

# **The El Paso/ Las Cruces PedsStrong Group **Delta Variant Concerns****

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To: El Paso & Dona Ana County Schools

Public & Private

We are a coalition of providers that serve the Children of the Borderland. As a collective we are extremely concerned about the new Delta Variant of the Covid-19 virus. In particular, the CDC has indicated this variant is more contagious and highly transmissible to younger persons. It can also infect those already vaccinated. Since it's arrival to the US the Delta variant has caused a higher number of children less than 12 years old to become infected and more symptomatic than previous variants. Hence, as a group we strongly recommend the following

1. Mandate mask wearing of all students, teachers and staff of all the schools of the Borderland
2. Resume social distancing on school grounds.
3. Mask wearing should be required on a school bus or other official transportation
4. Mitigation efforts should be implemented during recess and lunches
5. Strongly encourage parents and vaccine eligible older siblings to be vaccinated.
6. Discourage any ill child from attending school
7. Continue the above measures until a majority of children less than 12 years old can be vaccinated once it is approved by the FDA

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We must continue to be cautious and safeguard our most precious resource, the children of the Borderland.

