



**Comsewogue School District  
Miller Place Union Free School District  
Mount Sinai School District  
Port Jefferson School District  
Rocky Point Union Free School District**

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**Sent via fax (518) 474-1513 and US Postal Service (CM:RR)**

November 10, 2021

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 11224

Re: Schools as Vaccination Clinics

Dear Governor Hochul:

We recognize your focus on mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 and understand the COVID-19 vaccination is available for all students age five and older (now that the Pfizer vaccine has received approval for use with children age 5 to 12). However, we believe these efforts need to have local and regional strategies, especially in a state as diverse as New York. While isolated, rural areas of the state may ask their school districts to take on the role of vaccination hub, more suburban and urban communities do not have to go this route. Such communities are well covered by pediatric centers, urgent care clinics, hospitals, doctor offices, municipal health offices, and county facilities. As such, making schools in more populated communities serve as vaccination sites places an unnecessary burden on our districts.

Furthermore, it is our stance that, regardless of whether a parent/guardian signs a vaccination consent form, the custodial adult should be present when this medical treatment is performed on a minor. We do not believe it is medically, legally, or educationally viable for school districts to take on this extra obligation, which would require us to devote staff to facilitate and sacrifice instructional time to safely perform this medical procedure.

Many adolescents may form a negative social emotional link between getting an injection and going to school. Schools are intended to be safe, nurturing environments for our children. If students are afraid or require parental assistance for this procedure, it will greatly compromise our ability to educate and create a safe academic space for our young people.

The health and well-being of our students, faculty, employees and community members is of utmost concern. Our districts have rigorously followed the protocol that has been set forth by the New York State Department of Health, the Suffolk County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. Our

mitigation strategies have worked extremely well at preventing the transmission of COVID-19 within our school buildings before and after the development of vaccines.

We have made every necessary accommodation to be a proud partner in the fight against COVID-19. However, it is our stance that having schools in a suburban area such as Suffolk County unnecessarily become vaccination clinics when better options are available and more easily accessible, is not a viable tactic in this fight. We understand that this may be an essential part of the plan for vaccinating students in some of the more rural areas, but it is not necessary in our area of Suffolk County.

In closing, please note, this letter was written with the support of our Boards of Education. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in the coming months to ensure that our staff and students remain safe until this pandemic is controlled and/or behind us.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Jennifer Quinn*

Comsewogue School District

Dr. Jennifer Quinn, Superintendent of Schools

*Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano*

Miller Place Union Free School District

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano, Superintendent of Schools

*Mr. Gordon Brosdal*

Mount Sinai School District

Mr. Gordon Brosdal, Superintendent of Schools

*Ms. Jessica Schmettan*

Port Jefferson School District

Ms. Jessica Schmettan, Superintendent of Schools

*Dr. Scott O'Brien*

Rocky Point Union Free School District

Dr. Scott O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools

Copy to:

Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health (sent via fax and US Postal Service - CM:RR)

Mr. Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive (sent via email and US Postal Service - CM:RR)

Dr. Gregson H. Pigott, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Health (sent via email and US Postal Service – CM:RR)

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (sent via email and US Postal Service – CM:RR)

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director, NIAID Office of Communications and Government Relation (sent via email and US Postal Service – CM:RR)