

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF UTAH



The House Majority Caucus had a robust discussion with Governor Cox and his staff this afternoon. We listened to the data he presented and share his concern about limited hospital capacity and a shortage of healthcare personnel. During the meeting, the governor requested the Legislature form a working group to collaborate with the executive branch in addressing these issues. Members of our caucus are committed to working with the administration to find solutions.

The governor did not ask for a statewide mask mandate and we agree. It is important to clarify, the Legislature has not banned masks or mask mandates. Conversely, we have established policies empowering local health departments to coordinate with county governments to address their respective needs—including the needs of the schools—based on changing conditions. Those measures could include policies specific to individual schools, Test to Stay, or mask mandates. Based on feedback from superintendents during a meeting last week, we remain confident that local health and county officials are the appropriate decision-makers with respect to this issue.

During the meeting, members of our caucus presented several additional measures that should be taken to protect Utahns. Delivering clear and accurate information directly to parents related to conditions in their children's respective schools will greatly enhance their ability to make informed decisions. Additionally, placing added emphasis on increasing vaccination rates among 12 to 18-year-olds will have a significant impact on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our secondary schools.

We recognize the pressure this pandemic has placed on our healthcare workers over the past 18 months and sincerely thank them for their dedicated service. Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones. We encourage Utahns to consult with their medical providers regarding the benefits of vaccination and commit to do their part to reduce the burden on our healthcare system.

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