

MITIGATE THE IMPACT: COVID-19 HEALTH OF THE CAMPUS (Cary Christian School)

What is guiding our decisions?

According to CDC numbers published the week of June 13

- the rate of hospitalization for adults ages 50-64 was 143 per 100,000 (0.143%)
- the rate of hospitalization for adults ages 18-49 was 56.5 per 100,000 (0.0565%)
- between 85-90% of hospitalized adults between the ages of 18-64 have some sort of underlying health condition

We do have a small number of faculty who are vulnerable, which creates risk, extra caution, and hard decisions.

For children the number becomes even lower and scientists are beginning to believe that they do not transmit COVID-19 as much as was previously suspected.

"Unlike with other viral [respiratory infections](#), children do not seem to be a major vector of [severe acute respiratory syndrome](#) coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) transmission, with most pediatric cases described inside familial clusters and no documentation of child-to-child or child-to-adult transmission," said Klara M. Posfay-Barbe, MD, of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and colleagues.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has confirmed and helped us to articulate our thoughts.

"Policy makers must also consider the mounting evidence regarding COVID-19 in children and adolescents, including the role they may play in transmission of the infection. SARS-CoV-2 appears to behave differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as influenza, on which much of the current guidance regarding school closures is based. Although children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, to date, this does not appear to be the case with SARS-CoV-2. *Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition, children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection.*"

The Academy of Pediatrics is not advising us to be cavalier. *They are arguing for schools to balance policies that mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools with the known benefits of being together at school.* On Friday, July 10, the American Academy of Pediatrics posted an article reemphasizing the value in returning to school in a safe and reasonable way.



“Returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children, but we must pursue re-opening in a way that is safe for all students, teachers and staff. Science should drive decision-making on safely reopening schools.”

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY PANEL

To help us navigate the year and to make decisions, we are working with a Health Professionals Advisory Panel. The committee will advise us on when to shift to Distance Learning or Remote Learning and on how to respond to individual cases of Coronavirus. The goal of this plan is to receive advice from members of our community who are up to date on current research and who understand our strengths and our weaknesses.

Sources:

- 1) “Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children – United States, February 12–April 2, 2020” (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6914e4.htm>).
- 2) “A Weekly Summary of COVID-19 Summary Data” https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html and https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_5.html.
- 3) “COVID-19 Planning Considerations” <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- 4) “Children Rarely Transmit SARS-CoV-2 Within Households” <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/933744>
- 5) “Pediatricians, Educators and Superintendents Urge a Safe Return to School This Fall” <https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2020/pediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall/>

For more details, read [Ready and Alert](#) and fill out the **[MITIGATE THE IMPACT SURVEY](#)** by Monday, July 20.

