

Hello,

I am a parent to a seven-month-old baby, a step-parent to a nine-year-old girl, a law student, and work as a part-time law clerk. I depend on my mother, who is seventy-four years old, to watch my baby several times a week so I can get work done. Spending time with her first grand-baby is the only human contact my mom is getting during the pandemic.

My work and school are all remote and we are very careful about staying home and not risking exposure except to go to the grocery store once or twice a month.

I am very concerned about the risk to my family if schools reopen before we are all able to get vaccines. Children can easily spread viruses amongst themselves, to each other, and then to their families. If my step-daughter was to go back to in-person schooling, I would no longer feel comfortable sending my baby to my mom's because of the risk to my mom.

Not being able to have my mom watch my baby would make it hard for me to work and deprive my mom of her only human contact during the pandemic.

Please consider the impact of children spreading the virus to their families.

Keep schools closed, at least until all high-risk people are vaccinated.

Thank you,
Kate Flanagan
Multnomah County, HD 43