

You can message to your local community that keeping schools open is a top priority!

Consider posting a message to social media, your local [Front Porch Forum](#) or [newspaper](#). Contact Stephanie Winters for assistance with messaging or placement at [swinters@vtmd.org](mailto:swinters@vtmd.org).

Here are some brief statements you can use (edit as you see fit) to fit your platform!

1. We all must sacrifice our MULTI FAMILY SOCIALIZING so that kids can continue to go to school, and businesses can stay open/serve people as long as they can meet the distancing/masking guidelines – We all want to avoid a full lockdown. #AAPVTCARES
2. 71% of the recent COVID-19 infections are from private parties and/or small social gatherings. Isolate now so we can gather later. #AAPVTCARES
3. Remember, our schools are safe, our teachers, administrators and parents are doing a great job following our state guidance, which is based on science, our children gain so much more than education by being in schools! #AAPVTCARES
4. Vermont is \*NOT\* seeing significant transmission in places where prevention policies are followed -- like schools, churches, retail stores, salons and barbershops or gyms. In these places, people generally keep their distance from others from outside their household and follow masking guidelines. #AAPVTCARES
5. While we have had cases of COVID-19 in VT schools, the spread of cases within schools has been extraordinarily low - and that is amazing! Cases in schools have NOT led to outbreaks, which shows that mitigation strategies are working really well. We don't need to close schools "over an abundance of caution." We need to follow public health recommendations. #AAPVTCARES
6. Everything in the pandemic is hard to hear, hard to believe, hard to endure. But we can't be paralyzed by fear and anxiety, and we should not be lulled into complacency. Success lies in finding joy, even in the face of adversity. #AAPVTCARES
7. As COVID-19 cases grow in communities in and around VT, pediatricians want to highlight the good work that schools are doing, and to implore Vermonters to follow Health Dept. guidelines around masking, distancing, avoiding crowded spaces, adhering to travel guidelines, getting the influenza vaccine, and staying home when sick. As the days get darker and colder and we enter the holiday season, following the guidelines will be more important than ever in order to keep kids in school. #AAPVTCARES
8. We know there will be cases and that is what we expect; we can lower risk but not eliminate it, and the goal of all of our efforts is to keep cases from becoming clusters and clusters from becoming outbreaks. We see this working in schools even with higher community transmission – while there are cases in schools, they have not become outbreaks, so we know mitigation measures can work. #AAPVTCARES