



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

August 30, 2021

To the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education:

We encourage you swiftly to enact a policy of mandatory vaccination for all adults in MMSD facilities, including teachers and staff. With the huge increase in COVID-19 cases and the hyper-contagious delta variant circulating widely in our community and nation, we must take every possible step to protect public health -- and especially the wellbeing of our children. Last year, Madison led the way in requiring masking and moving to virtual education, but we now lag behind many other districts around the country that have enacted vaccination rules.

Across the nation, as children have returned to school, pediatric ICU units are overflowing with children suffering from COVID. While children have previously been thought less susceptible to serious outcomes, they are becoming ill at alarming rates, and the long-term effects of this disease on children are unknown. Hundreds of children have died, and thousands more have suffered serious health consequences. Just as alarming, increased COVID hospitalization jeopardizes the health care resources, from staffing to beds, we have to treat people with other ailments.

As responsible adults, we must do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, including children too young to be vaccinated and the immunocompromised. It's been encouraging to see that Madison Teachers Inc. and the NEA have come out so strongly in favor of making schools safer by requiring vaccination.

The time for further debate, planning, and consideration has passed. Teachers, parents, and healthcare workers agree: our community urgently needs a vaccine mandate for our schools -- and we need it now. School starts this week, and a virtual option only just became available days ago, and only to a very limited number of students.

We know you have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to serve our schools, and that you share our concerns about public health. We appreciate your putting our kids' health and education first. Thank you for your service and consideration.

Most sincerely,

Sen. Kelda Roys, 26th Senate Dist.

Sen. Melissa Agard, 16th Senate Dist.

Rep. Francesca Hong, 76th Assembly Dist.

Rep. Lisa Subeck, 78th Assembly Dist.

Rep. Sondy Pope, 80th Assembly Dist.

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein, 79th Assembly Dist.

Rep. Samba Baldeh, 48th Assembly Dist.