

As medical physicians and practitioners representing our community, we say: St. Louis and Metro East, you are amazing!

We would like to thank the teachers, administrators and staff of all the schools in our community. We would like to thank the parents and especially the students. You were all amazing. You worked incredibly hard, spent countless hours and did your very best to create a learning environment that was safe. It worked. COVID-19 transmission was lower than we thought it could be in schools last year. Thank you.

In-person learning is critical and we have learned how to do it safely. All children should be able to return to a full schedule of in-person learning including almost all extracurricular activities. Even while COVID-19 cases are increasing in our region the lessons we learned last year can guide our approach to this year. Masking, social distancing, quarantining and testing protected our children and can again.

We strongly recommend the following guidelines to safely return to in-person learning.

1. Vaccinate those eligible. It virtually eliminates serious illness and if exposed and without symptoms vaccinated folks do not have to quarantine and miss school.
2. As per the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines, universal masking indoors for anyone over 2 years old.
3. Continue cohorting and social distancing recommendations: 10 feet is better than 6 feet is better than 3 feet. However, the CDC now allows for a distance of 3 feet between students indoors when combined with masking.
4. Continue with good handwashing, ventilation strategies, and regular screening processes.
5. If students, teachers or staff are sick, stay home. Help students and teachers/staff with signs of infection to stay home and encourage follow-up with medical professionals for testing as needed.

COVID-19 infection remains dangerous for many unable to be vaccinated. Cases are rapidly increasing in the unvaccinated population which includes many kids. Children often have mild initial infections, but some are suffering from long-term symptoms that can make it hard to learn and play for weeks, months or longer.

Again, we would like to thank our community for working so hard to get kids back in school last year and ask that they follow these guidelines so that our children can return to in-person school safely this fall.

Finish strong Greater St. Louis!

Fadee Abualrub, MD
Hala Adil, MD
Shannon C. Agner, MD, PhD
Vaishaliben Ahir, MD
Saima Ahmad, MD
Najat Al-Sherri, MD
Duha Al-Zubeidi, MD
Patricia Amato, MD
Dana Ankney, MD
Bhooma Aravamuthan, MD, DPhil
Dana Aronin, CPNP
Deepa Arun, MD
Robert Atteberry, MD
Sarah AuBuchon, MD
Sara Ayers, MD
Naazia Azhar, MD
Josh Baker, MD
Rachel Bardowell, MD
Jaya Barina, MD
Laura P. Barton, MD
Kevin Barton, MD
Maria S. Baszis, MD
Kevin Baszis, MD
Jessica Bauerle, MD
Kevin Bauerle, MD
Desiree Baumgartner, MD
Emily Beck, MD
Ali Benda, MD
Sherri Besmer, MD
Neeta Bhakta, MD
Jennifer Bickhaus, MD
Laura Billadello, MD
Elizabeth Blaney, MD
Terra Blatnik, MD
Laura Bonebrake, MD
Jill Bosanquet, MD
Colleen Bradford, CPNP

Celeste Capers Brancato, MD
Navneet Brar, MD
Colleen Braun, DO
Paulina Cruz Bravo, MD
Amelia Bray-Aschenbrenner, MD
Sirisha Brosch, MD
Madeline Bruck, MD
Brent Bruck, MD
Jennifer Brunworth, MD
Louis Brunworth, MD
Erin Buckley, MD
Tara Budetti, MD
Kylie M. Bushroe, MD
Alicia Busso, MD
Nandini "Dina" Calamur, MD
Archna Calfee, MD
Adriana Cañas-Polesel, MD
Ebony B. Carter, MD, MPH
Erin Casey, MD
Sonia Chacko, MD
Anisha Chacko, MD
Alpana Chandra, MD
Molly Rozier Chen, MD
Collin Chen, MD
Christine Chen, MD
Edward Chen, MD
Rebecca Chibnall, MD
Jon Chiles, MD
Abigail Chitwood, MD
Riti Chokshi, MD
Catherine Cibulskis, MD
Lindsay Clukies, MD
Terri Coble, MD
F. Sessions Cole, MD
Lora Collier, MD
Megan Cooper, MD, PhD
Shyna Cornell, MD

Amy Couch, MD
Steven Couch, MD
Andrea Coverstone, MD
Katy Cox, MD
Adam Cox, MD
Jemila Crawford, MD
Lara W. Crock, MD, PhD
Kristen Cundiff, MD
Christopher Cundiff, MD
Alison Curfman, MD
David Curfman, MD
D. Troy Curry, MD
Preeti Dalawari MD, MSPH
Vandana Dalton, MD
Tracey Daly-Wilson, MD
Lena Dang, MD, PhD
Caroline Day, MD
Brian J. DeBosch, MD, PhD
Angeline DeiSanti, MD
Leanne DePalma, MD
Nicole Deptula, MD
Jenny Detert, MD
Michael DeVita, MD
Shannon Devlin, MD
Rachel Dickerson, MD
Shelby Dickison, MD
Alla Dorfman, MD
Julie Dorfman, MD
Pooja Dorward, MD
Lauren Draper, MD
Sheila Drnec, MS, DO
Julie Drobish, MD
Amy Dunbar, MD
Jennifer M. Dunn, MD
Evelynn Eckert, DO
Mireille El Hayek, MD
Alysa Ellis, MD
Alexis Elward, MD, MPH

Ramona Eppler, CPNP
Emily Evans, MD
Tara Evans, MD
Elyse Everett, MD
Bryan Faller, MD
Nyssa Farrell, MD
Todd Fehniger, MD, PhD
Kora Felsch, MD
Robin López Finkenkeller, MD
Kristen Fisher, MD
Emily Fishman, MD
Brian Fishman, DO
Jessica Fivecoat, MD
Leslie Fogel, MD
Mary E. Fournier, MD, MPH
Anu French, MD
Dana Galbraith, MD
Umesh Gandhi, MD
Rhythm Gandhi, DO
Mia Ganninger, MD
Andrea Garrett, MD
Robert Garrett, MD
Maripat Loftus Gatter, MD
Sarah C. Gebauer, MD, MSPH
Jessica Gengler, DO
Rouba Ghoussoub, MD
Alison Gildehaus, MD
Dee Anna Glaser, MD
Sarah King Glotfelty, MD
Michelle Goetz, DO
Parul Gor, MD
Salina Green, MD
Lauren Gregory, MD
Martin Gregory, MD
Jason Gutting, MD
Kimberly Hackney, DO
Liza Harrison, MD
David Hartenbach, MD

Lynn Hassman, MD, PhD
Lisa Hawver, MD
Ericka Hayes, MD
Amanda Heidemann, MD
Jennifer Heithaus, MD
Kayla Heller, MD
Mia Henderson, MD
Kara Hennelly, MD
Celeste Herleth, MD
Dan Herleth, MD
Cynthia Herrick, MD
Rose Hiner, MD
Angela Hirbe, MD, PhD
Holly Hoefgen, MD
Erik Hoefgen, MD
Jane Hoekelman, CPNP
Abigail Hoffman, MD
Meghan Holland, CPNP
Jaime Hook, MD
Keith Hruska, MD
James Hubbard, MD
Jane Alyce Hunt, MD
Joseph Ippolito, MD, PhD
Carolyn Jachna, MD
Kathleen Jaeger, MD, PhD
Rubab Jafri, MD
Nida Jamal, MD
Sharon Jick, MD
Katherine Jones, MD
Theresa Jones, MD
Ashwani Joshi, MD
Heather Joyce, MD
Jamie Joyce, MD
Amanda Judilla, MD
Courtney Kaar, MD
Scott Kaar, MD
Pamela Kane, MD
Zeina Karam, MD

Jennifer Kaufman, MD
Sweta Kavali, MD
Pavan Kavali, MD
Karla Keaney, MD
Robert Kebler, MD
Melanie Kennedy, MD
Marta King, MD
Wilson King, MD
Cristine Klatt-Cromwell, MD
Carolyn Koenig, MD
Nikoleta S. Kolovos, MD
Valerie Kover, MD
Michael A. Kramer, MD
Theodore Kremer, MD
Lindsey Krumholz, MD
Abby Kushnir, MD
Vladimir Kushnir, MD
Julia Lagow, DO
Alexandra Lahart, MD
Sara Lander, MD
Kathryn Law, MD
Ann Leathersich, MD
Ryan Lee, MD
Caroline M. Lee, MD, PhD
Kathryn Leonard, MD
Stephanie Liebmann, MD
Roberta Lima, MD
Christina Linden, MD
Kathryn Lindley, MD
Marina Litvin, MD
Dianna Liu, MD
Angela Lloyd, MD
Amy Loden, MD
Elle Loeffler, MD
Sarah Lord, MD
Annemarie Loth, MD
Kathleen Lowe, MD
Lauren Ludwig, MD

Olivia Ludwig, MD
Kelly Ludwig, MD
Jonathan Lusardi, MD
John "Josh" Madden, MD, PhD
Callie Marshall, MD
Sarah Marshall, MD
Tonya Martin-Dunlap, MD
Katherine Massa, MD
Sean Massa, MD
Maria Gonzalez Mayda, MD
Kara Mayes, MD
Colleen McEvoy, MD
Sara McHale, MD
Melanie McKean, DO, PhD
Kate Medcalf, MD
Christina Meddows-Jackson, MD
Neha Mehta-Shah, MD
Kristen Mennemeier, MD
Shilpa Menolascino, MD
Sarah Mermelstein, MD
Ashley Meyr, MD
Jenny Miele, MD
Agnieszka Milczarek, MD
Donna Miller, MD
Christina Min, MD
Carrie Mintz, MD
Jennifer Monroy, MD
Catherine R. Moore, DO
Lauren Rogowski Moran, MD
Christy Morgan, MD
Heather Morgan, DO
Caroline Morgan, MD
Alison Morrison, CPNP
Rita Mukerji, MD
Maggie Mullane, CPNP
John Mulvahill, MD
Mark Murawski, MD
Kevin Murphy, MD

Peninnah Mutungi, MD
Sheyda Namazie-Kummer, MD, MBA
Alison C. Nash, MD
Puja Natesan, MD, MPH
Molly Nelsen, DO
Jason G. Newland, MD, MEd
Ellen Nicastro, MD
Joan Niehoff, MD
Libby Noonan, MD
Karen Norton, MD
Joseph Novof, DO
Becky Oetting, DO
Christina Ojascastro, MD
Victoria Ojascastro, MD
Marissa Omurtag, MD
Erin Orf, MD
Hilary Orlowski, MD
Bradley Ornstein, MD
Andrea Orr, MD
Alison Oswald, MD
Deborah Ott, MD
Andrea Otto, MD
Alan Padua, MD
Ebony Page-Phillips, MD
Jennifer LaBundy Palagiri, MD
Joseph Pantelis, MD
Shanon Parimi, MD
Manoj Parimi, MD
Kathryn Parker, MD
Neal Patel, MD
Katie Patel, FNP-C
Namrata Patel, MD
Rina Patney, MD
Tracy Pessin, MD
Gillian Pet, MD
Mitchell Pet, MD
Rebecca Petersen, MD
Robert Petersen, MD

Christie Pickrell, MD
Alex Plattner, MD, MBA
Katie Plax, MD
Cynthia Poelker, MD
Brooke Polk, MD
Sarah Price, MD
Sara Procknow, MD, PhD
Cassandra Pruitt, MD
Jackson Pugh, MD
Karen Pugh, MD, MPH
Varun Puri, MD
Pete Putnam, MD
Jenna Michaels Putzel, MD, MPH
Jennifer Quinn, MD
Nandini Raghuraman, MD
Farheen Raja, MD
Tatiana Ramírez, MD
Susan Reeds, MD
Patrick J. Reich, MD, MSCI
Catherine Remus, MD
Sunaina Rengarajan, MD, PhD
Noor Riaz, MD
Jacqueline Rickard, MD
Amy Riek, MD
Heide Rodgers, MD
Lisa Roelle, PA-C
Dawn Roemer, RN, CPNP
Melissa Roewe, DO
Cynthia Rogers, MD
Melissa Rooney, MD
Shana Rose, MD
David A. Rosen, MD, PhD
Anna Roshal, MD
Diana Roukoz, DO, MHA
Bassam Roukoz, MD
Chris Ruby-Ziegler, MD
Lisa Ryan, MD, PhD
Sindhura Saini, MD

Naveen Saini, MD
Pascale Salem, MD
Heidi M Sallee, MD
Christopher J Sallee, MD
Gretchen Sander, MD
Vanessa Sanders, MD
Kristen Sanfilippo, MD, MPHS
Rema Sanghavi, DO
Michelle Santiago, MD
Elizabeth Satterly, MD
Beth Schickler, MSN, RN, CPNP
Ellen Schill, MD, PhD
Laura Schuettpelez, MD, PhD
Gina Seeck, MD
Brian Seeck, MD
Pooja Sharma, MD
Margaret Shatara, MD
Kathleen Shaughnessy, CPNP
Karna Sherwood, MD
Nisha Shetty, MD
Priya Shetty, MD
Anup Shetty, MD
Amanda Sileo, DO
Jennifer N Avari Silva, MD
Amanda Simmons, MD
Scott Simpson, MD
Bryan A. Sisk, MD, MSCI
Kelsey Sisti, MD
Carolyn Smith, MD
Anshu Sood, MD
Swati Sood, MD
John Spitler, MD
Jennifer Sprague, MD, PhD
Casey Stahlheber, MD
Julie Steinberg, MD
Leena Stemler, MD
Randall Sterkel, MD
Gregory Storch, MD

Jennifer Strahle, MD
Marya Strand, MD, MS
Julie Sturm, MD
Lulu Sun, MD, PhD
Chloe Super, MD
Stuart Sweet, MD, PhD
Reema Syed, MD
Chad Sylvester, MD, PhD
Renu Teckchandani, MD
Kristen Terrill, MD
Amy E. Thomas, MD
Dorrie Tredway, MD
Tina Trost, MD
Kanika A. Turner, MD, MPH
Elizabeth Utterson, MD
Manouela Valtcheva, MD, PhD
John Vandover, MD
Sharon Dunski Vermont, MD
Luke Viehl, MD
Josie Vitale, MD
Mimi Vo, MD
Thanh-Mai Vo, MD
Thanh Vo, MD
Giao Vuong, MD
Alyssa Wait, MD
Jean Wagner, MD
Colleen M. Wallace, MD
Jennifer Wambach, MD
Cierra Wandro, DO
Lawrence Wang, MD
Barbara Warner, MD, MSCI
Timothy Warren, MD
Kelly Wassel, CPNP
Kim Waterhouse, MD
Judith Weisenberg, MD
Halana Whitehead, MD
Melissa Whitson, DO
Chandra Wiewel, MD

Lauren Wilfling, DO
Kerry Will, MD
Denise Willers, MD
Elizabeth M Williams, MD
Alejandra Alvarez Wilson, MD
Susan Wiltrakis, MD
Susan Yang, MD
Staci Young, MD
Christina Zanaboni, MD
Daisy Zhou, MD