

I would like to provide: *	Written Public Comments
Select the meeting date:* *	August 19, 2021
My public comments are related to: *	COVID-19
Topic *	Return to School Best Practices (Covid)
Full Name *	Yael Mangum
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I appreciate ACPS's mask mandate for all children and adults, and I appreciated the effort last year to keep our students safe with a strong virtual program. I am very worried about starting this school year with the delta variant spreading and would prefer to have a local virtual option until my under-12 children can be fully vaccinated. That said, I will be more comfortable sending my children back if I know that ACPS is following ALL of the mitigation measures recommended by the CDC. The following areas are of particular concern:

- 1) Vaccinations: Please require all teachers/staff inside the building to be vaccinated or tested frequently if they cannot be vaccinated.
- 2) Testing: I support regular surveillance testing for everyone in the building. Are we participating in VDH's K-12 testing program? If not, can we?
- 3) Ventilation: What additional work has been done in ACPS schools to bring in outside air, filter air, increase ventilation, ensure proper air exchange for the volume of each space? Are we using HEPA filters and/or ultraviolet germicidal irradiation? In spaces where proper air exchange cannot be achieved, are we bringing in portable units? Is restroom ventilation adequate? Where can we see ventilation data/analysis for each school?
- 4) Masking: Children should be provided with high-quality, properly-fitted masks, like KN-94s/KN-95s with adjustable elastics. Will these be widely available?
- 5) Large Groups/Lunch: How are schools handling lunch? We should be using outdoor spaces for this and keeping kids in small cohorts. Having large groups of children unmasked and close together may be disastrous.
- 6) Known Cases / Community Spread: How will students who must quarantine be assigned work? What level of community outbreak would require students (individual classes or whole schools) to pivot to virtual instruction?
- 7) Flexibility: Is there an option for children to remain enrolled but do work independently from home under parental supervision until they can be vaccinated, which might happen as early as this fall? We have come so far to be accepting such high risk with vaccines almost available.

Sincerely,
Yael Mangum
Parent of two children at Jefferson-Houston