



4 STEPS TO ROANOKE'S GREAT UNMASKING

With vaccinations for school aged children now available, Roanoke Indivisible joins the parents, educators, students, and Roanoke community members demanding that Roanoke Valley area schools **prioritize in person schooling and eliminate unnecessary school disruptions** by taking the following four steps:

- **Step 1: Stop automatically excluding** students and faculty exposed to Covid-19 *and instead*
- **Step 2: Require** Test-to-Stay daily antigen or daily rapid PCR testing of those exposed *while also*
- **Step 3: Require** CDC compliant mask wearing through the peak winter viral transmission period
- **Step 4: Continue** universal masking in schools during high/moderate periods of viral transmission until Covid-19 vaccines are added to list of vaccines required for school attendance

With these four steps, our schools can lead us safely towards a post-pandemic future while ensuring the best education for all our students and minimizing family disruptions which disproportionately affect working families.

As parents, educators, students, and community members, we demand that our schools stop excluding our students from school following a school based Covid exposure, sending our children home for days, disrupting their learning, complicating lesson planning for teachers, and making scheduling impossible for too many working families. With vaccinations for school aged populations now FDA approved, and the ready availability of accurate testing technologies such as daily antigen or daily rapid PCR testing, our schools can and must draft new policies that will prioritize in person schooling while ensuring public safety. When students or faculty are exposed, we urge the Superintendent and School Board to implement Test-to-Stay with daily antigen or rapid PCR tests for seven days post-exposure. Easily administered in school, such Test-to-Stay policies are proven effective at increasing school attendance, while simultaneously preventing viral transmission in schools.

With the current pandemic mitigation technologies we have now, we don't have to choose between our children learning and their health -- we can and must do both.

This **four-step plan** would end the disruption and chaos of school exclusion following Covid exposures at school for students while keeping our schools safe. By prioritizing keeping kids in school, this plan also:

- **prioritizes in person schooling**, ensuring more students, especially those from disproportionately affected communities of color, can learn where they learn best: at school, with our outstanding teachers. The Four Step Plan will help mitigate racial disparities in learning opportunities exacerbated by the past twenty months.
- **eliminates unnecessary school disruptions** which have wreaked havoc on working families. The Covid19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted women's workforce participation. Keeping our kids in school is a crucial step for women to regain losses at work and economic empowerment.
- **encourages families to fully vaccinate their school aged children**. Families doing their part to end the pandemic by fully vaccinating must not continue to bear the burden of school exposure exclusions overwhelmingly driven by those who don't vaccinate.

This is the way forward, and we can get there together, safely and with our children learning where they learn best: **in the classroom**.

Sign the Petition!
www.RoanokeIndivisible.com