



CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 10, 2020
TO: City Council and Members of the Public
FROM: Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
SUBJECT: **Urging Prioritization of Public-School Educators For COVID-19 Vaccine Access**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

I respectfully request that the City Council adopt the following legislation: A Resolution Urging Governor Newsom And The California Department Of Public Health To Prioritize California Public School Educators For Phase One COVID-19 Vaccine Access.

Early in this pandemic, school districts and educators across the state stepped up and adapted to the significant challenges caused by school closures by shifting towards new online distance learning formats despite the unprecedented nature of the public health crisis, and despite the historic underfunding and disinvestment of public education in California. The disproportionate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American families, including higher rates of job loss and COVID-19 infections, have only exacerbated the educational challenges and learning gaps that students of color have had to endure during this crisis.

Providing vaccines to all school site personnel, including teachers, paraprofessionals, janitors, and other support staff, will be one important key to reopening schools safely and preventing school-based outbreaks of COVID-19, along with testing, contact tracing, improving ventilation in schools, creating support for small and stable cohorts of students, and other mitigation measures.

California state health officials are developing a phased distribution plan to determine which segments of the population will be prioritized for receiving the COVID-19 vaccines first. The state has only announced its first priority group to receive the initial wave of vaccinations, which include frontline health care workers and the residents and staff of long-term care facilities. It is still unclear where educators will fall under the state's priority ranking, which will be decided over the coming weeks. Ensuring immediate vaccine access for our school personnel will be key to any discussion of schools reopening safely.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember, District 2