

## **Protecting the Health and Safety of Students and School Staff**

*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, and a Shelter in Place Order remains in effect for the City of Berkeley and Alameda County;

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, it is still unclear the role that children and teenagers play in the transmission of Covid 19;

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, 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 advocate that in-person instruction will not resume unless both the Berkeley and Alameda County Departments of Public Health lift the Shelter in Place Order and allow the resumption.

**Be it further resolved**, that BFT advocate that in-person instruction will not resume unless confirmed cases and hospitalizations are decreasing in both the City of Berkeley and Alameda County for at least 14 days.

**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.

**If the above criteria are met** then in-person instruction can begin in a manner that minimizes the risk of cases at school sites which includes the following components:

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that Unit members who are high risk (CDC list) or who live with people who are high risk shall be allowed to work from home.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that students and staff are screened upon entry every day, including taking temperatures and that everyone will be asked to sanitize their hands as they enter.

**Be it further resolved** that BFT advocate that any person on school grounds who appears to have symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival to school or who becomes sick during the school day shall be sent home immediately and that there are specific places where students who feel ill can be isolated safely.

**Be it further resolved** that BFT advocate that if in-person instruction does resume, no classroom will be used unless it has windows and/or doors that can be safely opened for ventilation and/or a portable air filtration device.

**Be it further resolved** that BFT advocate that at least 6 feet of physical distance between student seating will be required, and the number of students allowed in each classroom will reflect the actual usable size of the classroom.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that all staff and all students over the age of 5 will be expected to wear masks unless they have a medical reason why this is not possible, and that BUSD provide masks for students who do not have them.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that BUSD will provide adequate handwashing and/or sanitizing facilities and supplies for all classrooms and buildings.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that BUSD will provide adequate supplies and protocols for cleaning and disinfecting for schoolwide and classroom surfaces and materials.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that no adults other than school staff will be allowed in classrooms.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that all staff meetings, professional development, conferences and Back to School events will be virtual.

**Be it further resolved,** that BFT advocate that any time there is an unfilled sub assignment the students in that classroom will NOT be “farmed out” to other classrooms and if needed those students will be asked to stay home.

**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.