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Statement from NYSACHO President Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, MA, FACP

“Governor Hochul’s swift action today to implement universal masking for K-12 schools is unquestionably the right step necessary to protect our communities. It’s a clear indication that she understands the imperative of following the science of public health and confronting the misinformation and lack of clarity that at times has exacerbated the impact of the pandemic.

“While vaccination remains the most important element necessary to defeat COVID-19, masking, and other actions such as distancing, hand washing and disinfection, have been proven to slow the spread of the virus, including the Delta variant.

“We could not be more pleased with Governor Hochul’s courage in taking this step. It signals a deeper understanding of the critical importance of our public health system.

“We look forward to working with the Governor to better address all of the public health threats and needs that local health departments contend with every day.”

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