**WHO WE ARE**:

The Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (VA-AAP) formed a task force of pediatricians to support safe school reopening efforts, given the complications around the COVID-19 pandemic. The group consists of a dozen pediatricians representing all regions of Virginia including clinicians from rural and urban areas with varied backgrounds and expertise.

**OUR MISSION:**

We affirm the [AAP’s school reopening guidelines](https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20Planning%20Considerations%3A%20Guidance%20for%20School%20Re%2Dentry,-Critical%20Updates%20on&text=The%20AAP%20strongly%20recommends%20that,children%20living%20in%20marginalized%20communities.)and provide support for pediatricians to engage local stakeholders in school reopening. This includes school nurses, teachers, school administrators, health departments, and parents. The goals of the group include:

* Advise the executive board on advocacy issues related to school reopening
* Develop knowledge and expertise on how to re-open schools safely and how to maintain a safe environment
* Provide a central source of educational materials for pediatricians across the commonwealth
* Work toward best practices for care of school children during the pandemic
* Identify practical action items such as implementing mask wearing
* Foster partnerships and communication with other organizations invested and guiding school reopening

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