



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Parents Supporting Teachers Endorses a Vaccine Mandate for LAUSD**

Parents Supporting Teachers (PST), the largest parent advocacy group supporting Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers and families, announces its support of a vaccine mandate for all LAUSD teachers, staff, and eligible students. With the highly contagious Delta Variant of COVID-19 spreading throughout the state and community, PST is urging policymakers, union leaders, and school officials to mandate vaccines for all eligible LAUSD teachers, staff members, and students.

“Mandatory vaccination for every eligible teacher, staff, and student is absolutely necessary to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities – children under 12 and those who are immunocompromised,” said co-founder Jenna Schwartz. “While the district is to be commended for taking significant steps to facilitate a safe return to full-time, in-person learning, experts have repeatedly stated that the single most important mitigation measure is to ensure everyone in the school community is vaccinated.”

“Public, private, and charter schools should all enforce a vaccine mandate. This is especially critical as we know that safety protocols and mitigation measures are not necessarily the same in all districts and within the charter school system,” said Nicolle Fefferman, co-founder. The Delta Variant is more likely to infect children and recent data shows that both positive cases and hospitalizations are rising among children.

“It is unfortunate that sentiment for vaccines and masking has been politically polarized throughout the pandemic. We remain committed to following the advice of public health experts, guided by data, which notes that vaccines are the best protection anyone has against COVID-19. We, as educators and school employees, owe it to the children, teachers, and their families to do the right thing and require vaccines,” said Fefferman.

The opinions expressed here represent Parents Supporting Teachers not the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) and its individual members.

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About Parents Supporting Teachers: Parents Supporting Teachers is a parent education advocacy group in Los Angeles with over 25,000 followers and is the only organically created group of this size exclusively dedicated to parent communication and education support in the entire LAUSD. Visit [www.parentssupportingteachers.org](http://www.parentssupportingteachers.org) to learn more and support our shared vision for equitable and inclusive LAUSD schools.