

Message

From: Alexander, Paul (HHS/ASPA) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BC4EDA8AD333439EB3D296AE0E0F9634-ALEXANDER,]
Sent: 7/27/2020 6:57:26 PM
To: Alexander, Paul (HHS/ASPA) (VOL) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Refuting MMWR CDC

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From: Paul Elias Alexander [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Alexander, Paul (HHS/ASPA) [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Refuting MMWR CDC

Best,

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: S R [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

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Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020, 12:53:52 p.m. EDT

Subject: Refuting...

Title: Safe re-opening of schools across America - Cases in point: YMCA of America, New York City's Department of Education, and Brown University

In the era of COVID-19, parents across the USA, and globally, are quite rightly concerned about their children's safe return to school. Government leaders, policy makers, school administrators, parents, and even children are spending vast amounts of time considering how a safe re-opening of schools could take place in September 2020 (or thereabouts). This on the heels of accumulating evidence that it is imperative that schools re-open for children given the negative impact of school closure on the social, psychological, emotional, and safety components of a child's life. When a child attends in-person full-day school (or part-day as the case may be), many needs, including nutrition, are met. There has to be an in-person component to accrue the benefits of schooling. In this regard, some have made their case for only in-person schooling for children and have highlighted the potential limitations of remote type learning, arguing that the child's brain grows more rapidly when there is in-person relationships with active, hands-on exploration. No doubt, the preferred format of the re-open for particular schools and settings will be dictated by the nature of the COVID-19 spread at that time. There will be variation in the epidemiology of COVID-19 by location/setting across the USA and this must be considered by relevant decision-makers. As the USA, at all levels of society, works to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and thus the risk to high-risk persons, any re-open decisions must consider the local circumstances for the extent of transmission. In moving to get schools re-opened safely, this has been the clarion call by the administration and President Trump's Coronavirus Task Force experts, who have been in line with recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on the re-opening of schools.

There will no doubt be areas where the guardrails that indicate greater spread such as positivity rate will be more elevated and as indicated, these would need decisions on a case-by-case basis. For example, if a location in the USA is experiencing a positivity rate of 5% or more (using 5% as a threshold for increased spread) and indications are of ongoing spread, then such a location would need to consider other school re-opening options other than the in-person full-day model e.g. remote learning, a hybrid model etc. Thus they would only re-open safely when the spread is brought under control. It makes sense that a carte blanche 'uniform' approach to re-opening of schools is not the way to go. This is justifiable when the safety of children remains paramount and particularly to the US government's administration experts tasked with this.

We do have evidence from global nations, especially across Europe that have re-opened schools, that have shown that it can be done safely with little, if any, impact on children, especially in terms of the risk of COVID-19 transmission to them. There are indications that there is almost zero evidence of spread of infection from child to child or child to adult. Children seem to not be the key drivers of COVID in schools or the larger communities seasonal influenza whereby children are the drivers of influenza. It is also being reported that not one nation in the entire world has thus far reported child care centers or elementary/primary schools as significant sources of COVID-19 transmission.

In this regard, we draw your attention to the very promising results that emerged in the USA in many YMCA centers that remained open during the last months. We think this will help shed light onto the prospect of school re-opening safely once risk reducing guidance such as CDC's guidance for safe school re-opening is followed. This adherence to the safety guidance must be maintained by all involved parties within the system e.g. teachers/guidance counsellors/administrators/kids etc.

Specifically, very informative and encouraging data has emerged from the YMCA of the USA and New York City's Department of Education whereby the two organizations reportedly followed safety guidance that closely mirrors guidance recently put out by the CDC. Similarly, Brown University's survey analysis of child care centers have also yielded very important data on the risk of COVID-19 spread among children in the USA. For example,and insert some of the data here and close off

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/24/882316641/what-parents-can-learn-from-child-care-centers-that-stayed-open-during-lockdowns>

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