

# California Legislature

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Prioritization of educators for vaccinations.

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to you to respectfully request that you consider including teachers and essential school staff as part of the first batch of vaccines delivered to the state under the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Plan.

The State of California has been faced with a set of extraordinary circumstances over the last nine months due to the COVID-19 crisis and will likely continue to face many more challenges as we step into 2021. Now, with the news that the state is beginning to receive doses of vaccinations, it is critical that we include our teachers and educators in the initial round of vaccinations along with first responders so that we may begin to stem the flow of learning loss and elevated academic disparity that has become commonplace in schools across the state and that is becoming more profound and felt across my District.

School districts all over the state have reported a wide range of issues stemming from closures and distance/virtual learning, the vast majority of which affect the ability of our school-age children to retain knowledge and learn new concepts. These developments are particularly alarming when the length of time that our children have already been away from their classrooms is not likely to change in the near future.

As parents and state representatives, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we mitigate the harm that has occurred to learning and our classroom environments during the pandemic as much as is possible. By prioritizing vaccinations for teacher and educators, we can ensure that the classroom setting is once again safe and productive, that learning-loss and pandemic produced disparities no longer occur and begin to put the COVID-19 era behind us.

Sincerely,



CARLOS VILLAPUDUA  
Assemblymember, 13th Assembly District