dr. Massetti's presentation is completed,

14

00:01:12,026 --> 00:01:18,746

we will address questions we

received over the last week via email.

15

00:01:18,946 --> 00:01:24,686

If you experience technical difficulties or

otherwise would like to review today's call,

16

00:01:24,976 --> 00:01:32,966

you can find the recording on cdc.gov

and YouTube in eight to ten days.

17

00:01:32,966 --> 00:01:37,256

All past partner calls can be

found there, so please take time

18

00:01:37,256 --> 00:01:41,206

to review and share prior recordings.

19

00:01:41,506 --> 00:01:47,176

For more information about these webinars,

visit our COVID-19 Partner Calls webpage

20

00:01:47,656 --> 00:01:52,706

where you can register for future partner

calls and see recordings of previous webinars.

21

00:01:53,026 --> 00:01:58,016

If this is your first webinar

with us, we welcome you.

22

00:01:58,636 --> 00:02:03,926

Please see the link in the chat to subscribe

and receive future call invitations.

23

00:02:05,096 --> 00:02:08,916

Please note, this call is

not intended for media.

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00:02:09,946 --> 00:02:15,696

Although we welcome the media who may

be here today, should you be a reporter

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00:02:15,696 --> 00:02:20,976

and have questions, we invite you

to reach out to media@cdc.gov.

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00:02:29,046 --> 00:02:35,286

These calls are designed to share the latest

science, guidance, and resources from CDC.

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00:02:35,756 --> 00:02:43,526

CDC has issued thousands of resources and

guidance materials for individuals, businesses,

28

00:02:43,616 --> 00:02:46,976

and the public on our website, cdc.gov.

29

00:02:54,046 --> 00:02:57,716

First, the COVID data tracker weekly review.

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00:02:58,216 --> 00:03:05,706

This new webpage and newsletter highlights

key data from CDC's COVID data tracker,

31

00:03:06,016 --> 00:03:11,056

narrative interpretation of the data,

and visualizations from the week.

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00:03:12,066 --> 00:03:15,916

As highlighted in the name,

the review is updated weekly.

33

00:03:16,016 --> 00:03:19,706

It summarizes important trends in pandemic.

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00:03:20,106 --> 00:03:24,916

It brings together CDC data and

reporting in a centralized location.

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00:03:25,266 --> 00:03:32,836

It represents the extensive data that CDC

uses to track the pandemic on a daily basis.

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00:03:33,286 --> 00:03:40,386

Specific information that can be found via the

COVID data tracker weekly review includes state

37

00:03:40,386 --> 00:03:47,976

and territory data on variants,

reported cases, testing, vaccination.

38

00:03:54,176 --> 00:04:01,116

Second, a new CDC study released on

July 9, 2021, found that compared

39

00:04:01,116 --> 00:04:06,266

with control patients enrolled in

a cancer rehabilitation program,

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00:04:06,756 --> 00:04:14,296

adult post-COVID-19 patients referred for

rehabilitation services reported poor health

41

00:04:14,536 --> 00:04:21,346

and being less able to engage in physical

activities and activities of daily living.

42

00:04:22,036 --> 00:04:27,536

Additional information surrounding this

study can be found via the Morbidity

43

00:04:27,596 --> 00:04:33,196

and Mortality Weekly Report which

many of you know as the MMWR.

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00:04:33,196 --> 00:04:38,056

For general information surrounding

post-COVID conditions,

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00:04:38,526 --> 00:04:43,616

please access CDC's long-term

effects COVID-19 webpage.

46

00:04:45,236 --> 00:04:47,976

Third, as we know.

47

00:04:53,496 --> 00:04:55,856

Americans and Hispanic communities.

48

00:04:56,406 --> 00:05:00,986

A new study released on July 15, 2021,

49

00:05:01,126 --> 00:05:09,356

found that in North Carolina among persons

vaccinated during March 29th through April 6,

50

00:05:09,356 --> 00:05:16,216

2021, compared with December 14,

2020 through January 3, 2021,

51

00:05:16,386 --> 00:05:22,246

the proportion who were black nearly doubled

in the share of vaccine doses administered

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00:05:22,246 --> 00:05:25,386

to Hispanic persons doubled during this period.

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00:05:25,566 --> 00:05:27,986

Approaching the proportion of the state

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00:05:28,046 --> 00:05:31,976

for these groups aged greater

than or equal to 16 years.

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00:05:38,086 --> 00:05:45,576

I am pleased to be joined today by CDC expert

on the COVID-19 response, Dr. Greta Massetti,

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00:05:45,856 --> 00:05:48,976

Community Interventions and

Critical Populations.

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00:05:58,406 --> 00:06:02,166

>> Thank you, Candice, and welcome

to everyone joining us today.

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00:06:02,166 --> 00:06:07,296

I'm glad to be joining and talking

to you all about CDC's guidance

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00:06:07,296 --> 00:06:09,876

on kindergarten through grade 12 schools.

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00:06:09,876 --> 00:06:15,746

I'm going to provide an update on CDC's

guidance and share information about resources

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00:06:15,746 --> 00:06:19,776

that CDC has for ensuring safe,

in-person instruction in the fall.

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00:06:19,776 --> 00:06:26,556

CDC educators and communities share the goal

of getting schools open as safely as possible

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00:06:26,826 --> 00:06:29,286

in the fall to support the

health and wellbeing of students,

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00:06:29,336 --> 00:06:31,346

teachers, staff, and their families.

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00:06:31,346 --> 00:06:32,506

Next slide, please.

66

00:06:36,736 --> 00:06:43,056

CDC recently updated its guidance for K

through 12 schools to reflect the current state

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00:06:43,056 --> 00:06:45,086

of the evidence, the science, and what is known

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00:06:45,086 --> 00:06:49,236

about transmission in K through

12 school settings.

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00:06:49,236 --> 00:06:49,976

As always.

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00:06:57,246 --> 00:07:01,976

In an updated science brief

on secondary transmission.

71

00:07:10,176 --> 00:07:10,946

Next slide.

72

00:07:24,046 --> 00:07:30,606

The vaccines, we have experienced reductions in

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

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00:07:30,606 --> 00:07:35,076

If vaccination continues to,

rates continue to increase

74

00:07:35,076 --> 00:07:38,546

and community transmission rates

decrease, the risk of transmissions

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00:07:38,546 --> 00:07:41,506

in schools is expected to decrease as well.

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00:07:41,506 --> 00:07:45,996

We know that students benefit from

in-person learning and safely returning

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00:07:45,996 --> 00:07:50,026

to in-person schools in the

fall of 2021 is a priority.

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00:07:50,956 --> 00:07:55,376

There are some key takeaways from CDC's

updated guidance that I'm going to highlight.

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00:07:55,376 --> 00:07:58,816

CDC emphasizes layered prevention strategies.

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00:07:58,816 --> 00:08:02,706

That means using multiple prevention

strategies together consistently

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00:08:02,706 --> 00:08:05,886

to protect people who are not fully vaccinated.

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00:08:06,286 --> 00:08:11,436

These strategies may be added or removed

over time in response to the risk of COVID-19

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00:08:11,436 --> 00:08:13,316

in the school or in the community.

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00:08:14,476 --> 00:08:17,726

Vaccination is currently the leading

public health prevention strategy

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00:08:17,726 --> 00:08:20,396

to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

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00:08:20,516 --> 00:08:25,176

All those eligible to get vaccinated should

make plans to get vaccinated right away.

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00:08:25,176 --> 00:08:32,526

Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals

ages two and older who are not fully vaccinated.

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00:08:33,646 --> 00:08:34,986

Next slide, please.

89

00:08:37,606 --> 00:08:43,166

Schools play critical roles in

promoting equity in learning and health,

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00:08:43,166 --> 00:08:47,176

particularly for groups disproportionately

affected by COVID-19.

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00:08:47,256 --> 00:08:50,996

School administrators and public

health officials can ensure safe

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00:08:50,996 --> 00:08:55,386

and supportive environments by using COVID

prevention strategies in all schools.

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00:08:55,896 --> 00:08:56,896

Next slide, please.

94

00:08:56,896 --> 00:09:02,636

CDC continues to recommend

that prevention strategies

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00:09:02,636 --> 00:09:04,976

to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

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00:09:13,046 --> 00:09:18,386

Factors to guide decision making on prevention

strategies, and these include what is the level

97

00:09:18,386 --> 00:09:22,206

of community transmission or the

level of disease in the community.

98

00:09:22,206 --> 00:09:25,646

What are the local vaccine coverage rates?

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00:09:25,646 --> 00:09:31,016

What's the proportion of people who are eligible

who are fully vaccinated in the local community?

100

00:09:31,496 --> 00:09:33,306

What's the use of screening testing?

101

00:09:33,306 --> 00:09:36,816

Is the school using screening testing program?

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00:09:36,906 --> 00:09:41,286

Have there been outbreaks in

the school or in the community,

103

00:09:41,286 --> 00:09:44,256

and what are the ages of

children in the schools?

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00:09:44,256 --> 00:09:50,206

These factors taken together are essential in

guiding decisions on what prevention strategies

105

00:09:50,206 --> 00:09:55,426

to use given the local context and needs

of the school population and the community.

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00:09:55,696 --> 00:09:57,676

Now, I'm going to provide an overview

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00:09:57,676 --> 00:09:59,976

of the prevention strategies

recommended in CDC's guidance.

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00:10:00,056 --> 00:10:01,976

Next slide, please.

109

00:10:07,146 --> 00:10:10,286

First, important to emphasize

the role of vaccination.

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00:10:10,566 --> 00:10:15,816

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and

effective at preventing COVID-19,

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00:10:15,816 --> 00:10:18,326

especially severe illness and death.

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00:10:18,326 --> 00:10:23,946

CDC recommends that everyone ages 12 and

older get fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

113

00:10:23,946 --> 00:10:27,586

Schools have an important role

to play in promoting vaccination

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00:10:27,586 --> 00:10:32,526

for staff eligible students and

families and to promote vaccinations,

115

00:10:32,526 --> 00:10:36,516

school scan visit vaccines.gov

to find local vaccination sites.

116

00:10:36,686 --> 00:10:39,996

They can educate families

about COVID-19 vaccination,

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00:10:39,996 --> 00:10:44,316

and they can support staff vaccination by

putting in place policies and practices

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00:10:44,316 --> 00:10:48,486

that make getting vaccinated as

easy and convenient as possible.

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00:10:49,286 --> 00:10:52,256

Next slide, please.

120

00:10:52,516 --> 00:10:56,246

The next prevention strategy is

consistent and correct mask use.

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00:10:56,246 --> 00:10:57,976

CDC continues to recommend that.

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00:11:05,046 --> 00:11:08,416

Recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

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00:11:08,456 --> 00:11:11,296

We know that when used consistently

and correctly,

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00:11:11,296 --> 00:11:13,956

masks protect others as well as the wearer.

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00:11:14,916 --> 00:11:19,996

Indoors, mask use is recommended for

people who are not fully vaccinated,

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00:11:19,996 --> 00:11:23,986

and this includes children under

two, over two years of age.

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00:11:23,986 --> 00:11:27,176

Children under two years of

age should not wear a mask.

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00:11:27,306 --> 00:11:33,526

Outdoors, generally, CDC finds that people

do not need to wear masks when outdoors.

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00:11:33,526 --> 00:11:40,496

However, particularly in areas of substantial

to high transmission, CDC recommends that people

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00:11:40,496 --> 00:11:46,666

who are not fully vaccinated, which will

include all children under the age of 12,

131

00:11:46,706 --> 00:11:51,606

wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or

during activities that involve sustained,

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00:11:51,606 --> 00:11:55,326

close contact with other people

who are not fully vaccinated.

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00:11:55,326 --> 00:11:57,866

In a school setting, this might

include something like sports

134

00:11:57,946 --> 00:12:01,086

or activities that involve physical exertion.

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00:12:01,206 --> 00:12:06,656

Students and other passengers and drivers

must always wear a mask on school busses.

136

00:12:06,656 --> 00:12:09,396

Next slide, please.

137

00:12:09,856 --> 00:12:14,086

The next prevention strategy

is physical distancing.

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00:12:14,086 --> 00:12:19,776

CDC recommends the school implement physical

distancing to the greatest extent possible.

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00:12:19,776 --> 00:12:24,626

However, given the potential negative

impacts of not being in person,

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00:12:24,986 --> 00:12:29,856

an inability to fully distance should

not prohibit in-person learning.

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00:12:30,426 --> 00:12:35,816

When feasible, schools are recommended to

maintain at least three feet of distance

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00:12:35,816 --> 00:12:38,236

between students within classrooms.

143

00:12:39,096 --> 00:12:41,446

When physical distancing is not possible,

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00:12:41,446 --> 00:12:47,026

schools should layer multiple other prevention

strategies that can include masking, cohorting,

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00:12:47,026 --> 00:12:52,556

which involves including small groups

of students in stand alone groups,

146

00:12:53,106 --> 00:12:56,576

improving ventilation, regular

cleaning, and screening testing.

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00:12:56,576 --> 00:12:58,956

And I'm going to talk about some of these soon.

148

00:12:59,036 --> 00:13:02,876

Next. Next slide, please.

149

00:13:04,436 --> 00:13:10,266

Screening testing may be particularly

valuable in areas with substantial

150

00:13:10,266 --> 00:13:14,836

or high community transmission, in

areas with low vaccination coverage,

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00:13:14,836 --> 00:13:18,786

and in schools where other prevention

strategies are not implemented.

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00:13:18,916 --> 00:13:24,686

Screening testing identifies infected people,

including those with or without symptoms

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00:13:24,686 --> 00:13:27,956

or before they develop symptoms

who may be contagious

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00:13:27,956 --> 00:13:31,036

so that measures can be taken

to prevent further transmission.

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00:13:31,126 --> 00:13:35,786

People who are fully vaccinated do not need to

participate in screening testing and do not need

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00:13:35,786 --> 00:13:40,776

to quarantine if they do not have symptoms and

have been exposed to a person who's positive.

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00:13:40,886 --> 00:13:45,756

To be effective, screening programs

should test at least once a week

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00:13:45,756 --> 00:13:49,636

and rapidly within 24 hours report results.

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00:13:49,636 --> 00:13:53,976

Screening testing more than once a week might

be more effective at interrupting transmission.

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00:13:53,976 --> 00:13:58,136

Next slide, please.

161

00:13:58,436 --> 00:14:02,386

Improving ventilation is an

important COVID-19 prevention strategy

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00:14:02,386 --> 00:14:05,176

to reduce the number of virus

particles in the air.

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00:14:05,846 --> 00:14:10,146

Bringing fresh, outdoor air into a

building helps keep virus particles

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00:14:10,146 --> 00:14:11,896

from concentrating inside.

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00:14:12,016 --> 00:14:16,736

Schools can improve ventilation by

opening multiple doors and windows,

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00:14:16,766 --> 00:14:21,926

using child safe fans to increase effectiveness

of open windows, and making changes

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00:14:21,926 --> 00:14:24,246

to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

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00:14:24,666 --> 00:14:29,756

Funds provided through the elementary and

secondary schools emergency relief programs

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00:14:29,756 --> 00:14:34,366

and the governor's emergency education

relief programs can support investments

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00:14:34,366 --> 00:14:35,936

in improving ventilation.

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00:14:36,156 --> 00:14:36,976

Next slide, please.

172

00:14:42,046 --> 00:14:46,106

Practicing handwashing and

respiratory etiquette is also essential.

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00:14:46,866 --> 00:14:51,746

This includes covering coughs and

sneezes which stops the spread of germs.

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00:14:52,016 --> 00:14:56,506

Schools can monitor and reinforce these

behaviors and ensure that there's time

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00:14:56,506 --> 00:14:59,536

in the day to wash and use

good respiratory etiquette.

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00:14:59,866 --> 00:15:04,376

Schools can also provide

adequate handwashing supplies

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00:15:04,376 --> 00:15:11,756

and they can also store hand sanitizer up,

away, and out of sight of young children

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00:15:11,756 --> 00:15:16,176

and make sure they're used only with adult

supervision for children under six years of age.

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00:15:16,176 --> 00:15:16,956

Next slide, please.

180

00:15:21,316 --> 00:15:26,606

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms

of COVID-19 should stay home and be referred

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00:15:26,606 --> 00:15:28,886

to their healthcare providers

for testing and care.

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00:15:43,046 --> 00:15:46,386

Get tested after an exposure

to someone with COVID-19.

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00:15:46,626 --> 00:15:50,376

Next slide, please.

184

00:15:52,056 --> 00:15:54,766

Schools should continue to

collaborate with their state

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00:15:54,766 --> 00:15:57,886

and local health departments

to conduct contact tracing.

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00:15:57,886 --> 00:16:02,396

Schools should report positive cases to their

state and local health department as soon

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00:16:02,396 --> 00:16:05,866

as they're informed and notify

staff and families of children

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00:16:05,866 --> 00:16:08,006

who were close contacts as soon as possible.

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00:16:08,006 --> 00:16:11,726

Next slide, please.

190

00:16:11,886 --> 00:16:15,076

In general, cleaning once

a day is usually enough

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00:16:15,076 --> 00:16:19,096

to sufficiently remove potential

virus that may be on surfaces.

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00:16:19,646 --> 00:16:25,586

If a facility has had a sick person or

someone who tested positive for COVID-19

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00:16:25,586 --> 00:16:30,666

within the last 24 hours, it's recommended

to clean and disinfect the space.

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00:16:31,166 --> 00:16:34,736

Disinfecting removes any

remaining germs on surfaces.

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00:16:34,736 --> 00:16:36,106

Next slide, please.

196

00:16:38,366 --> 00:16:43,456

School sponsored sports and extracurricular

activities provide children and adolescents

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00:16:43,456 --> 00:16:46,746

with enrichment opportunities

that can help them learn, achieve,

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00:16:46,746 --> 00:16:49,256

and support their social,

emotional, and mental health.

199

00:16:49,256 --> 00:16:54,036

Students, staff, and visitors who are fully

vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask

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00:16:54,036 --> 00:16:57,266

or physically distance in any

setting, including while participating

201

00:16:57,266 --> 00:16:59,956

in sports and extracurricular activities.

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00:17:00,356 --> 00:17:03,196

Students, staff, and visitors who

are fully vaccinated can also refrain

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00:17:03,196 --> 00:17:08,016

from quarantine following a known exposure,

especially is they're asymptomatic.

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00:17:08,096 --> 00:17:12,566

Facilitating continued participation in

in-person learning, sports, and activities.

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00:17:12,566 --> 00:17:14,976

Coaches and school sports administrators.

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00:17:21,116 --> 00:17:22,466

Next slide, please.

207

00:17:22,666 --> 00:17:28,326

We also share some additional considerations.

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00:17:28,326 --> 00:17:29,746

Next slide.

209

00:17:31,706 --> 00:17:34,266

And these are specific to school settings.

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00:17:34,446 --> 00:17:36,956

Schools should provide accommodations

for children, teachers,

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00:17:36,956 --> 00:17:39,836

and staff with disabilities

and other healthcare needs.

212

00:17:40,516 --> 00:17:43,976

We encourage limiting non-essential

visitors, volunteers,

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00:17:43,976 --> 00:17:48,066

and activities involving

external groups or organizations.

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00:17:48,246 --> 00:17:54,736

Schools should use additional spaces outside

of the cafeteria such as the gymnasium

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00:17:54,736 --> 00:17:59,026

or outdoor seatings to help facilitate

distancing during school meals.

216

00:17:59,026 --> 00:18:03,886

And as stated earlier, in general, people

do not need to wear a mask when outdoors.

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00:18:04,516 --> 00:18:08,166

Workers who have an underlying medical

condition or are taking medication

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00:18:08,166 --> 00:18:12,396

that weakens their immune system

may not be fully protected even

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00:18:12,396 --> 00:18:13,776

if they're fully vaccinated.

220

00:18:13,836 --> 00:18:18,676

These people may want to continue to

wear a mask even if fully vaccinated.

221

00:18:19,096 --> 00:18:23,406

Next slide, please.

222

00:18:23,816 --> 00:18:28,646

Also want to mention as a reminder, CDC

has numerous resources to assist you

223

00:18:28,646 --> 00:18:31,956

with keeping children safe in

our schools and communities.

224

00:18:31,956 --> 00:18:36,486

You can always visit CDC COVID-19 website

for the latest information on CDC.

225

00:18:36,486 --> 00:18:41,016

And in closing, many schools

serve children under the age of 12

226

00:18:41,016 --> 00:18:43,746

who are not eligible for

vaccination at this time.

227

00:18:44,066 --> 00:18:48,396

Therefore, CDC's guidance emphasizes

implementing layered prevention strategies

228

00:18:48,396 --> 00:18:52,916

to protect people who are not fully

vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff,

229

00:18:52,916 --> 00:18:54,676

and other members of their households.

230

00:18:55,336 --> 00:18:59,646

Success in preventing COVID-19 in

schools begins with and is connected

231

00:18:59,646 --> 00:19:02,836

to preventing transmission in communities.

232

00:19:03,206 --> 00:19:08,386

Vaccination is currently the leading public

health prevention strategy to end the pandemic

233

00:19:08,386 --> 00:19:13,136

and promoting COVID-19 vaccination can help

schools safely return to in-person learning

234

00:19:13,286 --> 00:19:15,886

and extracurricular activities,

including sports.

235

00:19:16,236 --> 00:19:21,006

Next slide, please.

236

00:19:21,126 --> 00:19:23,976

And I think that concludes my

presentation, so back to you, Candice.

237

00:19:29,096 --> 00:19:32,316

>> Thank you, Dr. Massetti, for

the informative presentation.

238

00:19:32,856 --> 00:19:38,856

For those of you who submitted questions

in advance of this call, thank you.

239

00:19:39,176 --> 00:19:44,406

We received many excellent questions, and

we'll try to get to as many as we can today.

240

00:19:45,756 --> 00:19:49,976

Before we start the questions,

please answer this brief poll.

241

00:20:42,336 --> 00:20:42,726

Thank you.

242

00:20:42,726 --> 00:20:48,916

Dr. Massetti, if you could, please

answer the following questions.

243

00:20:51,316 --> 00:20:52,326

Question number one.

244

00:20:55,406 --> 00:21:00,376

We know that one of the best ways

to reduce school COVID infections is

245

00:21:00,456 --> 00:21:02,796

to reduce cases in the community.

246

00:21:03,466 --> 00:21:09,566

Why doesn't the CDC update their recommendation

so that everyone should be required

247

00:21:09,566 --> 00:21:14,646

to wear masks indoors which would

lead to reductions in COVID cases

248

00:21:14,646 --> 00:21:15,816

for the start of this school year?

249

00:21:27,046 --> 00:21:28,576

>> That's a really important question.

250

00:21:28,576 --> 00:21:35,006

So, CDC continues to recommend that all persons

in schools, that includes students, teachers,

251

00:21:35,006 --> 00:21:39,906

and staff who are not fully vaccinated

wear masks indoors consistent

252

00:21:39,906 --> 00:21:43,276

with our overall recommendations

for fully vaccinated people.

253

00:21:43,746 --> 00:21:50,706

We, our guidance does allow for flexibilities in

for specific school officials to make decisions

254

00:21:50,706 --> 00:21:53,546

on prevention strategies

based on several factors.

255

00:21:53,546 --> 00:21:57,896

And that includes what are the

local community transmission rates?

256

00:21:57,896 --> 00:22:00,066

How much disease is in the community?

257

00:22:00,466 --> 00:22:04,486

What's the local vaccine coverage rate?

258

00:22:04,756 --> 00:22:08,526

Is the school using screening

testing, and have there been outbreaks?

259

00:22:08,756 --> 00:22:12,966

Those factors should be guiding

school officials in making decisions

260

00:22:12,966 --> 00:22:17,946

about what strategies are needed to help

prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

261

00:22:18,316 --> 00:22:23,726

Based on the needs in the community, those

school officials can make decisions based

262

00:22:23,726 --> 00:22:26,266

on specifically what their population needs are,

263

00:22:26,266 --> 00:22:30,406

and that includes in the guidance there's

several considerations for schools

264

00:22:30,406 --> 00:22:37,066

that may decide to use a universal mask

policy or make mask use universally required,

265

00:22:37,066 --> 00:22:41,256

regardless of vaccination status

based on some of those considerations.

266

00:22:41,256 --> 00:22:45,926

So, we do provide that flexibility to school

officials in our recommendations and guidance.

267

00:22:51,396 --> 00:22:51,646

>> Thank you.

268

00:22:51,966 --> 00:22:53,196

Question number two.

269

00:22:54,646 --> 00:22:58,476

How can we be sure that in-person

education is safe

270

00:22:58,476 --> 00:23:02,216

when increasing circulation

of the Delta variant?

271

00:23:02,576 --> 00:23:11,296

>> That's a really important and

very relevant and timely question.

272

00:23:11,296 --> 00:23:18,026

So, the B16172 also known as the or better

known as the Delta variant has only emerged

273

00:23:18,026 --> 00:23:25,296

in the U.S. relatively recently, and so we're

still learning a lot about and getting more data

274

00:23:25,466 --> 00:23:30,106

on transmission of this variant,

especially in school settings.

275

00:23:30,366 --> 00:23:36,876

Since the school year ended most recently in

most schools the Delta has emerged after that.

276

00:23:36,876 --> 00:23:38,606

So, we're still learning a lot.

277

00:23:38,606 --> 00:23:42,836

At this point, no data suggests

that the COVID-19 vaccines

278

00:23:42,966 --> 00:23:47,476

or the prevention strategies are

ineffective against the Delta variant.

279

00:23:47,476 --> 00:23:51,926

So, CDC's updated guidance is designed

to be flexible so that schools can use it

280

00:23:51,926 --> 00:23:58,096

in changing situations and contexts,

including if COVID-19 rates increase locally.

281

00:23:58,096 --> 00:24:02,466

Whether that's due to the

Delta variant circulating,

282

00:24:02,466 --> 00:24:08,536

as it is appear to be a more transmissible

variant, or due to other reasons.

283

00:24:09,166 --> 00:24:14,946

School administrators should anticipate and

prepared for some students to be exposed

284

00:24:14,946 --> 00:24:17,596

and infected with COVID-19 when there is,

285

00:24:17,596 --> 00:24:20,246

when there are higher levels

of community transmission.

286

00:24:20,506 --> 00:24:25,396

However, by following the layered prevention

strategies outlined in the guidance,

287

00:24:25,396 --> 00:24:31,456

schools can minimize the spread of COVID-19 in

the schools and safeguard in-person education.

288

00:24:31,456 --> 00:24:37,086

And we always emphasize that students, teachers,

and staff should stay home when they have signs

289

00:24:37,086 --> 00:24:40,976

of any infectious illness and be referred to

the healthcare provider for testing and care.

290

00:24:48,046 --> 00:24:49,116

>> Thank you.

291

00:24:49,356 --> 00:24:50,446

Question number three.

292

00:24:51,756 --> 00:24:57,846

Does the data show it is safe to

open schools for in-person learning

293

00:24:58,286 --> 00:25:02,266

without requiring masks for

unvaccinated students?

294

00:25:04,886 --> 00:25:09,656

>> So, CDC still recommends

masking indoors for all people

295

00:25:09,656 --> 00:25:12,536

who are not fully vaccinated,

including children.

296

00:25:13,146 --> 00:25:17,416

Layered prevention strategies have been proven

to be effective in preventing transmission

297

00:25:17,416 --> 00:25:22,446

in the classroom, and masking has been a

very key component of those strategies.

298

00:25:22,786 --> 00:25:25,176

We know that when used correctly

and consistently,

299

00:25:25,176 --> 00:25:28,986

masks protect others as well as the wearer.

300

00:25:29,726 --> 00:25:34,906

So, CDC recommends that schools reopen with

masking and other COVID-19 prevention strategies

301

00:25:34,906 --> 00:25:39,706

in place to help keep students,

teachers, staff, and their families safe.

302

00:25:39,896 --> 00:25:45,336

If local officials decide to remove prevention

strategies in schools based on local conditions,

303

00:25:45,336 --> 00:25:51,446

and that includes deciding to remove masking,

we encourage them to remove them one at a time

304

00:25:51,446 --> 00:25:55,686

and monitor closely with

adequate testing for any increases

305

00:25:55,686 --> 00:25:59,506

in COVID-19 cases before removing

the next prevention strategies.

306

00:26:00,326 --> 00:26:04,686

Localities should provide ongoing communication

and transparency throughout the process

307

00:26:04,686 --> 00:26:06,976

to families, teachers, staff,

and the local community.

308

00:26:12,346 --> 00:26:12,556

>> Thank you.

309

00:26:13,036 --> 00:26:14,386

Question number four.

310

00:26:14,906 --> 00:26:20,856

In communities where schools are

no longer allowed to require masks

311

00:26:20,926 --> 00:26:26,496

because of recently passed state laws,

should families send children to school

312

00:26:26,496 --> 00:26:29,866

if majority of students are unmasked?

313

00:26:30,006 --> 00:26:36,716

In addition, would the advice be different

for children with disabilities or high risk

314

00:26:36,786 --> 00:26:39,826

who may need in-person special education?

315

00:26:41,206 --> 00:26:46,806

>> So, we know that compared with

adults, children and adolescents

316

00:26:46,806 --> 00:26:52,266

who have COVID-19 are more likely

to be or more commonly asymptomatic.

317

00:26:52,266 --> 00:26:54,466

Meaning they never develop symptoms.

318

00:26:54,566 --> 00:27:00,446

Or oftentimes, when they do have symptoms,

they have mild, nonspecific symptoms,

319

00:27:00,546 --> 00:27:03,636

like having a headache or a sore throat.

320

00:27:03,686 --> 00:27:08,646

For most students and families, the benefits

of in-person learning outweigh the risks.

321

00:27:08,896 --> 00:27:14,216

We also know that when schools do

implement layered prevention strategies,

322

00:27:14,216 --> 00:27:17,796

they can really minimize the risk

of spread in the school setting.

323

00:27:18,086 --> 00:27:23,356

However, for some families, particularly

those with children or family members who are

324

00:27:23,356 --> 00:27:27,976

at increased risk of severe

illness from COVID-19 or who cannot.

325

00:27:31,226 --> 00:27:33,406

With a remote option this fall.

326

00:27:33,406 --> 00:27:36,706

Parents of children who have

an underlying medical condition

327

00:27:36,836 --> 00:27:42,526

or who have a weakened immune system should

talk to their child's healthcare provider

328

00:27:42,526 --> 00:27:45,606

to determine the best way for

the child to be protected.

329

00:27:45,836 --> 00:27:49,046

Some children might benefit from

alternatives to in-person learning,

330

00:27:49,046 --> 00:27:52,016

especially if masking policies are relaxed.

331

00:27:52,016 --> 00:27:55,236

Ultimately, state and local

school districts must determine

332

00:27:55,236 --> 00:27:56,976

if they can accommodate these

children with remote learning.

333

00:28:03,046 --> 00:28:03,236

>> Thank you.

334

00:28:04,746 --> 00:28:06,176

Question number five.

335

00:28:07,496 --> 00:28:13,656

What level of protection will a child

get from wearing a mask in school

336

00:28:14,246 --> 00:28:16,976

if majority of the school is unmasked?

337

00:28:23,046 --> 00:28:28,826

>> So, the individual prevention benefit of

masking increases with the increasing number

338

00:28:28,826 --> 00:28:32,776

of people who are using masks

consistently and correctly.

339

00:28:33,546 --> 00:28:40,636

Ensuring that masks fit well on the face and are

worn correctly, meaning over the mouth and nose,

340

00:28:40,636 --> 00:28:44,426

is very important to help prevent

getting and spreading COVID-19.

341

00:28:44,696 --> 00:28:49,156

A common problem with some masks

is that there can sometimes be gaps

342

00:28:49,156 --> 00:28:51,516

between the mask and the mask wearer's face.

343

00:28:51,516 --> 00:28:55,236

This is particularly true among

children who may have smaller faces.

344

00:28:55,336 --> 00:29:01,206

That can be improved by knotting and tucking

the ear loops of medical procedures masks

345

00:29:01,206 --> 00:29:05,566

or using a cloth mask placed

over a medical procedure mask.

346

00:29:05,626 --> 00:29:11,656

We do have on our CDC website some

information and graphics that help show how

347

00:29:11,656 --> 00:29:15,656

to knot the loops of medial procedure masks.

348

00:29:15,656 --> 00:29:17,886

Wearing a mask with multiple layers of cloth

349

00:29:17,886 --> 00:29:20,806

with high thread count can also

improve protection for the wearer,

350

00:29:20,806 --> 00:29:23,366

even when the person is the

only person wearing a mask.

351

00:29:27,656 --> 00:29:28,776

>> Thank you.

352

00:29:29,646 --> 00:29:29,976

Question.

353

00:29:35,046 --> 00:29:38,976

Adolescent COVID-19 vaccination status.

354

00:29:48,046 --> 00:29:52,706

>> Administrators of K through 12

schools regularly maintain documentation

355

00:29:52,706 --> 00:29:55,046

of student's immunization records.

356

00:29:55,086 --> 00:29:57,976

This includes things like the

measles and the MMR vaccine.

357

00:29:58,046 --> 00:30:03,326

They can also maintain documentation

of COVID-19 vaccination status.

358

00:30:03,696 --> 00:30:09,376

Since recommended prevention strategies

vary by COVID-19 vaccination status,

359

00:30:09,376 --> 00:30:14,406

K12 administrators can use this information

consistent with applicable laws and regulations,

360

00:30:14,406 --> 00:30:19,856

including those related to privacy, to

guide decisions about masking, distancing,

361

00:30:19,856 --> 00:30:23,656

contact tracing, testing,

and quarantine and isolation.

362

00:30:23,956 --> 00:30:29,456

Schools that plan to request

voluntary submission of documentation

363

00:30:29,456 --> 00:30:34,916

of COVID-19 vaccination should use the same

standard protocols to collect and secure this

364

00:30:34,916 --> 00:30:39,176

and other immunization or health

status information from students.

365

00:30:39,716 --> 00:30:43,866

For schools, the protocols

to collect, secure, use,

366

00:30:43,866 --> 00:30:47,796

and further disclose this information

should comply with the relevant statutory

367

00:30:47,796 --> 00:30:50,406

and regulatory requirements, including those

368

00:30:50,406 --> 00:30:53,476

in the Family Educational

Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA.

369

00:30:53,576 --> 00:30:57,066

Policies and practices related

to providing or receiving proof

370

00:30:57,066 --> 00:31:01,356

of COVID-19 vaccination should comply

with all relevant state, tribal, local,

371

00:31:01,396 --> 00:31:02,976

and territorial laws and regulations.

372

00:31:07,296 --> 00:31:07,786

>> Thank you.

373

00:31:09,696 --> 00:31:11,586

Question number seven.

374

00:31:11,826 --> 00:31:18,976

Please provide information on returning to

preK students or birth to five students.

375

00:31:28,776 --> 00:31:33,756

>> So, CDC recently, in addition

to updating our K12 guidance,

376

00:31:33,756 --> 00:31:38,086

we recently updated our COVID-19

guidance for operating early care

377

00:31:38,086 --> 00:31:40,496

and education and childcare programs.

378

00:31:40,616 --> 00:31:45,046

The updated guidance outlines strategies

to reduce the spread of COVID-19

379

00:31:45,046 --> 00:31:50,306

and maintain safe operation for early

childcare programs, including childcare centers,

380

00:31:50,306 --> 00:31:55,296

home-based programs, and family childcare,

headstart, and other prekindergarten programs.

381

00:31:55,596 --> 00:32:00,896

The guidance is on our website, and it also

is very consistent with the recommendations

382

00:32:00,896 --> 00:32:05,356

for K12 settings with some specific

adaptations of for the childcare setting.

383

00:32:05,356 --> 00:32:11,166

So, for example, we have information in there

about consideration in diapering, washing,

384

00:32:11,166 --> 00:32:16,346

and feeding children which are

specific activities that are unique

385

00:32:16,576 --> 00:32:19,366

to childcare settings compared to K12.

386

00:32:22,146 --> 00:32:22,986

>> Thank you.

387

00:32:22,986 --> 00:32:27,936

And for the attendees, we have included

the link to the K12 school guidance

388

00:32:27,996 --> 00:32:32,976

and the early childcare school,

I mean guidance, in the chat.

389

00:32:39,286 --> 00:32:47,156

Are masks required to be worn by teaching

staff in childcare centers for the 2021

390

00:32:47,446 --> 00:32:50,976

through 2022 school year

early childhood education?

391

00:32:56,066 --> 00:33:03,216

>> As consistent in both our K12 and our

childcare guidance and all of our guidance

392

00:33:03,216 --> 00:33:09,176

about vaccinated persons, CDC recommends that

anyone who is not fully vaccinated continue

393

00:33:09,176 --> 00:33:12,466

to consistently and correctly

wear a mask indoors.

394

00:33:13,416 --> 00:33:18,376

Outdoors, in general, childcare

staff do not need to wear masks.

395

00:33:18,376 --> 00:33:22,986

However, particularly in areas of

substantial and high transmission,

396

00:33:22,986 --> 00:33:27,216

CDC recommends that people who are not

fully vaccinated should wear a mask

397

00:33:27,216 --> 00:33:32,066

in crowded outdoor settings or during

activities that involve sustained close contact.

398

00:33:32,106 --> 00:33:38,876

This is similar themes and

guidance as we have in.

399

00:33:39,056 --> 00:33:43,356

Guidance. When staff wear a mask,

regardless of vaccination status,

400

00:33:43,356 --> 00:33:46,526

it may also support the children

who are not fully vaccinated

401

00:33:46,526 --> 00:33:49,146

who are wearing masks as a layer of protection.

402

00:33:50,046 --> 00:33:54,306

Children can benefit from observing adults

who model healthy behaviors like mask wearing

403

00:33:54,306 --> 00:33:57,966

which may make it easier for them

to wear masks properly themselves.

404

00:33:59,506 --> 00:34:01,866

Childcare center administrators will need

405

00:34:01,866 --> 00:34:05,286

to ensure their selected mask use policy

does not conflict with local, state,

406

00:34:05,286 --> 00:34:07,916

and territorial laws, policies, and regulations.

407

00:34:12,316 --> 00:34:12,746

>> Thank you.

408

00:34:12,746 --> 00:34:15,166

And our final question.

409

00:34:15,506 --> 00:34:19,976

What are CDC thoughts on allowing

parents into childcare centers?

410

00:34:25,136 --> 00:34:29,466

>> Childcare centers should limit

non-essential visitors, volunteers,

411

00:34:29,466 --> 00:34:33,576

and activities involving external

groups or organizations with people

412

00:34:33,576 --> 00:34:36,976

who are not fully vaccinated,

particularly in areas when there.

413

00:34:43,046 --> 00:34:47,306

Not limit access for direct service providers

or mothers who are breastfeeding their infants.

414

00:34:47,426 --> 00:34:49,976

But can ensure compliance with

visitor policies at the center.

415

00:34:55,156 --> 00:34:58,576

>> Thank you, Dr. Massetti, for

answering the attendees' questions.

416

00:35:00,746 --> 00:35:02,676

This concludes today's discussion.

417

00:35:02,986 --> 00:35:05,656

Thank you everyone for joining our call today.

418

00:35:06,226 --> 00:35:12,526

A recording will be posted on our Partner

Call webpage, or you can find other recordings

419

00:35:12,526 --> 00:35:14,896

and information about previous webinars.

420

00:35:15,086 --> 00:35:19,936

Make sure to sign up for the upcoming

Partner Call announcements to stay informed.

421

00:35:20,766 --> 00:35:26,216

The link is listed on the side or feel free

to click or copy the link the chat box.

422

00:35:27,246 --> 00:35:30,976

Thanks again for attending, and a

special thank you to those that have.

423

00:35:35,046 --> 00:35:39,576

Commitment to getting the most up to

date information from our CDC experts.

424

00:35:39,576 --> 00:35:42,586

Thank you again and thank you Dr. Massetti.