

**Louisiana Primary Care Association, Inc.**  
503 Colonial Drive  
Post Office Box 966  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0966



October 12, 2021

Dr. Cade Brumley  
Superintendent  
Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Dr. Brumley,

On behalf of our entire team at the Louisiana Primary Care Association, our Board of Directors and 300 Federally Qualified Health Centers and School-Based Health Centers serving patients across the state, we write to you with great concern regarding your new policy as it pertains to quarantine for students who have come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

While we know you are acting with the best of intentions to reduce absenteeism, this new policy goes against the advice of the Louisiana Department of Health and that of most public health professionals. By allowing students to attend class knowing they had a possible exposure to COVID-19, we are risking the health and safety of our children, parents, teachers and school support staff. With children under the age of 12 still not able to get vaccinated, we can anticipate that under this new policy they will be much more likely to be exposed to the virus. And while, fortunately, in the vast majority of cases, children do not get seriously ill from COVID-19, we know that they can carry the virus home to their families – siblings, parents and grandparents who may be at greater risk of serious illness or death. This is especially true with the spreading Delta variant, as it even more transmissible than the original strain of the virus.

Furthermore, while your goal is to reduce absenteeism, this new policy could actually have the opposite effect. Greater exposure to the virus could leave more students, teachers and staff members ill, forcing them to stay home and risking school closures.

**We urge you to consider the carefully researched guidance laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health.**

While we respect your expertise and experience when it comes to public education standards and policy, we believe public health decisions that impact the lives of Louisiana's citizens should be left up to public health authorities.

Like other healthcare providers across our state, Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers and School-Based Health Centers have been serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. From ensuring all Louisianans have access to COVID-19 testing to promoting the importance of life-saving vaccines, our health center doctors, nurses, clinical staff and administrative team members have selflessly served their communities and, in some cases, have risked their own health and safety in service to others. We have come too far to allow this new quarantine policy

decision to upend our progress.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss a path forward that ensures public education standards are met while maintaining the health and safety of our students, parents and teachers. Please consider the Louisiana Primary Care Association as a partner and reliable source of information when considering the impacts of this policy and all future policies involving healthcare and our schools.

We thank you and your team at the Department of Education for your service to Louisiana's school children. We know that if we want to improve health in our state, it will take every stakeholder in our community working together. We are prepared to work with you in a spirit of collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,



Mike Andry  
LPCA Board President



Gerelda Davis  
LPCA Executive Director

cc: Governor John Bel Edwards  
Courtney Phillips, Louisiana Department of Health