

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council and Dr Goh,

My name is Jill Lynn and I am writing you to ask and push for the opening of, at a minimum, kindergarten classes for Pasadena, CA. My husband and I have a three year old daughter in addition to our 5 year old daughter who this letter is the sole purpose for writing.

During these tumultuous times, our family, like most, have been experiencing both physical and emotional pressures and stresses. While as adults, my husband and I have been able to manage the best we can, but our concern is for our daughters. Our five year old specifically is missing a major year of educational and emotional development. Being on a Zoom call from 9am to 2pm is not the way a Kindergartner should be learning due to numerous distractions and the lack of supervision and attention. My husband has a job where he must be focused without distraction full time and I must take care of our 3 year old while both of them are working. We still find that while on Zoom, there is still much needed assistance with our child in order to complete tasks and assignments. While this is one issue, the main issue is her mental state. She is not getting the human interaction and emotional support needed as a child and this is ultimately effecting her mental growth.

Our five year old daughter is extremely reserved and an introvert. The past three years of school has helped her get out of her comfort zone and explore her confidence through education and friendship. She is a bright, curious and inquisitive little girl. She thrives on in-person learning and being hands on. During the past several weeks, we have watched her eagerness to learn dwindle away. After 30 minutes of being in front of the screen, she starts to tear up and ask to be done with online learning. For P.E., she is in a small place where she struggles to do jumping jacks, planks and throwing balls in the air as our dining room isn't the size of a gymnasium and we have not been able to go outside due to the fires. Prior to the fires, we tried putting her outside, but when tilting the stand and laptop down, it falls to the ground or they cant see her properly. In addition to these problems, our internet, along with her peers and teachers, continuously freezes throughout the day. This will then take several minutes for them to fix and continue on with learning.

Please open the schools for these children who desperately pine for in-person education and are able to have the interactions they need to be able to thrive in both learning and socializing.

Pasadena has continued to exhibit low numbers and there is no reason we should be delaying. We have already missed months of key development and it will only get worse as time goes on. Open the schools back up and let the parents decide on whether or not to send their children back.

Take care,
Jill Lynn

Letter to Urge the Re-Opening of Our Schools

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

Our children are suffering. This has gone on WAY too long. I urge you and the council to re-open our schools. We do not need to wait for Los Angeles. Parents are asking this for very real reasons – all of which have to do with the health and development of our children. At a minimum our children are falling behind and unable to stare at a screen for hours on end. At worse, they are becoming anxious and depressed and this is not something that can be fixed overnight. I personally know 5 teens that have committed suicide. I do not say this for shock value or hyperbole. The CDC is reporting a dramatic increase in these kinds of cases involving children and if you are not aware you have either not done your research or this doesn't affect you, meaning you do not have school age children.

I have 3 school aged children that have been struggling with online learning for months. In the beginning, we all tried to take it in stride because we were doing our part. My senior didn't get to attend his Senior Prom, attend classes for the last time with his teachers and friends, or even have an in-person graduation. He understood the need to sacrifice because the protocols for a safe return were still evolving. That is **NO LONGER THE CASE!** Remember why we agreed to shut down – it was **NOT** for positive cases (which at the start of the pandemic were projected (incorrectly) to be astronomical) it was for **HOSPITALS** to catch up to the projected (again incorrectly) need for ventilators, beds, etc.

Today the White House announced that **EACH** state will get 100 MILLION state-of-the-art rapid tests for **FREE** so each teacher can be tested **EVERY DAY** with results in 15 minutes. The test is non-invasive. They also announced there is a surplus of 150,000 ventilators. We also have protocols in place for children and teachers to be safe at school. Other cities and states have done a fantastic job with opening schools. The virus does not know if it is in Utah, Texas or San Diego, California. Nor does it know if it's September 28, 2020 or November 4, 2020.

As I write to you today, our internet is out. Luckily, we are a family that can afford a wifi hotspot, a computer and other necessities to make my daughter's online learning day tolerable. Even still, her grades are suffering as she struggles with her ADHD and anxiety. But what you do not realize is you are tone deaf to the needs of our most vulnerable children. What do parents do if they both work or don't have the resources to keep their children up to speed with internet, computers, or someone to help keep them on track? We cannot keep these vulnerable children out of school because they may or may not have a relative at home that may or may not have an underlying health condition.

Keeping children out of school is doing them irreparable harm. There is no real reason to keep them out any longer. Teachers and students that don't want to come to school can opt for distance learning. We understand the need to physically distance. It's the "social distancing" and lack of engagement that is killing our kids.

Thank you for taking this seriously.
Alyson S Pernecky

Jomsky, Mark

From: Aly Pernecky
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Goh, Ying-Ying
Cc: KBarger@bos.lacounty.gov; Mermell, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John; McAustin, Margaret; Jomsky, Mark; Mary Forrest
Subject: Re: Please re-open our schools

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Respectfully, I disagree and feel as though our city is lacking in critical thinking, common sense and leadership when it comes to this shutdown. You as health director seem to focus ONLY on the positive cases (basing many of these positives on unreliable testing data - my daughter scheduled a test, NEVER took it, and received a positive result via email). Pasadena has 2565 cases with a whopping ONE case reported yesterday - our lowest levels since March (according to an article in Pasadena Now). You need to keep these numbers in perspective when we have a population of 140,000. That is 1.8% of the entire population of Pasadena (including those who suffered unnecessarily because of lack of oversight in nursing homes). Don't be afraid to change the narrative and relate these cases to PERCENTAGES. I promise you even if 1.8% have tested positive, 100% of school kids and parents have also been suffering - not for the few days the flu-like symptoms take hold - but for MONTHS with no end in sight and WHY? I have 8 family members that have tested "positive" for covid 19. 4 had NO symptoms at all and the other 4 had mild flu-like symptoms that lasted no more than a few days. Others in the immediate household- including me- DID NOT GET SICK.

Schools understand what 6 feet means, how to take temperatures, wash and sanitize hands and surfaces and how to wear masks. It's happening in our state and others. They can reopen and not have to circumvent this by claiming to be a day camp - further impacting lower income families that can't pay hundreds of dollars a week.

I truly do not understand why we are sitting on our hands and waiting for Los Angeles to get off theirs. It's shameful these kids have to suffer in this way.

I stand behind my letter and urge you to act.

On Sep 28, 2020, at 4:07 PM, Goh, Ying-Ying <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Pernecky,

Thank you for sharing your personal experience with us. COVID-19 has taken a terrible toll on our schools' ability to engage and educate our children in traditional ways. It is a top priority to improve educational options for our students during this pandemic, and to help parents who rely on schools for childcare so they can go to work or attend to other family obligations.

Currently, the Pasadena Public Health Department is allowing in-person school activities in a gradual, stepwise fashion, to keep our community as safe as possible. We are actively working with schools to

increase their capacity to implement public health protocols and to manage COVID-19 cases and outbreaks that will most certainly occur when they start in-person activities. We know that with current positivity rates of COVID-19, in any given week, there could be several infectious individuals on campus.

The first steps are:

- Helping schools prepare. All throughout the summer and on an ongoing basis, we have been providing technical assistance to schools to help them prepare for in-person activities in accordance with public health protocols, and helping them stay on top of the ever-evolving science as more information becomes available daily. For example, recently, more information and guidance has become available about reducing risk from possible opportunistic aerosol-transmission. Recommendations include updating HVAC systems and utilizing portable air filters, when school activities cannot be offered outdoors.
- Increasing state-permitted childcare capacity. Preschool/childcare activities are increasing because the CA Department of Social Services has expanded its definition of allowable childcare settings beyond licensed settings. DSS is granting waivers for non-licensed childcare settings to operate, including employer-offered childcare on school campuses. This will increase the number of people on school campuses, including those already there to support remote learning.
- Allowing limited in-person services for especially disadvantaged children. This week, we began accepting notifications from schools that will be offering in-person services on campus for children with IEPs for disabilities and other special needs such as ESL services.
- Allowing limited in-person services to address mental health needs and social services. We are working with schools to support essential services offered in accordance with public health protocols on school campuses, such as mental health clinical visits, other medical services like immunizations, and social services for homeless youth.
- Allowing some low risk in-person activities important for college admissions. Last week, schools were allowed to begin offering critical standardized testing in-person, such as for the SATs or ACTs, subject to state and local cohorting guidance and public health protocols.

Once this significant increase in activities has been implemented, and we have had time to detect whether cases increase as a result, we will consider working with elementary schools to begin some additional modified in-person activities. It takes several weeks to see the effects of activities or sector openings on COVID-19 case rates, once operations have been implemented.

It is important to note that the CDC does not say it is safe to open schools. Rather, it provides guiding principles and broad recommendations for schools as they prepare to provide in-person activities, based on a risk continuum. The latest scientific evidence shows that children have the lowest mortality rate from COVID-19 compared to other age groups. However, they can be infected at a similar rate as older people, and have a high asymptomatic infection rate that makes it more challenging to prevent transmission. They appear to transmit SARS-CoV2 virus to their peers and to adults at a similar rate as adults do, if not at a greater rate, and can do so even when they are asymptomatic. We are also tracking on multi-system inflammatory syndrome, a severe condition in children associated with COVID-19 that has been reported around the country and in LA County.

Children and families do have some options for activities. Youth sports activities in accordance with public health protocols, including for young children, and outdoor museums and gardens in LA County are allowed to be open. Recreational programs that are outdoors and in compliance with public health protocols are able to be open. Childcare centers and recreational day camps are also options.

The number one thing we can all do to support school reopening is to reduce community transmission rates. That means not gathering with people we don't live with, wearing face coverings for people ages 3 and up, and washing hands. New York City is gradually opening schools now, in the setting of over one

month of positivity rates below 1%. Other countries have waited until they have had no new cases for a significant period of time. In those settings of community transmission lower than in LA County and Pasadena, the likelihood of schools to be able to stay open for in-person activities is much higher, because the likelihood of students and staff coming to school while infectious with COVID-19 is drastically reduced. We certainly strive to see community transmission rates low enough to ensure schools can reopen and stay open.

Sincerely,

Ying-Ying Goh MD, MSHS | she/her/hers
Director and Health Officer
Pasadena Public Health Department
1845 N Fair Oaks Avenue · Pasadena, CA 91103

P: (626) 744-6046

Email: ygoh@cityofpasadena.net

<image001.jpg>

[CITY OF PASADENA –CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE] *The contents of this email and any attachments may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments) by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and its attachments.*

From: Aly Pernecky

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 3:50 PM

To: Goh, Ying-Ying <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net>; KBarger@bos.lacounty.gov; Mermell, Steve <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>; Tornek, Terry <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; Wilson, Andy <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>; Masuda, Gene <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; Hampton, Tyron <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>; Kennedy, John <JohnJKennedy@cityofpasadena.net>; McAustin, Margaret <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>; Jomsky, Mark <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Mary Forrest

Subject: Please re-open our schools

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Jomsky,

Can you please distribute my personal letter as public record to those who it is addressed? I was also wondering if the council can receive this letter as public comment for the next council meeting?

I am not certain how that works with the current process.

Thank you.

Regards,

Alyson S Pernecky
Pasadena Resident

TRACY RANNAZZISI

September 30, 20

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

c/o Mark Jomsky

City Clerk

100 North Garfield Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh,

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a mother of 2 boys, my oldest being in 6th grade this year. Middle School! We have been doing remote learning for 5 weeks and to say it's been a struggle for our whole family is an understatement. Between technical difficulties, and an overwhelming amount of technology, thrown at my children daily, I am watching them deteriorate every day. I am concerned for my child's health.

After a visit to the pediatrician, I've learned my eldest son is suffering from something called Texidors Twinge. It's a precordial catch syndrome, which is sudden chest pain, accompanied by a stabbing pain in the chest and heart. It's common in adolescents who are starting to go through major anxiety, stress, and bad posture. This is from sitting at a computer 6-8 hours a day. This is all new. This is stress induced. My 6th grader should be attending his first middle school dance, not his first therapy session. My 3rd grader should be making a best friend, not learning how to text.

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely and there is no reason, we should not be able to follow suit.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools.

Regards,

Tracy Rannazzisi

Altadena, CA 91001

cc: Kathryn Barger

ERIKA REAUME

September 28, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing to you in support of all the mothers at home who are struggling with the online learning for their kids and need schools to open sooner than later. I implore you to consider the severe mental and physical impacts this shutdown is having on our kids and young adults. It is time to change course and take action to get these kids back to school. The time is now to reverse course and see that our kids are now suffering on a larger level compared to those with COVID. Six months of lockdowns have now created an irreversible loss for our children's education. It is imperative you do everything in your capabilities to open our schools and parks for the sake of our community and its littlest members.

Regards,

Erika Reaume

Pasadena, CA 91107

cc: Kathryn Barger

CATIE ROHEIM

September 28, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing to you in support of all the parents at home who are struggling with online learning for their children and need schools to reopen. I implore you to consider the severe mental and physical impacts this shutdown is having on our youth. It is unfathomable to me that nail and hair salons are prioritized to reopen before schools. It's time to put our children and our future first and prioritize the reopening of schools and our city parks. Six months of lockdowns have now created an irreversible loss for our children's education, their emotional well-being, and their physical development.

It is ludicrous to believe that a 5,6,7,8,9, or 10 year old child is capable of being able to operate technology on their own. That they have the physical ability to sit in front of a computer and focus for an entire day. That they are in fact retaining any knowledge, let alone, emotionally thriving in these circumstances. We have flattened the curve, our knowledge of COVID-19 and its effects has expanded, let's take the steps to put our children and their education back in schools. I am positive that with proper precautions we can safely open schools and parks.

Regards,

Catie Roheim

Pasadena, CA 91105

cc: Kathryn Barger

September 28, 2020

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh,

I am a community member who has never raised my voice in opposition to our community leadership, but my two sons (Henry and Charlie) deserve my voice to be heard. I am writing to express my growing concerns and frustration around the issue of our schools being considered for reopening in Pasadena. Pasadena employs its own Department of Health, and it is time that we use that department to assess for and work towards actions that will impact our great local community. To have every decision and action default to LA County is senseless, not in the best interest of our local community, and definitely leaves the big question of why our local Dept of Health even exists.

I am not naive to the severity of Covid-19 and the impact it has had on those affected and those at highest risk. My family took every guidance as rule since the beginning of the pandemic, and we have remained in good health following them. My two sons attended a summer program at our school, and they were both willing and able to comply with the mask and socially distancing requirements. As our community begins to open up in other ways and infection and death rates continue to decline in our community, I can't help but ask why we aren't allowing school waivers to be considered for our schools who planned for and are able to open their school campuses with approved safety measures in place.

LA County is over 10 million people and nearly double the size of the next largest county in the United States. The grab for power and inability to fully execute needs at a local community level has never been more obvious to me than it has been with the county's Covid-19 response and regulations. If LA Dept of Public Health was recently willing to reopen schools for students who have IEPs or speak English as a second language, there is absolutely no reason that EVERY child should be considered a candidate for in-person learning. The reason we have all been kept from in-person learning is because of the risk of spreading Covid-19 and that reason should not change dependent on educational need. Allowing a certain cohort of children to return to the classroom due to educational need essentially admits to the ability for safe learning to happen. I completely understand the complexity and challenges that LA County faces with reopening every school, but that should not impact those smaller districts or independent schools from executing at their smaller community level. Pasadena has several schools able and ready to immediately return to in-person learning as an option for families, and I am asking you to change your direction immediately and consider allowing these schools to safely open.

Of greatest concern to me are my children and the children in our community. Yes, I understand the safety of our teachers and administrators is very important, but the safety protocols in place at prepared schools will not increase their risk of infection more than if they are participating in the community under current guidelines for other activities. The teachers will have PPE for protection and may also have the option to continue remote teaching for those families interested in remaining in a remote model of learning,

Our children need their school environment to avoid other issues that may not present for years to come. My 7 year old is in second grade and never disliked school until school went remote in March. I understood the immediate need and did my best to put work aside and get him through each day. That window of need has now extended beyond a reasonable amount of time, and my ability to guide him throughout the day is challenged. It is a daily struggle to keep him engaged and emotionally rewarded with school. He experiences nearly daily tantrums that mimic those that he had as a toddler when he was unable to express what his feelings were. Online learning has demanded parents step in as educators, and in our family's case, it has absolutely strained the parent-child relationship. I can only imagine the strain the current

online learning environment has introduced to families and children with previously strained relationships and/or an insufficiently supportive learning environment at home. The longer we keep our children away from learning environments that are familiar and engaging for them, the more we are going to have significant emotional and potentially mental issues for our youth in the future. My older son is in 6th grade and is a natural introvert. He is missing out on key emotional development that best happens in a school environment at his age. While it is not as educationally straining on him as my younger son, the social and emotional well-being of our children is being impacted at every age. This negative impact only grows with every day we delay their ability to return to a safe in-person learning environment and give our children the education they deserve.

My ask is simple. Please act locally, put politics aside, and put our children first! I look forward to hearing your response and intentions to move forward with reopening our local schools.

Very Sincerely,

Susan Ross

Reese, Latasha

Subject: FW: schools

Good Morning Dr. Goh,

Thank you for your prompt response.

When does the health of our children take priority? There are no school counseling services that can be as effective as children being able to be with others and play. Isolation is so damaging to our children. We all must pay attention to the needs of our children. I, along with my wife, our friends, and community should not and will not stop being advocates for our children.

We have had 2,542 cases so far. Pasadena has a population of about 138,000. That means 1.8% of our population have had a case of COVID-19. Out of this number, a very large group is part of the skilled nursing facility cases. This should be taken into consideration? The people who were affected were in an extremely high risk environment!

In regards to day care and day camps, those require a lot of additional funding to which many families are not privileged to. If day camps and daycares are open, what is the difference to opening schools when as you get older washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing rules are more enforceable. If COVID-19 is spreading like you say it is, there should be no reason these facilities should be open either. Keeping those open to people who can afford it is widening the socioeconomic class and will cause further and deep rooted emotional damage to children and adults alike.

The mental health of parents should also be considered. Whether you are working or at home full time, parents rely on a village to help raise a child. The gift of community has been completely stripped from parents. The stress a parent feels to be everything to a child can cause deep emotional stress and cause damage to the parent child relationship. If parents don't feel like they have resources, it can be extremely isolating for them as well.

In my opinion, we should be taking all the risks to ensure the safety of our children's futures in regards to mental health.

I'm hoping we can work together, along with our school administrators to fasttrack a re-entry into schools, and get the resources our students and parents need to prevent further physical and emotional stress.

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts at the next City Council meeting.

Thank you,

-Ryan

Heather Sanderson

September 24, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh,

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a mother of 2 boys, my oldest being in third grade and the younger in 1st this year. We have been doing remote learning for months and months and to say it's been a struggle for our whole family is an understatement. I am constantly running around trying to make sure both boys focused on the task at hand while trying to keep my real estate career going. I run back and forth between breakfast, logging the kids on, my incoming work calls, to preparing snack, to logging them back on, to work again, to prepping lunches, and then logging then yet back on AGAIN..all while "trying" to keep my business afloat.

The internet doesn't always seem to work and the children are too young to work the technology on their own. (COVID hit and my 5 year old cant exactly navigate apps or read yet).

Most importantly, I am concerned for my child's mental health. He does not have children his age to talk to and play with. Learn through play is such an important developmental need for these children and we are depriving them of this basic need. Kids who are forced to be at home are suffering from isolation will cause anxiety in many social situations. My child has come to completely rely on me for all things, instead of learning independence that he would be taught in school.

The CDC has even recommended student be back in school for in person learning. Stating the benefits outweigh the risks, which for children are extremely low. We have a city full of smart, educated and willing people, can we not get creative and find a way to provide some stability for our children?

Furthermore, public parks or any other enrichment opportunities for children have been closed. No physical education opportunities, no children's museums, no recreational programs. Our children are left with their parents who are forced to provide and be everything to their children, parent, friend, and teacher.

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely and there is no reason, we should not be able to follow suit. Waiting for a cure or a vaccine is simply not an option when our children's mental health is at stake.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools so they do not fall behind and suffer from irreparable emotional damage.

Regards,

Heather Sanderson

Pasadena, CA 91106
cc: Kathryn Barger

SPENCER SANDERSON

September 28, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing to you in support of all the mothers and fathers at home who are struggling with the online learning for their kids and need schools to open sooner than later. As a father in our home, I am overseeing most of the homeschooling for our two boys ages 6 & 8. I am very concerned what the long lasting effects from remote learning will have on my children and family. Some of these effects are already visible in our boys socially, mentally and physically. It's a constant struggle to keep them engaged on a daily basis. The fact that they are staring at a screen for 4 hours is hard to stomach on its own. I feel their need and desperation for social interaction. This must end. It is time to change course and take action to get these kids back to school.

Regards,

Spencer Sanderson

Pasadena CA 91106

cc: Kathryn Barger

MAUREEN SCHIMMOLLER

September 27, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a mother of three grade school aged children. We have been doing remote learning for more than five weeks and to say it's been a struggle for our whole family is an understatement.

The internet doesn't always seem to work and the children struggle to work the technology on their own. Most importantly, I am concerned for my children's mental health. They do not have children their age to talk to and play with. Learn through play is such an important developmental need for these children and we are depriving them of this basic need.

Kids who are forced to be at home are suffering from isolation will cause anxiety in many social situations. My children have come to completely rely on me for all things, instead of learning independence that they would be taught in school.

The CDC has even recommended student be back in school for in person learning. Stating the benefits outweigh the risks, which for children are extremely low. We have a city full of smart, educated and willing people, can we not get creative and find a way to provide some stability for our children?

Furthermore, public parks or any other enrichment opportunities for children have been closed. No physical education opportunities, no children's museums, no recreational programs. Our children are left with their parents who are forced to provide and be everything to their children, parent, friend, and teacher.

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely and there is no reason, we should not be able to follow suit. Waiting for a cure or a vaccine is simply not an option when our children's mental health is at stake.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools so they do not fall behind and suffer from irreparable emotional damage.

Regards,



Maureen Schimmoller

Pasadena, CA 91106

cc: Kathryn Barger

Jomsky, Mark

From: Maureen Schimmoller
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Goh, Ying-Ying
Cc: Jomsky, Mark; KBarger@bos.lacounty.gov; Mermell, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John; McAustin, Margaret
Subject: Re: Schools opening and COVID

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Goh,

Thank you for your response, although I have to say how disappointed I am to receive a form letter without addressing my specific issues.

In your response, you suggest I take my children to parks. I don't know if you are aware of this or if your letter is outdated, but playground equipment at Pasadena parks have been closed since March. Children have not been allowed any climbing, swinging or social interaction for almost more than SIX MONTHS. As you know, this is crucial to their development and the reason the playground equipment exists.

The data suggests that children are extremely unlikely to catch COVID-19 and if they do, it is .0003% chance of any real health consequences. Yet the mental health issues for children keep growing. Suicide rates among children and young adults is growing at a much higher rate than coronavirus infections.

The mental health of parents should also be considered. Whether you are working or at home full time, we rely on a village to help raise a child. We have been completely stripped of that gift of community. The stress a parent feels to be everything to a child can cause deep emotional stress and cause damage to the parent child relationship. If parents don't feel like they have resources, it can be extremely isolating for them as well. I've talked to parents, men and women alike who are feeling the stress of this, wanting to provide for their kids but not being able to give everything to them due to financial strain or being stretched too thin.

I implore you to take this into consideration and look out for the well being of our children.

Regards,

Maureen Schimmoller

On Sep 28, 2020, at 4:05 PM, Goh, Ying-Ying <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Schimmoller,

Thank you for sharing your personal experience with us. COVID-19 has taken a terrible toll on our schools' ability to engage and educate our children in traditional ways. It is a top priority to improve

educational options for our students during this pandemic, and to help parents who rely on schools for childcare so they can go to work or attend to other family obligations.

Currently, the Pasadena Public Health Department is allowing in-person school activities in a gradual, stepwise fashion, to keep our community as safe as possible. We are actively working with schools to increase their capacity to implement public health protocols and to manage COVID-19 cases and outbreaks that will most certainly occur when they start in-person activities. We know that with current positivity rates of COVID-19, in any given week, there could be several infectious individuals on campus.

The first steps are:

- Helping schools prepare. All throughout the summer and on an ongoing basis, we have been providing technical assistance to schools to help them prepare for in-person activities in accordance with public health protocols, and helping them stay on top of the ever-evolving science as more information becomes available daily. For example, recently, more information and guidance has become available about reducing risk from possible opportunistic aerosol-transmission. Recommendations include updating HVAC systems and utilizing portable air filters, when school activities cannot be offered outdoors.
- Increasing state-permitted childcare capacity. Preschool/childcare activities are increasing because the CA Department of Social Services has expanded its definition of allowable childcare settings beyond licensed settings. DSS is granting waivers for non-licensed childcare settings to operate, including employer-offered childcare on school campuses. This will increase the number of people on school campuses, including those already there to support remote learning.
- Allowing limited in-person services for especially disadvantaged children. This week, we began accepting notifications from schools that will be offering in-person services on campus for children with IEPs for disabilities and other special needs such as ESL services.
- Allowing limited in-person services to address mental health needs and social services. We are working with schools to support essential services offered in accordance with public health protocols on school campuses, such as mental health clinical visits, other medical services like immunizations, and social services for homeless youth.
- Allowing some low risk in-person activities important for college admissions. Last week, schools were allowed to begin offering critical standardized testing in-person, such as for the SATs or ACTs, subject to state and local cohorting guidance and public health protocols.

Once this significant increase in activities has been implemented, and we have had time detect whether cases increase as a result, we will consider working with elementary schools to begin some additional modified in-person activities. It takes several weeks to see the effects of activities or sector openings on COVID-19 case rates, once operations have been implemented.

It is important to note that the CDC does not say it is safe to open schools. Rather, it provides guiding principles and broad recommendations for schools as they prepare to provide in-person activities, based on a risk continuum. The latest scientific evidence shows that children have the lowest mortality rate from COVID-19 compared to other age groups. However, they can be infected at a similar rate as older people, and have a high asymptomatic infection rate that makes it more challenging to prevent transmission. They appear to transmit SARS-CoV2 virus to their peers and to adults at a similar rate as adults do, if not at a greater rate, and can do so even when they are asymptomatic. We are also tracking on multi-system inflammatory syndrome, a severe condition in children associated with COVID-19 that has been reported around the country and in LA County.

The number one thing we can all do to support school reopening is to reduce community transmission rates. That means not gathering with people we don't live with, wearing face coverings for people ages 3 and up, and washing hands. New York City is gradually opening schools now, in the setting of over one

month of positivity rates below 1%. Other countries have waited until they have had no new cases for a significant period of time. In those settings of community transmission lower than in LA County and Pasadena, the likelihood of schools to be able to stay open for in-person activities is much higher, because the likelihood of students and staff coming to school while infectious with COVID-19 is drastically reduced. We certainly strive to see community transmission rates low enough to ensure schools can reopen and stay open.

Sincerely,

Ying-Ying Goh MD, MSHS | she/her/hers
Director and Health Officer
Pasadena Public Health Department
1845 N Fair Oaks Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91103

P: (626) 744-6046

Email: ygoh@cityofpasadena.net

<image001.jpg>

[CITY OF PASADENA –CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE] *The contents of this email and any attachments may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments) by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and its attachments.*

From: Maureen Schimmoller

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 3:34 PM

To: Jomsky, Mark <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Goh, Ying-Ying <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net>; KBarger@bos.lacounty.gov; Mermell, Steve <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>; Tornek, Terry <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; Wilson, Andy <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>; Masuda, Gene <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; Hampton, Tyron <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>; Kennedy, John <JohnJKennedy@cityofpasadena.net>; McAustin, Margaret <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Schools opening and COVID

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Please distribute the attached letter as public record to those who it is addressed. Also, if time permits and is appropriate, may this letter be received as public comment for the next council meeting. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Regards,

Maureen Schimmoller

September 22, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today to appeal to your better judgment and politely ask you to please open our schools. I am a mother of 3 as well as an auntie to 5 in Pasadena. I am also a board member and trustee of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

It is so easy to get angry and take out all of our frustrations on our communities but I truly feel from the bottom of my heart that we can all be safe and get our kids and teachers back in the classroom as well as on the playground. There is scientific evidence making everyone nervous about opening schools, there is so much more evidence and successes around parts of California and the nation supporting that kids can safely go back at school and protect their families at the same time.

These poor children aren't learning anything at home. There isn't any consistency, teachers are overwhelmed and instead of taking on the day, our children and their families are just trying to get through the day. Suicide is on the rise, marriages are falling apart, and depression is settling into even the strongest of families.

The issue I see with Pasadena's future is the all the psychological support families will need if we continue to keep children at home and not in the classroom. With a shortfall in our city budget because of businesses being closed, Pasadena will never be able to afford the support these kids will need if we further subject them to being at home 24/7.

We need leadership. We need to cultivate a community and get away from everyman/woman for them selves. We have the resources and with Huntington Hospital's insights as well as with their new relationship with Cedars, it is possible to take from our country wide successes, add a few new elements that fit our community and start to be leaders in the state of California by getting our children back to school, uplifting them, putting them back on track and teaching our future leaders. I hope you will seriously consider the scientific numbers and realize this is the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration, I know these times have not been easy for any of you but please remember the struggles of everyone else. Looking forward to seeing kids with backpacks on the sidewalks soon.

Regards,

Kimberly Popovich Shepherd

Pasadena, CA 91106

cc: Kathryn Barger

September 24, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a mother of 2 girls, both who have started kindergarten this year in Pasadena. We have been doing remote learning for 5 weeks and to say it's been a struggle for our whole family is an understatement. I have also had to decline a job offer because I have to be home assisting my children in remote learning. At age 6, they are not able to manage all the zooms on their own so I need to be on call for them the entire day.

More than anything, I am concerned for my children's mental health. Learn through play is such an important developmental need for these children and we are depriving them of this basic need. Kids who are forced to be at home are suffering from isolation that will cause anxiety in many social situations.

The CDC has even recommended student be back in school for in person learning. Stating the benefits outweigh the risks, which for children are extremely low. We have a city full of smart, educated and willing people, can we not get creative and find a way to provide some stability for our children?

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely and there is no reason, we should not be able to follow suit. Waiting for a cure or a vaccine is simply not an option when our children's mental health is at stake.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools so they do not fall behind and suffer from irreparable emotional damage.

Regards,

Kelley Driscoll Terrazas

Pasadena, CA 91105

cc: Kathryn Barger

September 27, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

c/o Mark Jomsky

City Clerk

100 North Garfield Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena Schools Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

Let me first start by thanking everyone for doing your best trying to keep our communities safe during this pandemic. As a nurse, I appreciate the support our local hospitals received and the efforts put forth so we can continue to care for the sick while keeping ourselves and ultimately our families healthy. We all had the common goal of flattening the curve. We have seen the curve flatten and now it is time to change our course. We simply can not wait for Covid to disappear. In the middle of March, we all went into lockdown and we all knew this is what we temporarily needed to do to protect our community. Now 6 months later, we need to open back up.

Online learning is doing absolutely nothing beneficial for our children. In actuality, it is the exact opposite of what we have been told by multiple healthcare professionals throughout the years. Too much screen time is detrimental both emotionally and psychologically. It wasn't until 1 of my 11 year old twins came to my husband and I and asked if waking up sad everyday is normal. As I laid awake all night repeating him asking me the question in my head, it suddenly dawn on me, of course he is sad. He has nothing to look forward to in his day. We took baseball, track and field, swim team, neighborhood friend interactions and school away from him. He was not allowed to just be a kid. He has 2 other brothers to play with but I can't imagine what this is doing to only children. Whether this has turned into a political stunt or not we can not risk the mental and physical health of our children any longer. They need to be back in the classroom. Enough is enough, the curve has flattened and we did our job. Now it is time for you to do yours.

As I believe mental and physical health are very important, I also believe education in the early years is essential for the foundations our children are building for their future. I am proud of the school administrators and teachers and all they have achieved during this pandemic. They are doing the best they can with their arms tied behind their back. All 3 of my children have expressed that they are not grasping concepts from online instruction. We are failing our children for their future. With precautions in place there is absolutely no reason these children can not attend in person class. Kids are resilient, more immune to the virus as recent studies have shown and adjust to new situations easily. Please, for the future of our children re-evaluate your decisions and let them attend in person class now.

Regards,

Cortney Vanis

Altadena, CA 91001

Cc: Kathryn Barger

September 23, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a mother of a fourth grade girl and sixth grade boy. My son's last year at the school he attends is this year. To miss out on his final year on campus would be a travesty. The reason we have kept him at the school is to have his final, leadership year on campus before he moves to middle school. There is not a zoom in the world that could accomplish the learning, growth and overall leadership that takes place as the oldest student on campus.

In addition, both my children are suffering socially from not being able to interact and learn with their classmates. They miss their friends, their teachers and the classroom. Kids who are forced to be at home are suffering from isolation which will cause anxiety in many social situations. Not only isolation but learning. They are not learning to their potential over a zoom where their teacher has to answer questions about internet issues and bathroom breaks. The time the teacher has to organize and keep the students on task because of all the distractions at home is time missing out on learning. Our children are suffering socially AND from an educational perspective. We attend an excellent private elementary education which has done the best job they possibly could for our children. But it is not enough. They need the in-person learning experience. Their future depends on it.

Please hear our concerns and address them. Tell us how and when our children can go back to school.

Regards,

Becky Walley

Altadena, CA 91001

cc: Kathryn Barger

AMY WILSON

September 25, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing to you in support of all the mothers and fathers who are struggling with online learning while having to care and provide for their families. So many families in our community lack the support to successfully homeschool their children in their online educations. The disruption to the lives of our young people over the last few months has been extremely challenging on everyone.

The state of California has reported 2 deaths in children under the age of 17. In both cases the child had a pre-existing condition. Please understand that our children and families are now suffering on a larger level compared to those with COVID. The American Academy of Pediatrics is unequivocal in its support of providing in-person education for our children. The AAP guidance document can be found at www.aap.org. In bold letters it states: "The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." The guidance document is extremely informative, and I urge our entire community to read it.

As members of this community, we have a paramount obligation to care for the mental, social, emotional and physical well-being of all the children in the Pasadena Community. We are all desperate to return to some sort of normality as soon as we can: getting our young people back into a routine of learning and giving them the best chance of reaching their potential in as safe a way as possible. It is crucial to the children of future.

Regards,

Amy Wilson

Pasadena CA 91104

cc: Kathryn Barger

DAN ZAKARIA

September 25, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today to implore you to please open our schools. I am a father of a 6 yr old daughter, really just beginning her educational journey; as well as a 2 yr old that is starting a Montessori school. This year, as I'm sure you have heard has been very challenging. As adults and business professionals, my wife and I can handle the challenge.

Our children however, cannot be asked to face such a challenge any longer. Learning math, science, reading, etc are all very important, but in my opinion social interaction is the MOST important factor in educating and building the foundation for their future. The reality of zoom and online learning, which I believe we have tackled well, does not only limit their educational path, but often negatively impacts it. In a world where we are all using devices too often, at dinner tables, etc....we are telling our kids they HAVE to use them and it's forcefully pushed onto them.

Years from now, I am confident the impacts of the decisions that our legislatures are making will have paramount downstream effects and are not being considered. If they are, they certainly are not being vocalized and addressed. We have put so much effort, risk and socialization around climate change, even though the impacts today are minimal. Why? Because we KNOW it will be a problem in the future.

I'm simply asking for the same to be considered for our children now.

The CDC has even recommended student be back in school for in person learning. Stating the benefits outweigh the risks, which for children are extremely low. We have a city full of smart, educated and willing people, can we not get creative and find a way to provide some stability for our children?

Furthermore, public parks or any other enrichment opportunities for children have been closed. No physical education opportunities, no children's museums, no recreational programs. Our children are left with their parents who are forced to provide and be everything to their children, parent, friend, and teacher.

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely and there is no reason, we should not be able to follow suit. Waiting for a cure or a vaccine is simply not an option when our children's mental health is at stake.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools so they do not fall behind and suffer from irreparable emotional damage.

Regards,

Dan Zakaria

DAN ZAKARIA

Pasadena, CA 91105

cc: Kathryn Barger

Reese, Latasha

Subject: FW: Schools Opening and COVID

*** Can you please distribute my letter as public record to those who it is addressed and receive it as public comment for the next council meeting?*

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh,

We moved to California 10 years ago so our children could pursue the golden opportunities only found here. Unfortunately, everything came to a grinding halt March 2020, and our state and county leadership continues to squash economic and personal growth while deteriorating mental stability without logical statistical support. While many other states with higher per capita Covid19 numbers have opened, we still sit here, at home with no social interaction for ourselves nor our children.

We were happy to do our part to stop Covid19 and flatten the curve, but what was supposed to be a 2 week shut-down has become a 7 month battle to regain freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution, a 7 month battle to fight for positive mental health and a successful economy, and a 7 month battle to seek out the most basic human need for social interaction. Yes- protect our immunocompromised, but don't imprison the entire population.

Pasadena is an amazingly vibrant community that has had its life stripped from it without good reason. With a current active infection rate in LA County of **less than 0.15%**, numbers no longer justify the stripping of our liberties. This means the more than 99.85% of us do not have the virus right now. When you peruse the data on LA County's website, it clearly says that "Data do not include the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena". If they are not willing to include our data in their numbers, which would likely bring their numbers down, why are we being held hostage to their quarantine demands?

Why are we letting Dr. Ferrer, who has a PhD in Social Welfare and is not a Medical Doctor, tell us what to do with our children, our health, and our economy? Perhaps we should listen to a Medical doctor. "Personally I think it's time (to open)," said Dr. Mike deBoisblanc of John Muir Medical Center, "I think, originally, this (the shelter-in-place order) was put in place to flatten the curve and to make sure hospitals have the resources to take care of COVID patients. We have the current resources to do that and our other community health is suffering."

When you look at numbers in Pasadena alone, the 7 day new case average is 8.1, meaning there are about 110 active cases in Pasadena right now. That's **only 0.08%** of our people, meaning 99.92% of us are Covid-free. The State of CA has set a ridiculous threshold of 99.9% to open at the Red level, and Pasadena's numbers are even better than that. Our numbers are comparable to what Orange County's were at the beginning of September. Upon opening 3 weeks ago, Orange County's numbers have continued to decline. In addition, preschools and childcare facilities are open in LA County. The rate of transmission among children has not gone up. There is no data supporting the continued closure of all commerce and schools, and with everyone continuing to wear masks, the transmission rate drops to less than 2%.

The toll lockdown has taken on our children is immeasurable. Some kids do not have basic needs being fulfilled at home. They are struggling to stay in school, with over 40% no longer attending online class and many falling behind an entire grade level. Our children are acting out and no longer know how to interact with other people, especially their peers. **Child abuse** is down by 60%, but we know that abuse is NOT down- it is just that the abusers are not getting caught any longer since they are not in school. **Suicide** is up by **70%** from last year in cities like Fresno due to the extreme mental toll. Time Magazine reported that about 40% of our children are experiencing **depression or anxiety** during this lockdown.

The Covid numbers are low. Our children's socio-emotional and mental health is suffering. For our future, to prevent our children from being sucked into a hole they cannot climb out of, to protect against the further deterioration of our families, our mental states, and our economy, we implore you to open our city. For the dreamers that came here 10 years ago for the golden opportunities that once defined our great community, we implore you to bring us back to that glory, restore our freedoms, and open Pasadena.

Thank you,
Marisa Zakaria

Jomsky, Mark

From: Marisa Zakaria
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 11:00 PM
To: Goh, Ying-Ying
Cc: KBarger@bos.lacounty.gov; Mermell, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John; McAustin, Margaret; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Re: schools

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Thank you, Dr Goh. I have to respectfully disagree about the number. We only had 6 new cases in Pasadena yesterday. The actual numbers are not really going up here, despite the narrative that is being told. LA County has gone up a bit, but not close to where we live. LA County is very large and diverse whose communities vary in quarantine-adherence and population density. I implore you to look more locally at our city, and not LA County as a whole.

Also, why are we taking a blanket approach to opening schools? Can we not begin to look at each individual school? We have been at the state's level for school waivers for a month now. Can you please at least consider accepting/reviewing waivers for schools that have solid plans to reopen?

Thank you.

Kind Regards,
Marisa Zakaria

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2020, at 10:52 PM, Goh, Ying-Ying <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Zakaria,

Thank you for sharing your perspective with us. COVID-19 has taken a terrible toll on our schools' ability to engage and educate our children in traditional ways. It is a top priority to improve educational options for our students during this pandemic, and to help parents who rely on schools for childcare so they can go to work or attend to other family obligations.

Currently, the Pasadena Public Health Department is allowing in-person school activities in a gradual, stepwise fashion, to keep our community as safe as possible. We are actively working with schools to increase their capacity to implement public health protocols and to manage COVID-19 cases and outbreaks that will most certainly occur when they start in-person activities. We know that with current positivity rates of COVID-19, in any given week, there could be several infectious individuals on campus.

The first steps are:

- Helping schools prepare. All throughout the summer and on an ongoing basis, we have been providing technical assistance to schools to help them prepare for in-person activities in accordance with public health protocols, and helping them stay on top of the ever-evolving

science as more information becomes available daily. For example, recently, more information and guidance has become available about reducing risk from possible opportunistic aerosol-transmission. Recommendations include updating HVAC systems and utilizing portable air filters, when school activities cannot be offered outdoors.

- Increasing state-permitted childcare capacity. Preschool/childcare activities are increasing because the CA Department of Social Services has expanded its definition of allowable childcare settings beyond licensed settings. DSS is granting waivers for non-licensed childcare settings to operate, including employer-offered childcare on school campuses. This will increase the number of people on school campuses, including those already there to support remote learning.
- Allowing limited in-person services for especially disadvantaged children. This week, we began accepting notifications from schools that will be offering in-person services on campus for children with IEPs for disabilities and other special needs such as ESL services.
- Allowing limited in-person services to address mental health needs and social services. We are working with schools to support essential services offered in accordance with public health protocols on school campuses, such as mental health clinical visits, other medical services like immunizations, and social services for homeless youth.
- Allowing some low risk in-person activities important for college admissions. Last week, schools were allowed to begin offering critical standardized testing in-person, such as for the SATs or ACTs, subject to state and local cohorting guidance and public health protocols.

Once this significant increase in activities has been implemented, and we have had time detect whether cases increase as a result, we will consider working with elementary schools to begin some additional modified in-person activities. It takes several weeks to see the effects of activities or sector openings on COVID-19 case rates, once operations have been implemented.

Unfortunately, we have been seeing an increase in COVID-19 community case rates this past week, and we are monitoring for a surge in cases from Labor Day weekend. Also, as we enter flu season, we must monitor any impact flu cases may have on hospital capacity and our healthcare system's ability to maintain life-saving resources, before we can consider further opening or in-person activities.

It is important to note that the CDC does not say it is safe to open schools. Rather, it provides guiding principles and broad recommendations for schools as they prepare to provide in-person activities, based on a risk continuum. The latest scientific evidence shows that children have the lowest mortality rate from COVID-19 compared to other age groups. However, they can be infected at a similar rate as older people, and have a high asymptomatic infection rate that makes it more challenging to prevent transmission. They appear to transmit SARS-CoV2 virus to their peers and to adults at a similar rate as adults do, if not at a greater rate, and can do so even when they are asymptomatic. We are also tracking on multi-system inflammatory syndrome, a severe condition in children associated with COVID-19 that has been reported around the country and in LA County.

Children and families do have some options for activities. Youth sports activities in accordance with public health protocols, including for young children, and outdoor museums and gardens in LA County are allowed to be open. Recreational programs that are outdoors and in compliance with public health protocols are able to be open. Childcare centers and recreational day camps are also options.

The number one thing we can all do to support school reopening is to reduce community transmission rates. That means not gathering with people we don't live with, wearing face coverings for people ages 2 and up, and washing hands. New York City is gradually opening schools now, in the setting of over one month of positivity rates below 1%. Other countries have waited until they have had no new cases for a significant period of time. In those settings of community transmission lower than in LA County and Pasadena, the likelihood of schools to be able to stay open for in-person activities is much higher,

because the likelihood of students and staff coming to school while infectious with COVID-19 is drastically reduced. We certainly strive to see community transmission rates low enough to ensure schools can reopen and stay open.

Sincerely,

Ying-Ying Goh MD, MSHS | she/her/hers
Director and Health Officer
Pasadena Public Health Department
1845 N Fair Oaks Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91103

P: (626) 744-6046
Email: ygoh@cityofpasadena.net

<image001.jpg>

[CITY OF PASADENA –CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE] *The contents of this email and any attachments may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments) by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and its attachments.*

Ying-Ying Goh MD, MSHS | she/her/hers
Director and Health Officer
Pasadena Public Health Department
1845 N Fair Oaks Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91103

P: (626) 744-6046
Email: ygoh@cityofpasadena.net

<image001.jpg>

[CITY OF PASADENA –CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE] *The contents of this email and any attachments may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments) by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and its attachments.*