

Office of the Executive Dean

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August 5, 2021

Parents,

I recognize both personally and professionally the challenges of this back-to-school period — a time we had hoped would be the finale to this pandemic but instead has welcomed a new wave of an infectious iteration.

Temple has proactively taken a leadership role since the very beginning, and I've been honored to serve as a counsel for its careful, thoughtful strategy to combat COVID-19. Its school-wide symptom protocols and dedicated onsite testing for families and faculty are top-notch. Further, on a relational level, Temple's approach considers every variable for the benefit of every Temple member — both you and me.

I believe that the current approach adopted for the educational programs for children at Temple appropriately balances the potential risk of infection with the benefits of an in person educational experience — an experience which has tremendous value for our children. While we cannot ever make the risk of infection go to zero — even with the most careful precautions — the strategies adopted are scientifically sound and place the safety of children first. Furthermore, please know that we are regularly evaluating data and best practices from around the country and the world and are ready and willing to adapt as new information becomes available.

Thank you for trusting Temple and for your role in the fight against COVID-19. Your concern and care are appreciated by the entire medical community. Importantly, please note that the opinions expressed herein are mine and mine alone and may or may not reflect the position of my employer.

Best,

Scott E. Strome, MD

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