



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

L.A. County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director
L.A. County Department of Public Health
5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

SUBJECT: Support for Vaccination of Teachers in Tier 1B

Dear Governor Newsom, Supervisors, and Dr. Ferrer:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes thanks you for your continued efforts to make the COVID-19 vaccine as widely available as possible. We appreciate the enormous logistical undertaking of distributing the vaccine to eligible residents across California and Los Angeles County, especially given the extremely limited supply of available vaccine.

As a result of state direction that in-person classroom instruction may resume in mid-February, we request that teachers continue to be prioritized for vaccinations in Tier 1B or sooner.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Southern California Chapter 2 expresses pediatrician support for the safe reopening of schools, citing recent studies that document schools have reopened safely during the pandemic, while millions of California students continue to experience the negative impacts of prolonged school closures. See "Pediatricians call for California schools to open immediately," February 3, 2021 at https://aapca2.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-Release_AAP-CA2_Call-For-Schools-to-Open_2.3.21.pdf.

The concerns expressed by the American Academy of Pediatrics on the impacts to our youth with remote learning is alarming and immediate measures should be taken to

minimize potential long term impacts to our youth. We have confidence in our schools' abilities to open safely and continue to express support for expedited return to in-person instruction for all grade levels during the spring semester.

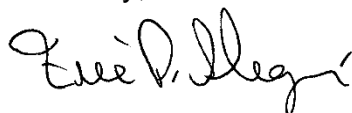
The vaccination of our teachers is an essential step to safely returning to in-person instruction. According to state epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan, the current estimation for distributing the vaccine to currently eligible recipients could take until June, in which case teachers and students may not be vaccinated until after the conclusion of the school year. See "Vaccinating Californians 65 and older may last till June, pushing back timetable for others," January 20, 2021, at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-20/vaccinating-all-residents-65-and-older-could-take-up-to-5-months-top-public-officials-says>.

The City is working with local business and medical partners to increase the number of vaccination sites on the peninsula, and has offered several locations for vaccine distribution. Additionally, the Superintendent of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District has expressed a willingness to offer locations for the vaccination of teachers.

Returning to in-person instruction must continue to ensure a safe environment for both teachers and students. Vaccination is an essential safety measure, in addition to measures such as regular testing, face coverings, physical distancing, and small cohorts. To ensure the safety of our teachers, our students, and our communities, vaccinations for teachers must be a priority.

Thank you again for your efforts to effectively distribute the vaccine. As we continue on the path to recovery and begin to move into Tier 1B, teachers must be recognized for their essential work and remain among the next in line to receive the vaccine.

Sincerely,



Eric Alegria

Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

cc: Ben Allen, Senator, 26th State Senate District
Al Muratsuchi, Assembly Member, 66th Assembly District
Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Dr. Alex Cherniss, Superintendent, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
Palos Verdes Faculty Association