

Dear Senator Dembrow and members of the committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful review of how and when to reopen schools. As a family member of teachers and as a great grandparent, etc. of students I am fearful. As a clinical psychologist who worked in the schools for 50 years, I see it as a complex choice between two difficult paths for children and their families. And, as a scientist, I am driven to find the best data - not to pick what fits my desired outcome.

I am grateful you are hearing from Dr. Corsi today about school ventilation. Our failure until recently to understand aerosolized transmission led us to emphasize less effective interventions such as swabbing down all surfaces while focusing less on ventilation. Also, as someone who has worked with children for decades, I understand the challenge of effective mask wearing. We need to implement all possible layers of effective risk reduction. Something as simple as an effective HEPA portable air filter in the classroom has the potential to save lives during the many months or years ahead of us.

An article from a new UK fact-checking group looks at recent data on school transmission and links to peer reviewed articles. It reinforces my concern that the asymptomatic spread from students to adults in their lives is a major problem if schools reopen too quickly. The most recent data from the UK Office for National Statistics shows school age children having nearly equal or higher rates of positivity than other age groups. As you know the UK has closed down almost all schools recently because of a COVID resurgence.

<https://www.covidfaq.co/Claim-Children-don-t-spread-the-virus-5eb4d5fac8ad4236b197fac77eb021d8>

Finally, the active phase of most catastrophes - a hurricane, a flood or tornado - is short lived. We are a resilient people who are good at jumping in and building back. We are now in a long running catastrophe that taxes not only our creativity but also our patience. I am grateful for those in power who are not pushing students too quickly back to school. If we make a decision to continue distance learning for most students, we can then harness the creativity and knowledge of our educators to develop best practices during this and future pandemics.

Thank you for your attention and your good work.

Carol Greenough Ph.D.
9965 SW Jurgens Lane
Tualatin OR 97062
503-975-7808