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PAFP: Back-to-school guidelines should be evidence-based, flexible

(HARRISBURG, PA. July 21, 2020) The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) says guidelines for students to return to school in the fall should be evidence-based and flexible as Pennsylvania continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Family physicians understand the importance and benefits of in-person education for primary and secondary students, yet we also understand the risks involved during this pandemic,” said PAFP President Tracey Conti, MD. “In considering the interests of parents and students alike, we know the Pennsylvania health and education departments, local school districts, colleges and universities are doing their best to ensure everyone’s health and safety as classes are soon to resume.”

Now is also a good time to parents to review their children’s vaccination needs prior to entering the new school year.

“Although many questions still remain about schooling in the fall, parents should make an appointment now with their children’s pediatrician or family physician to receive these important vaccines as part of their annual well visit,” said Dr. Conti. “This ensures the correct immunizations are administered, the required documentation is obtained, and that a trusted provider is available in the event of an adverse reaction.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation is a physician-led organization committed to advancing quality healthcare through advocacy, education, workforce development and commitment to the patients we serve. For over 70 years and with over 6,000 physician, resident and student members, the Academy and its Foundation’s core values are visionary leadership, integrity, and community.

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