

Contra Costa County School Boards Association

February 1, 2021

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and Department of Health Services,

We write to you with a collective call for the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and Health Services Department to: (1) immediately ensure that all education workers in Contra Costa County school districts, particularly those reporting to work in-person, have priority access to COVID-19 vaccines and (2) provide clear and consistent communications about how education and childcare workers are to receive their vaccines.

Federal, State, and local municipalities have emphasized how critical safe, open schools are to the economy and to public health. **In the depth of this global pandemic these claims regarding the health and safety of our school communities must be met by action.** *Prioritizing* education workers for vaccination distribution will greatly help school districts to finalize *return to school plans*. This also ensures the health and safety of teachers and staff who have been coming to work throughout the pandemic, or those who have taken leaves of absence to care for themselves or family members.

School employees are nodes in potential transmission networks. They are linked through their students and colleagues to hundreds of families. This places them at risk of infection and transmission.

Even in school districts that are in full distance learning, staff are currently at school sites and district offices working tirelessly to support students and families. They are distributing books and supplies, troubleshooting technology, preparing food, and assisting newcomer families. Like our healthcare workers, our **school employees are essential**, meaning their work cannot be done remotely.

It is no secret that vaccine rollout in California is a struggle. However, we believe school districts can partner and be part of the solution. Our districts are ready, willing, and able to support County public health efforts.

Vaccinating school employees immediately will greatly help our public schools continue to provide distance learning, provide crucial community support, and safely reopen or keep open our schools.

Sincerely,

Cherise Khaund, President

Contra Costa County School Boards Association

*Titles below are for identification purposes only, and do not represent a vote of each school board

Contra Costa County School Boards Association

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Janelle Chng, Board President
Moraga School District

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Jeremie Ginelli, Board President
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Mister Phillips, Board President
West Contra Costa Unified S. D.