

From: **President SWWHSA** <president@swwhsa.org>

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Subject: School Without Walls HSA calls upon DC Mayor and DC Council to mandate COVID-19 vaccines for eligible students

To: <pmendelson@dccouncil.us>, <muriel.bowser@dc.gov>

Cc: <doh@dc.gov>, <LaQuandra.Nesbitt@dc.gov>, <bnadeau@dccouncil.us>, <Paul.Kihn@dc.gov>, <bpinto@dccouncil.us>, Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL) <mcheh@dccouncil.us>, Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) <jewisgeorge@dccouncil.us>, <kmcduffie@dccouncil.us>, Allen, Charles (COUNCIL) <callen@dccouncil.us>, <vgray@dccouncil.us>, <twhite@dccouncil.us>, <rwhite@dccouncil.us>, Henderson, Christina (Council) <chenderson@dccouncil.us>, <abonds@dccouncil.us>, <esilverman@dccouncil.us>, <rlancaster@dccouncil.us>, Hanson, Ella (Council) <ehanson@dccouncil.us>, <mporcello@dccouncil.us>, Perkins, Will (Council) <wperkins@dccouncil.us>, <ballen@dccouncil.us>, <lmarks@DCCOUNCIL.US>, <lmarks@dccouncil.us>, Norflis, Terrance (Council) <tnorflis@dccouncil.us>, <tjackson@dccouncil.us>, <afowlkes@dccouncil.us>, <mshaffer@dccouncil.us>, dmeadows <dmeadows@dccouncil.us>, <srosenamy@dccouncil.us>, Jordan, LeKisha (Council) <ljordan@dccouncil.us>, <zachary.parker@dc.gov>, <emily.gasoi@dc.gov>, <jacque.patterson@dc.gov>, <allister.chang1@dc.gov>, <ruth.wattenberg@dc.gov>, <Frazier.OLeary@dc.gov>, <jessica.sutter@dc.gov>, <eboni-rose.thompson@dc.gov>, <carlene.reid@dc.gov>, <John-Paul.Hayworth@dc.gov>, <Malcolm.Willoughby@k12.dc.gov>, <atlarge7@swwhsa.org>, <secretary@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge5@swwhsa.org>, <angelfund@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge3@swwhsa.org>, <treasurer@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge2@swwhsa.org>, <MUNTreasurer@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge4@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge6@swwhsa.org>, <atlarge1@swwhsa.org>, <vicepresident@swwhsa.org>, <LSATRep1@swwhsa.org>, <LSATRep4@swwhsa.org>

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

On behalf of the School Without Walls Home and School Association (SWWHSA), I ask that you exercise powers within the executive and legislative to mandate vaccines for eligible students enrolled in DC's public schools.

Like all school communities, we want our school district to provide the safest possible environment in which students learn and educators work. We recently polled our families to determine vaccination rates in our school and how the SWWHSA could help increase rates. Families of over 300 students responded. All but one fully vaccinated and the overwhelming ask was for the SWWHSA to advocate for a vaccine mandate.

Our community appreciates and supports the efforts undertaken by DC Government to encourage families to vaccinate, if eligible. We support the mandate for staff vaccination, and for vaccination of student athletes who are vaccine-eligible. However, we worry that the pace of vaccinations for eligible ages under 18 will not be sufficient to slow down the current wave driven by the Delta variant or future variants.

We have heard the Mayor, DME, Chancellor, Principal, and community leaders say COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and vaccinating is the strongest way to protect our school community. We support this and, in turn, hope the DC government will join the State of California (and George Washington University, where our campus is located) in

State of California (and George Washington University, where our campus is located) in serving as a leader in keeping schools safe and open for in-person learning by immediately implementing a mandate (and legislation, if necessary) that all students who are eligible for vaccine be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 31, 2021.

We trust it goes without mention that leadership entails both setting firm lines in the sand AND supporting students and families to get across the finish line toward vaccine compliance.

Thank you in advance for your support,

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 SWWHSA President

Samantha Caruth, Vice President	Gina Lynn Anderson, Secretary	Dawn Leijon, Treasurer and Boosters Treasurer	Marilyn Nowalk, MUN Treasurer
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