



association of california
school administrators



December 18, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Vaccination Priority for School Educators

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned statewide educational organizations, we write to urge your Administration to prioritize the vaccination of California's educators. We appreciate the proposed inclusion of educators within the Phase 1b vaccine distribution by the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee and encourage the state to adopt that proposal.

The meaning of "educators" is critical and must include *all local educational agency employees* due to the ecosystem of individuals necessary for schools to successfully serve students. This includes our certificated employees (teachers) and our critical classified and support staff, including nurses, substitute teachers, paraeducators, food service and transportation professionals, custodians, site administrators, and others.

Prioritizing the vaccination of educators will have an immediate societal impact and help mitigate the severe inequities experienced by children and their families during this pandemic. For California's children, the absence of the routines, relationships, and resilience provided by our schools has been lost. Schools have largely been closed since March of 2020, resulting in significant hardship to students' development and social-emotional wellness. Our most vulnerable students are even falling further behind, including students with special needs, students who rely on schools for meals, English learners, and students from low-income families.

Access to K-12 and early education has a multiplier effect on the state's economy, especially for lower-income parents and guardians, for whom schools perform a childcare function. Reopening schools, when safe, will allow families to return to work and revitalize California's economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Alejandre, President
California County Superintendents Educational Services
Association
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Wesley Smith, Executive Director
Association of California School Administrators

Tatia Davenport, Executive Director
California Association of School Business Officials

Dennis Meyers, Assistant Executive Director
California School Boards Association

Tim Taylor, Executive Director
Small School Districts' Association

cc: Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Erica Pan, Acting State Health Officer, Co-Chair of CVAC
Nadine Burke Harris, MD, MPH, California Surgeon General, Co-Chair of CVAC
Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate Speaker pro Tempore
Honorable Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker