

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2021

ASPPH Supports Vaccine Mandates and Verification Efforts by Member Schools and Programs

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) supports our member schools and programs that are making strong efforts to continue to control the spread of COVID-19. The Association is concerned about efforts to prematurely declare that the pandemic is over, particularly in light of low vaccination rates in many areas as well as the emergence of new variants and the spread of the virus on campuses via breakthrough infections even in people who are fully vaccinated. Of particular concern are our member campuses where there are many opportunities for transmission. Moreover, our schools and programs should not be the locus of the spread of COVID-19 into our broader communities.

We support all efforts by member schools and programs and their parent universities to incentivize vaccination in their own communities including vaccine mandates and verification. College campuses have unique risks of spread and a return to a more normal education may require extraordinary efforts to vaccinate campus communities. In addition, many schools and programs of public health are integral parts of an academic medical center. We strongly endorse recommendations by various scientific and academic societies that all health care workers be mandated to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

ASPPH strongly supports efforts by member schools and programs to assure classroom safety. A multitude of approaches may be needed including improving building ventilation, distancing requirements, and hybrid learning. We endorse member schools who are continuing to mandate the use of masks in buildings. Such decisions need to be made in accord with regional conditions, but masking is always called for in the context of either moderate to high transmission rates of the virus and/or relatively low rates of vaccination. Such mask mandates are fully compatible with the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on mask use in an effort to stem the spread of the Delta variant and other emerging COVID-19 variants.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our 132 member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

For more information: Kate Dart; kdart@aspph.org; cell 816-399-9735.