

## **Statewide Minimum Reopening Guidelines Phasing in In-Person Services Safely**

*Brought by BFT Executive Officers: Matt Meyer, President; Janine Waddell, Vice-President; Angela Reed, Secretary and Cynthia Allman, Treasurer*

Whereas, Covid 19 cases continue to occur in the City of Berkeley and the Bay Area;

Whereas, there is neither a vaccine nor a cure for Covid 19;

Whereas, individual testing for Covid 19 infection, including prompt communication of results, is not yet quickly and widely available;

Whereas, there is growing consensus that prolonged contact in unventilated spaces creates a greater likelihood of transmission;

Whereas, there is growing consensus that maintaining physical distance from other people reduces the likelihood of transmission;

Whereas, there is growing consensus that the wearing of masks and frequent hand washing or sanitizing reduces the transmission of Covid 19;

Whereas, neither the federal nor state government has committed adequate financial or material resources to assist schools in creating safe and healthy school environments;

Whereas, the BFT membership holds a variety of opinions on when it is best to return to sites;

Whereas, a phased-in approach will allow for a safer reopening of sites;

Whereas, BFT does not believe that those unwilling to work 'in-person' should have to do so;

Whereas, our statewide alliance, the California Alliance for Community Schools, is advocating for a consistent approach to reopening schools in order to build state power.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that BFT return to sites based on the same standards of other education unions in the California Alliance for Community Schools in order to continue to put pressure on the county and state to provide adequate testing and contact tracing in our communities. *See conditions below.*

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT advocate that any 1:1 services or small cohort in-person services will be conducted by members who 'opt-in' and that no member will be forced to work 'in-person' if they choose not to. If there are no members 'opting-in', the service or instruction will not be available in-person.

**Be it further resolved**, that county cohort sizes are too high and agreements on cohort sizes will be made with those participating in the services.

**Be it further resolved**, that any 'in-person' service is considered a pilot and can be halted by request of the union based on BUSD failure to adhere to Health and Safety contractual agreements.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT continue to fight for the Health and Safety protocols passed in the [Health and Safety Resolution](#) last July.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT advocate that in-person instruction will not resume until there is widespread and accessible COVID-19 testing available to students, families and staff.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT will advocate that all employees and students participating in 'in-person' services be tested initially and at regular intervals.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT continue to push the District to offer childcare for our members that need it in order to perform their job duties.

**Be it further resolved**, that no students should be forced to participate in 'in-person' services.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT support members with leaves and accommodations.

**Be it further resolved**, that Pre-K classrooms are considered in the same phase as TK, K and 1st grade.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT will work with any subgroup considered for Phase 1 services to determine specific health and safety protocols that need to be put in place.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT advocate that there will be a clear plan for a response that includes school closures, quarantine and contact tracing in the event that any infections occur on any school campuses.

To protect our students, community and all school staff, we must use science based standards before physically reopening schools. Schools can only physically reopen when our federal, state and local governments work together to prioritize and fund testing and contact tracing to suppress the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. The science-based standards outlined below are from a [Harvard Global Health Institute report](#) and study by the [Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy](#) written by public health experts.

**County Level :**

Level of Virus Spread:

- 1) There must be less than 4 daily new cases per 100,000 people in ***each zip code in the county.***

- 2) The positive test ratio must be 3% or less for ***each zip code in the county.***
- 3) The R0 must be less than 1 in the county.

Testing:

- 4) Anyone must be able to get access to a free test regardless of symptoms and be able to make an appointment within 24 hours.
- 5) Patients must be notified of their test results in 24 - 48 hours.

Contact Tracing:

- 6) There must be 30 contact tracers per 100k or 5 tracers per every confirmed new case (whichever is higher). Contact tracers must be trained and worked directly with the County and State Public Health Department.
- 7) 75% or higher percent of index cases must give contacts.
- 8) Trace time must be 24 hours or less and the time from contact tracing program to test of contact must be 24 hours or less.
- 9) More than 90% of identified contacts must be traced, tested, and in quarantine, isolation or active monitoring.

**District Level:**

Testing:

- 1) If a member believes they have been exposed or have tested positive, impacted members and union leadership must be notified of possible exposure within 12 hours.
- 2) The district must coordinate testing with the county so if members request testing (even if asymptomatic) they are able to easily schedule appointments (within 24 hours). If members can not get a test, they should be on paid administrative leave until one is available.

Contact Tracing:

- 3) The district must coordinate with the county to establish district based contact tracers. Contact tracers should notify union leadership and members of possible exposure within 24 hours.
- 4) Any staff member who must quarantine (whether exposure happened on campus or not) will be given paid administrative leave for 14 days + time for a negative test result.