

The very fact that this is on the agenda demonstrates that severe COVID cases are expected as a result of in person instruction. Why should schools have special consideration for their liability in these cases? School districts around the state have demonstrated publicly (with photos of staff members not wearing masks properly and huddled together) that they are NOT abiding by the ODE guidelines. How are they violating them off camera? Liability waivers will further create a lax attitude around safety protocols. Schools, like businesses, should be accountable. Who would have the burden of proof as to whether or not schools were properly following guidelines when infection occurs? Contact tracers currently can't keep up with contact tracing. Who would determine where the infection occurred?

We cannot arbitrarily waive Covid liability for schools. Instead, we need to curb the spread of the disease as a community by taking mitigation action and open schools only when it is SAFE to do so.

Respectfully,
Nina Baurer