



August 16, 2021

Dear Governor:

As the organizations representing the nation's infection preventionists, epidemiologists, infectious disease physicians, pharmacists, school nurses, and occupational health and safety scientists we call on Governors to set aside differences to support important public health guidance to save the lives of many Americans during the current stage of the pandemic.

With the aggressive spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 across the country and hospitals once again becoming overwhelmed, proper precautions must be taken to reduce transmission, hospitalizations, and death. We call on all Governors to take the following steps:

- Actively promote COVID-19 vaccination and make vaccines a condition of employment for healthcare and all government employees;
- Promote policies on universal masking indoors, regardless of vaccination status;
- Require masks for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission;
- Adopt universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status;
- Promote physical distancing based on Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines;
- Promote, teach, and reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in all public settings;
- Encourage employees and members of the public to stay home when they have signs of illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care; and,
- Encourage members of the public to limit large gatherings whenever possible.

As organizations dedicated to preventing the spread of infectious diseases, protecting students and communities, and treating patients when they become ill, we recommend that all state and local government entities adhere to the CDC guidance when reopening schools and businesses.

We know that COVID-19 has created significant fear and uncertainty. As the virus itself and our knowledge of it continue to evolve, we must update public health measures accordingly. We must unify our efforts and implement these key strategies to turn the tide against the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Devin Jopp, MS, EdD  
CEO  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

Chris Busky, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)

Kristy M. Weinschel, MBA, CAE  
Executive Director  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

Margo Farber, Pharm.D.  
Executive Director  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)

Christy Phillips, MSA  
Executive Director  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)

Lawrence D. Sloan, MBA, FASAE, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, NCSN, CAE  
Executive Director  
National Association of School Nurses (NASN)