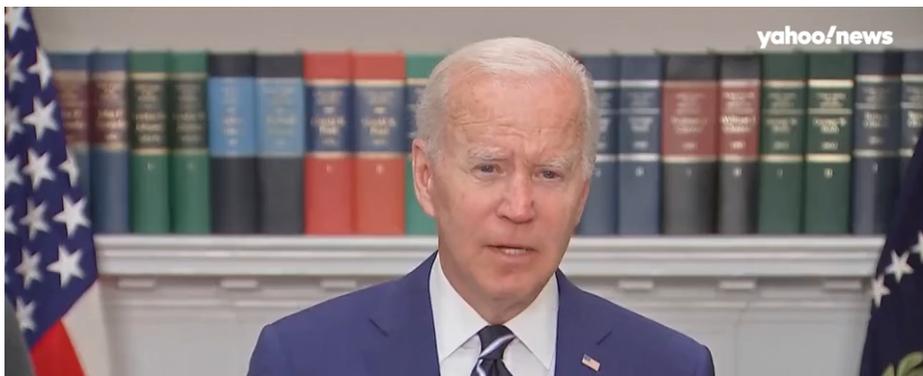


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'The emergency phase of COVID-19 is over': Doctors' group urges Biden administration to revise guidelines for children



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• Senior White House Correspondent

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WASHINGTON — A group of prominent doctors and educators has asked the Biden administration to lift pandemic-related measures that could be causing children to miss school and other activities.

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sent by Urgency of Normal — a group that has argued for a steady return to pre-pandemic behaviors — to Dr. Ashish Jha, director of the White House pandemic response team, and Rochelle Walensky, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The CDC’s COVID-19 school guidelines continue to cause significant disruption to children’s education and to working parents, while providing no demonstrable public health benefit in limiting COVID-19 spread. These policies have serious unintended consequences,” the Urgency of Normal letter argues.



Students arrive at Budlong Elementary School in Chicago in January. (Jose M. Osorio/Chicago Tribune/Tribune News Service via Getty Images)

The group is led by doctors including Lucy McBride, a Washington, D.C., physician, and Vinay Prasad, an oncologist at the University of California, San Francisco. Its efforts have been criticized by some progressives, but Urgency of Normal leaders have strenuously argued that they have no political agenda.

“We are calling for an end to vaccine and testing policies that exclude children from regular life,” McBride told Yahoo News in a text message. “Our goal is to help restore confidence in the human immune system, our amazing COVID vaccines, and in public health.”

Tuesday’s letter asks the CDC to do away with mass testing of children at venues like schools and camps in favor of a test-to-treat approach that seeks to identify children who



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Urgency of Normal also argues that the CDC should do away with its vaccination recommendation in the hope

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