

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEADERS SUPPORT MASKING IN SCHOOLS

Sarah Moyer, Louisville Department of Public Health and Wellness: *"The Delta variant is an example of the virus essentially becoming smarter and finding ways to replicate, mutate and infect as many people as possible. We see with breakthrough cases in fully vaccinated individuals that it's working overtime to do this. That means that we have to be smarter by adapting to what we know works to stop the spread of infection; specifically, mask-wearing indoors, particularly for K-12 students while in school."*

Cassie Prather, Woodford County Health Department: *"The hard thing to do is often the right thing to do."*

Judy Mattingly, Franklin County Health Department: *"We 100% support the decision for universal masking in K-12 schools as we are seeing case numbers like those at the height of the pandemic along with clusters of cases in summer school settings, band camps and sports practices."*

Debbie Miller, Lawrence County Health Department: *"Since our children under 12 are not eligible for the vaccine, it makes sense to use another great strategy to prevent infection – wearing a mask."*

Cathy Bethel, Muhlenberg County Health Department: *"Our children need to be in the classroom five days a week for their emotional and mental well-being."*

Roanya Rice, North Central District Health Department: *"This cluster illustrates how COVID can spread like wildfire and knows no boundaries, facility lines or county lines. It does not discriminate."*
*referencing Simpsonville Baptist Cluster

Clayton Horton, Green River District Health Department: *"We have had a number of local school leaders step-up and make the hard -- unpopular with some -- decision to follow CDC guidance. I saw first-hand that they did this with the best interest of their staff, students, and community in mind."*

Tammy Riley, Pike County Health Department: *"With a recent acceleration in new COVID-19 cases reported to public health in Pike County, an increase in hospitalizations at a younger age, and a rise in new cases for those under 18 years of age, public health supports the use of masks indoors, particularly for the secondary school environment where a greater number of the unvaccinated will gather."*

Lyndsey Blair, Lincoln Trail District Health Department: *"There were 156 cases of COVID-19 reported in our service area last week for those aged 0-18 years, the most we've seen for this age group since January 2021. I fear the situation is only going to worsen with schools starting back without safety precautions (e.g., masks and social distancing) in place."*

Matt Rhodes, Oldham County Health Department: *"OCHD and the BOH recognize that residents want to be free of all restrictions, but we have to be community focused. This pandemic is far from over. Our intent is to provide our community with guidance to do what is best for everyone."*