Twitter Thread by Dr. Vinay Prasad MD MPH, Associate Professor



Dr. Vinay Prasad MD MPH, Associate Professor
@VPrasadMDMPH



NC schools experience:
11 districts data; ~100k
in person school

Aug to Oct 2020
NC had 1-2 cases per 1k pop (that's brisk)
733 community acq cases

If schools' transmission mirrored the state
Expected 800+ cases in school

Actual:
32 in school transmissions

Thoughts
[thread]

Prepublication Release

PEDIATRICS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Incidence and Secondary Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Schools

Kanecia O. Zimmerman, MD; Ibukunoluwa C. Akinboyo, MD; M. Alan Brookhart, PhD; Angelique E. Boutzoukas, MD; Kathleen McGann, MD; Michael J. Smith, MD, MSCE; Gabriela Maradiaga Panayotti, MD; Sarah C. Armstrong, MD; Helen Bristow, MPH; Donna Parker, MPH; Sabrina Zadrozny, PhD; David J. Weber, MD, MPH; Daniel K. Benjamin, Jr., MD, PhD; for The ABC Science Collaborative

DOI: 10.1542/peds.2020-048090

Journal: *Pediatrics*

Article Type: Regular Article

I really don't know what to say
America has few opportunities for kids who are born poor, school has long been one of them

Other countries recognize that schools provide upward mobility, detect child abuse, provide a hot meal, educate kids, allow them to develop socially

While the European union has bent over backwards to open schools, in the US we have seen massive school opposition

The schools that are open are not based on scientific factors (rate of transmission/ hospitalization), but by political factors (do they hate trump - close; strong unions - closed)

The mantra used is that schools are a threat to kids and teachers

Recently the Swedish experience came out and that showed that schools are remarkably safe

It showed incredibly low risks to students and teachers from open schools (without even masks!)

https://t.co/ocB8hRtFSz

> REAL data on schools from Sweden
> Schools open Mar-June
> 2 mil kids
>
> No MASK

Soc distancing
No HVAC renos

No change in death for kids
15 -> ICU
0 deaths from COVID

RR of being teacher & requiring ICU for covid
= 1.10 (95% confidence interval [CI], 0.49 to 2.49

[thread] pic.twitter.com/5AzhceIFGL

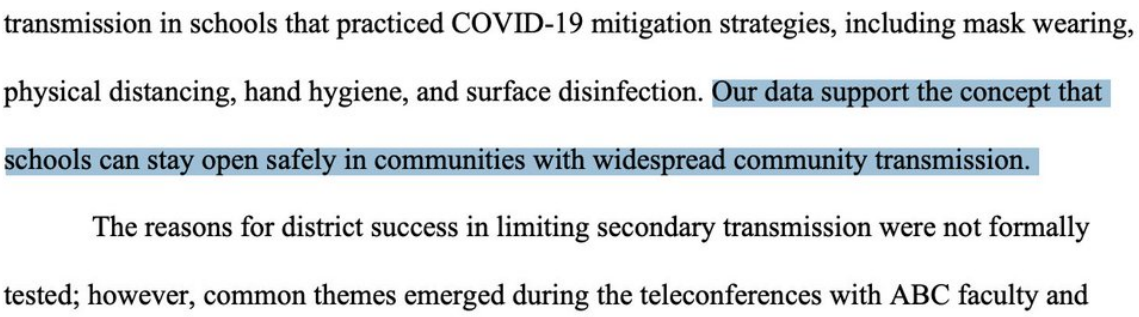
— Dr. Vinay Prasad MD MPH, Associate Professor (@VPrasadMDMPH) January 7, 2021

Yet, many said this doesn't apply to the USA b/c well, the USA can never learn anything from another country; we instead must rely on theoretical concerns & twitter accounts that engage in fear-mongering or are unappreciative of trade-offs

Now, of course, a new paper appears in Pediatrics, with incredibly low in school transmission rates despite community spread

" Our data support the concept that
schools can stay open safely in communities with widespread community transmission"

https://t.co/PJpKGXLrMV



transmission in schools that practiced COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including mask wearing, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and surface disinfection. Our data support the concept that schools can stay open safely in communities with widespread community transmission.

The reasons for district success in limiting secondary transmission were not formally tested; however, common themes emerged during the teleconferences with ABC faculty and

"Our data support the concept that
schools can stay open safely in communities with widespread community transmission"

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schools can stay open safely in communities with widespread community transmission"

Limitations

Yes of course we can design larger, more representative and bigger studies, we can even randomize school reopenings

That's what sensible people would do @AtleFretheim

But where we are emotionally is so far from this

Folks are living in denial

Again, I approached this as a policy person starting from neutrality
This is where I end up
After weighing tradeoffs

My journey

https://t.co/xiU8yU8hO0

> My view on schools-- they ought be open in all but rarest instances-was reached from late summer to fall, when I spent considerable time examining the risk of virtual schools to kids vs. the risk of in person schools to kids, teachers, community
>
> Here is my journey
>
> [thread]
>
> — Dr. Vinay Prasad MD MPH, Associate Professor (@VPrasadMDMPH) January 8, 2021

Oh, and just to make it absolutely clear, so we can all agree, North Carolina appears to be in the United States.

(Pic)

