



Back to School: With Trepidation or Relief

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The numbers of cases of Covid-19 continue to rise. The age ranges of those affected indicate more children and individuals under 40 years of age are being infected with Covid-19. For reasons that remain unclear, many insecure politicians advocate a return to normal routine and return to school.

Such begs the question what evidence based proof is there that supports the safety and drive to open schools in mid-August?

The obvious conclusion by the current political administration is that the importance of all gestures that contribute to a normalization of the economy supersedes the safety of children, their families, Teachers and their families with an approaching election.

In several states evidence of increasing numbers of victims of this virus are exponential in growth and we are seeing neither flattening nor downward movement in the curve of new cases.

Hospitalizations in several states are on the rise; bed and ICU availability reduced to converting adjacent areas into makeshift ICUs. While some, including children are experiencing less than perilous effects, others have and will continue to witness more serious consequences because to date neither mechanisms for tracking, adequate testing, the cure nor vaccine appear soon on the horizon.

While schools, their administrations, faculty, and parents acknowledge the impact of delayed opening on their lives and financial predicaments, all are reticent to expose their loved ones to a disease entity that is believed by scientists and health care professionals to fall seriously short of controlled at this juncture. The present leadership appears to show no empathy whatsoever to those having died or adversely been affected. He and his allies have disregarded input and advice from Medical personnel across the country. Despite warnings, Mr Trump and his supporters have done all in their power to minimize the consequences of their inaction or irresponsibilities to protect the interests of the American people.

It is not enough to ignore the impact of this Virus on large social gatherings, or the inherent dangers in mass voting sites when mail in voting can obviously reduce potential exposure and contagion. Close childhood contact within school settings is impossible to prevent. There appears to be no conceivable support that Covid-19 will merely disappear by mid-August or anytime soon as long as compliance in social distancing, wearing of personal protective masks/ shields is not universally occurring. Testing remains inadequate, timely results delayed, and for the most part, is not yet readily available for most of the population.

Available manpower to confront the virus and its manifestations are woefully being challenged nationwide on a daily basis. In spite of this the President disbanded daily briefings and adherence to the advice and warnings of the true experts in epidemiology and science, all to the tune of full recognition / disillusion / misinformation that his approaches have been unsuccessful and unproductive to re-election. Little wonder polls point dramatically in the direction that leadership in the fight against Covid is absent and grossly misguided.

Our nation has encountered numerous challenges in its young history. Never before has an absence of qualified, dedicated, and

devoted leadership been contributory factors to a worsening of our well-being. Our nation in the past has always risen to the occasion when things are at their worst. Never before has our leadership failed to put our best interests above theirs.

In the scheme of importance, delay in re-opening of schools seems prudent to this observer and health care provider of 40 years. This disease is impartial and takes no prisoners. In light of its current state of resurgence and proliferation, exposure of our most vital resource, our children and teachers to this pandemic is without basis and highly premature until our leadership demonstrates a realistic and evidence-based resolution is in place. Great strides have been made in virtual forms of education. Delay in re-opening schools for 3 months, or longer as necessary would seem a prudent gesture.



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