

MEDICAL SOCIETY ^{OF THE} COUNTY OF ERIE

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In light of the uptick in breakthrough infections in Erie County, the Medical Society of Erie County supports the in-school requirements issued by ECDOH this morning, in reliance on prevailing CDC, NYS Department of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Erie County Department of Health guidance.

Please see below for ECDOH's PK-12 Guidance for the School Year 2021-2022, in support of its clear goal to return all students to an in-person learning experience, while also ensuring the safety of all students, faculty, and staff by reducing the risks of COVID-19 disease transmission in school settings and maximizing staff and student time in classroom settings and extracurricular activities during the 2021-2022 school year.

PLEASE NOTE: This guidance applies to public and private elementary (including pre-kindergarten), middle, and high schools in Erie County, and is subject to change:

<https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/2021-2022-ECDOH-school-guidance.pdf>

In support of the published guidance by ECDOH, ECDOH cites to its sources for creating these guidelines, which are demonstrably in keeping with prevailing guidelines both locally, and at the State and national levels.

Please See Below for Sources Consulted by ECDOH to Develop their 2021-2022 PK-12 School Guidance:

1. New York State Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K%20to%20Grade%2012%20Schools%20MasterGuidance.pdf)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#physical-distancing>
3. Erie County Department of Health School Guidance (2020-2021): <https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/ECCOVID19schoolguidance.pdf>
4. Erie County Department of Health Youth Sports Guidance (2020-2021): <https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/resuming-higher-risk-sports.pdf>

5. American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe

Schools: <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

6. New York State Education Department Health Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year:

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf>

Now, more than ever, the Medical Society of Erie County has asked for the unified support among its 1300 plus physician members throughout Erie County by advising their patients about the importance of adhering to these guidelines, as we all have the same goal; to promote the health, safety, and welfare of our children while maintaining in-person school instruction for students PK-12 during the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Burstein's proactive approach is critical to protecting our children as she has demonstrated that she wants the same thing as Erie County physicians and the community at-large: a safe way to ensure our children receive the education they need and deserve.

The Medical Society of Erie County supports our Health Commissioner and longstanding Medical Society member Gale Burstein, MD, MPH for her tireless dedication to the health and welfare of the residents of Erie County and her continued efforts to protect the health and safety of our children so that they can continue in-school instruction.

Sincerely,



Stanley Pietrak, MD
President of the Medical Society of Erie County