



## Quotes from Doctors for Parents & Communities Working to Reopen Schools

Below are links to video interviews with various doctors from around the country, and the most important parts or quotes from some of the links, and listed them as “Of Note” below the link. [There is a second pdf](#) with more links to research, news articles, and more that will also help you make your case. To watch all of the interviews with doctors from around the country, please also visit [SecondOpinionProject.com](http://SecondOpinionProject.com).

### General Reopening Videos and Quotes

#### [Dr. Steven Hearne, Interventions Cardiologist](#)

“...kids don't get this. Kids don't get sick from it. I think if you're a teacher in your 20s and you have a class full of kids that are young, it's full steam ahead, get back to school. Say you can go to school and stay six feet apart and all these other, I think crazy suggestions, I think are just a little over the top when you're talking about a population of people that really don't have that outcome from it, survive it quite well, and probably can immunize the rest of us.

“Any data out there, it's not the young people that get this. The people that are under 45 and unfortunately succumb to this, they almost all have comorbid illnesses and morbid obesity being a big one, diabetes, or heavy smokers. I mean, they're very tight lipped about the younger people, that comorbid illnesses with the younger people. It's very hard to get that data. I mean, the news just likes sensationalism.”

#### [Dr. Jeff Barke, Board Certified Primary Care Physician](#)

“The World Health Organization just said there is little, if any, evidence that asymptomatic spread is occurring, and yet we've been fear mongered to for many, many months now that somehow there are asymptomatic people crop dusting the population and spreading the disease, where there's little, if any, evidence that there's a significant asymptomatic spread of this disease.

“The CDC reports quite clearly that this virus is a huge risk for older Americans, especially those that are in nursing homes and extended care facilities, but little risk for the healthy and the young. So, this notion that somehow, we should cancel school, socially distance children and put masks on them make no scientific sense whatsoever, and the idea that somehow, 12qw it's okay for thousands of people to gather in protest, but it's not okay to host a 4th of July parade or go to a sporting event just makes no sense at all.”

[Dr. Olga Swanson, Gynecology](#)

“The research that we have, however limited, has been very clear that the transmission between children is very rare. And yes, there have been some children who have gotten extremely ill, there have been several deaths and clearly it is an outcome that nobody would ever want. However, at the same time, a lot of these children that were very negatively impacted by this had underlying health conditions. That being said, I think the kids need to go back to school. They need to go back to school for the main reason that they need that social interaction and there's nothing that can replace a childhood for a child.

“We cannot lock up our young generation in the house for the next 12 or 18 months while we're waiting for a vaccine or while we're waiting for a cure.”

[Dr. Susan Carr, Family Practice & Emergency Medicine](#)

“I believe that the CDC recommendations are a little bit of overkill, whereas I think their intent was good and that they are trying to account for all possible scenarios. I don't think it's reasonable, children like to have interaction with other children, with their peers. I mean, you're going to have a very, very difficult time keeping one child from touching another child, from touching a toy, from touching a book, and on, and on, and on. And it just isn't reasonable.

“And also, when you look at the studies with COVID-19, you don't see a lot of children having severe problems with COVID. Many of the children are asymptomatic.”

[Dr. Jane Hughes, Ophthalmologist & Ophthalmic Surgeon](#) (Video 1)

“I don't think it's the most safe environment for children to be secluded, socially isolated, whether they're in a wonderful family or a family that's borderline or even a family where there is abuse of children. Children need social interaction. Children need a schedule. Children need to learn. This is a time in their life when they're like sponges and we are missing that opportunity, and I think it leads to despair in children.

“I think this is extremely harmful because it is, first of all, unnecessary, but second of all, children need to play, to interact, to have an interface with their teachers and their classmates in a very active educational environment.”

[Dr. Jane Hughes, Ophthalmologist & Ophthalmic Surgeon](#) (Video 2)

“I think there are plenty of links that show that it's safe for children to return to school. And by returning to school, I mean normal school. So, it's going to be a huge job to overcome the mainstream media and some of the hysteria that's been stirred up regarding this virus. We don't have to rely on projections anymore. We now can take a look. We understand the virus. We understand quite well how it is spread. People have come in so frightened, have so little knowledge of the coronavirus, or viral epidemics, and had no idea of the number of people that we lose to influenza every year, even though we do have a vaccine for it.”

[Dr. Mark McDonald, Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist](#)

“I feel that an entire generation of children now is going to be missing out on critical, developmental, social, and educational experiences, all the while becoming traumatized and fearful of life, of freedom, of being able to touch and move and talk and play. And I don't think this is going to stop when schools reopen and when the masks disappear, I think it's going to stay with them, and I think it's going to be a long-term, or chronic problem that's going to require more treatment, more therapy and lead to all kinds of downstream side effects, both socially, financially, and emotionally for years to come.”

[Dr. Joel Yeager, Board Certified Family Physician](#)

“I think my biggest message would be it's time to get healthy Americans back out circulating in the public. The way to develop an immunity is to get healthy people out, circulating, doing what healthy people normally do. That's backed up actually by the facts. The way to get an immunity in a population to a disease that's relatively as benign as this, it's to get healthy people circulating. Worst case scenario, kids pass it around at school, well they'll develop an immunity to it. I can't imagine a first grader or kindergartner with a mask on eight hours a day at school, not being allowed to participate in field trips. I mean all of the ... I mean certainly schools are about education, but there's also a huge social component and all of these restrictions will have huge social implications on children.”

[Dr. Daniel Orr, Certified in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Anesthesiology, And Legal Medicine as a Dually Certified Doctor/Attorney](#)

“The academics are an interesting group and I was only an academic for about 12 years, but the academics, a lot of them, they're really smart but they really don't have practical experience, a lot of them. Some of them do, but a lot of them don't, and it's kind of frustrating when they just drink the Kool-Aid and believe what they're told without actually investigating it.

“Because of what I do and what I'm a member of, I probably had 10 urgent COVID updates every single day. I know how I'd open up the schools. Pretty much just open them. We should be opening things up and people will do what's right automatically. We are not a bunch of dumb bunnies out here. They will social distance to their comfort level, and if they want to stay home, stay home by all means. But don't make me stay home under threat of criminal prosecution because somebody down the street has the flu.”

[Dr. Joel Singer, Plastic Surgery](#)

“The bottom line is by the time we locked down, it was already too late. It didn't matter. And not only that, there's no scientific evidence that it stops the virus spread. I mean, it slows it down maybe, but it doesn't stop it. Instead of trusting these mathematical models that really didn't work, we now have actual data. What's the infection rate? What's the mortality rate, et cetera? Almost 50% of all the deaths in United States occurred in nursing homes. And then we also find out that children below the age of 18, it's practically zero, the mortality rate. So why are we keeping kids home instead of letting them go to school? And then what are the consequences of locking everybody up and not being able to earn a living, and not be able to do business? The consequences of the lockup are going to be far worse than any of the consequences of COVID-19.”

[Dr. David Lang, Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine Physician](#)

“I did look at the CDC guidelines for reopening schools, and I think they're absolutely ridiculous. School should've been opened months ago. Again, we did the right thing shutting down initially to kind of see where things are at, but the amount of people under 40 who have died from COVID in Minnesota is actually zero.

“Anybody who's had kids will tell you the education they're getting is just minimal. It's just minimal. It's hard for kids to stay focused to do the work at all. The amount of work they're getting is not up to the grade that they're in. So, we're damaging our kids from an educational point of view, but from a medical point of view, having first grade, second grade kids wear masks and social distance is absolutely ridiculous.”

[Dr. Robert Hamilton, Pediatrician](#)

“All the schools have closed and they're doing education via Zoom. Well the truth is that they're not getting a good education through Zoom. They do and I have to applaud the teachers. I say this all the time, that they're doing their utmost best, but the reality is trying to educate children via a computer is very difficult.

“I had an article published in the Wall Street Journal. It was entitled Get the Kids Back to Summer School, and essentially my feeling is this. We need to begin to normalize life for our young children, both elementary school, junior high, and high school. The way to do that is we need to get our kids back into school, get them back into a schedule, get them back into a regimen.

“Regarding the new CDC regulations and the recommendations that they're putting out, they apparently are trying to put it into different gradations, the low, medium, and high risk. When I hear these, basically it is clear that keeping them away six feet throughout the entire day, demanding the kids wear a mask, demanding that they don't share objects, and it goes on and on and on, I think this has clearly been put together by a committee that doesn't know children very well or has never been in a classroom because classrooms typically are kind of chaotic places. I think that these are hypotheticals. They're making their plans. I don't think they're going to be successful at this.

“I think we need to ... Certainly we need to use common sense, maybe a little creativity, possibly staggering schedules. I can see that. That would actually help to normalize the kids a little bit, but in terms of all the little degrees that they're talking about in terms of social distancing and everything, that is going to be violated probably on a minute by minute basis. Here's the deal. We need to get our kids out of home and get them back into school.”

[Dr. Molly Rutherford, Specialized in Addiction Medicine and Family Medicine](#)

“The chances of your child catching COVID-19 going to school are fairly low. And if they do, they are likely to do fine. You don't really have to worry. You're probably not going to catch COVID-19 going to Walmart. That's not how it's spread. So as long as people are smart and careful, we really need to redirect our focus to protecting vulnerable people. I hope that our policymakers will take all of that into consideration and revise these models and hopefully inject some common sense in there as well.”

[Dr. Robert Bransfield, Psychiatrist](#)

“Children have to interact, and they have to have that connection, it's a very critical part of their development. Some children, if you say, stay at home, home is not necessarily a good place, school may be the safest place for them. If we move that, there can be great risk for development that will evolve over years.”

[Dr. Alina Sholar, Plastic Surgeon in private practice and Owner and CEO of a Multi-Location, Physical Therapy and PM&R Clinic, and Regenerative Medicine Clinic](#)

“The CDC has implemented some suggested guidelines for reopening schools, and reading through it, I started to ask myself, “When do we ask ourselves, when policies are put into place like this, at what point do we stop implementing these kinds of efforts? When SARS-CoV-2 is eradicated?” Well, that's not going to happen anytime soon. When the seasonal influenza goes away? Well, that's not going to happen either. So, do we keep school shut down forever? Of course, the answer's no, but who gets to decide when, if, and to what extent that would be appropriate? Our kids need the opportunity, one, to be kids and two, to develop an immunity to these viruses like this that are relatively low risk for them.”

## **Quarantine of Healthy Kids Videos & Quotes**

[Dr. Mark McDonald, Child Psychiatrist: School Closings on Kids More Harm Than Good](#)

The CDC put out additional guidelines about quarantining procedures if COVID cases were found in places like schools. Dr. McDonald was asked about these procedures that are now responsible for schools shutting down again.

### **Question:**

What is going to happen to children from a standpoint if they're at school for a week, then they're told to quarantine, even though they're healthy and they have a not tested positive, they've just been around somebody who is sick, they have to quarantine for 14 days? Then they go back to school, and the exact same thing could happen again. They could be in a situation where they're spending more time in quarantine, never even being sick, than in school.

### **Dr. McDonald's Answer:**

"Well, it's courting disaster. That reminds me of a short story I read in high school called The Lottery, where once a year, everyone's name gets put into a bin, and they're pulled out randomly. One person is chosen, and that person is put into the town square, and everyone

walks up to the square and stones him to death. This is the experience that children are going to have as they sit and wait for that fatal test result or that contact tracer or that temperature check that's going to lead them to be expelled from school because they are being told that they are not only sick, but they are also dangerous to other people. And every single child is going to wake up every morning with that fear. That is torture.

"The primary driving force of child development and growth is stability. And what we're doing is we're taking away all of the stability, and we're threatening children with this punishment of social isolation, of putting a scarlet letter, a scarlet C for COVID on their chest, and saying that you don't have the ability to stay in class and be with your friends to be with your teachers because there's something wrong and sick about you.

"Even if that child every day goes to school and never gets sick, never has the temperature check rise above 98.6, never gets the positive blood test showing he's infected, doesn't get contact tracing smears on him from kids that did get sick that he played with in the sandbox two days ago, even if he's safe the whole year, he's going to be waking up every day wondering maybe this'll be the day that I get pulled out and stoned. That is not any way to treat a child, to raise a child, or to educate a child. And I can tell you in my practice already, every child, healthy or not, is having significantly increased in worsenings of anxiety, panic attacks, sleep disorders, enuresis, wetting the bed, social phobias. It goes on and on and on.

"And what you just described, it's not just silly. It's actually cruel proposal to pull kids in and out of classrooms based on meaningless, nonsensical, completely irrelevant medical criteria that doesn't even apply to children, as we just discussed, is simply abusive. It's not productive, it's harmful, and it's going to destroy the school system, and it's going to destroy children's lives"

#### [Frontline Doctor Simone Gold: Covid19 Cases Not Reduced by School Closings](#)

Dr. Simone Gold was asked about the CDC guidelines on testing vast numbers of healthy people, as is happening for kids in school, for their sports, as a result of the quarantine guidelines.

#### **Dr. Simone Gold's Answer:**

"We have a lot more information than when we first started. So, one of the biggest comparisons is Sweden versus Finland. So, in Finland and Sweden, they handled it very differently. Here's the finding. There is no difference in the overall incidents of the laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, age group one to 19, in the two countries. And in one country, they closed the schools and the other country, they didn't.

"We have to accept that this virus is in our midst at the moment. We are so fortunate that it overwhelmingly does not affect children at all. And if it does, it's very trivial.

"I don't mean to cast aspersion on... I don't know who the decision-makers are, who are making the decisions to keep children home, but whoever's making those decisions needs to become better educated on the subject.

"Understand that children don't get very sick and that there's real harm to real children by keeping the kids constantly quarantined, and eventually the schools are going to be closed because you can't stay ahead of this."