

TIMELINE: How APT Exposed the CDC's Collusion with Teachers' Unions That Kept Kids Out of School

DECEMBER (2020)

- 8th – Joe Biden [pledges](#) to reopen most schools during his first 100 days in office.
- 20th – CDC panel [votes](#) to give frontline essential workers – including teachers – access to vaccines after healthcare workers.

JANUARY

- 17th – Three days [before](#) being sworn in, Rochelle Walensky [tells](#) CBS that she and Joe Biden share the goal of ensuring K-8 schools reopen in the first 100 days.
 - WALENSKY: “You know, I think that this is a-- and-- a goal that the President-elect has. I share the goal. We are going to look carefully. One of the things we want to do is make sure that we can vaccinate our educate-- our educators and people in our school systems. We certainly don't want to open schools if they are not safe.”
- 21st – Joe Biden [releases](#) national COVID-19 response strategy that includes strategy to prioritize reopening K-8 schools.
- 26th – CDC researchers [state](#) there is “little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission.”
- 30th – Four days after the CDC found schools were not meaningfully contributing to the spread of COVID, Walensky [begins](#) calls with teachers' unions on the school reopening guidance.

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD)
Sent: Sat, 30 Jan 2021 00:39:14 +0000
To: O'Connell, Dawn (HHS/IOS);Pearlman, Aj (HHS/IOS);Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS);Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO
Cc: Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD);Schuchat, Anne MD (CDC/OD);Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD);Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI)
Subject: RE: Revised: Draft School Guidance

Quick update: Rochelle and Carole started teacher union calls today. I think there may be one more to schedule on Monday. [REDACTED] (b)(5)
[REDACTED] (b)(5) Thank you
(And, a HUGE thank you to Carole for all of her help this week navigating the EOs)

FEBRUARY

- 1st – A day after a call on school reopening guidance, AFT [thanks](#) CDC for “rich discussion” and for “openness” to suggestions from Randi Weingarten, including being “able to review a copy of the draft guidance document over the weekend” and were “able to provide some initial feedback” to “strengthen the document.”

From: Kelly Trautner, Health Issues <ktrautne@aft.org>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Martin, Carmel EOP/WHO (b)(6) Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <yeu4@cdc.gov>; Tracey-Mooney, Maureen EOP/WHO (b)(6) McIntee, William T. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Okolo, Osaremen F. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Gonzalez, Noe EOP/WHO (b)(6)
Cc: Michelle Ringuette, Office of the President <mringuette@aft.org>; Jane Meroney, Legislation <JMeroney@aft.org>; Beth Antunez, Legislation <bantunez@aft.org>; Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, Educational Issues <mucelli@aft.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AFT Follow up

Good evening, Colleagues:

Thank you again for Friday's rich discussion about forthcoming CDC guidance and for your openness to the suggestions made by our president, Randi Weingarten, and the AFT. We are hopeful that lines of communications will remain open, and that we can serve as a true thought partner as you continue the important work toward safe reopening of schools.

You will recall that Randi committed to provide Dr. Walensky and the group with suggested language on the issue of accommodations for staff who are either themselves in the high-risk category, or for those who reside with a high-risk individual. We crafted the language below using a NIOSH document, as well as language in some of our agreements with school employers. Thank you for considering it.

- Employers should provide reassignment, remote work, or other options for staff who have documented high-risk conditions or who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19

to limit the risk of workplace exposure. Options for reassignment include telework, virtual teaching opportunities, modified job responsibilities, environmental modifications, scheduling flexibility, or temporary reassignment to different job responsibilities. These options should likewise be extended to staff who have a household member with documentation of a high-risk condition or who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Policies and procedures addressing issues related to teachers and other staff at higher risk of serious illness should be made in consultation with occupational medicine and human resource professionals, keeping in mind Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) concerns.

Finally, we were able to review a copy of the draft guidance document over the weekend and were able to provide some initial feedback to several staff this morning about possible ways to strengthen the document. We are grateful for the agency's effort to bring some measure of organization and framework to guidance. We are likewise grateful for the inclusion of some of the mitigation efforts we have been calling for since last year. It is our hope that we can be engaged early in the process moving forward, as we believe our experiences on the ground can inform and enrich thinking around what is practicable and prudent in future guidance documents.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions or desire additional dialogue.

Warm regards,

Kelly

Kelly D. Trautner
Director | Health Issues
(she/her/hers)
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- 3rd – Walensky [emails](#) AFT and others to assure them that their suggestions were “being worked into (with just a few small tweaks) the school opening guidance,” thanking them for their “partnership.”

From: "Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)" <aux7@cdc.gov>
Date: February 3, 2021 at 12:04:56 PM EST
To: "Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO" (b)(6) "Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCCO/OD)" <sob8@cdc.gov>; "O'Connell, Dawn (HHS/IOS)" <Dawn.OConnell@hhs.gov>
Cc: "Martin, Carmel EOP/WHO" (b)(6) "Tracey-Mooney, Maureen EOP/WHO" (b)(6) "McIntee, William T. EOP/WHO" (b)(6) "Okolo, Osaremen F. EOP/WHO" (b)(6) "Gonzalez, Noe EOP/WHO" (b)(6)

"Michelle Ringuette, Office of the President" <mringuette@aft.org>, "Jane Meroney, Legislation" <JMeroney@aft.org>, "Beth Antunez, Legislation" <bantunez@aft.org>, "Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, Educational Issues" <mucelli@aft.org>
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Dear All,
I just wanted to circle back and extend my gratitude for the language you have provided us below. Regrets for my delay in reply but I wanted to be certain you knew it is being worked into (with just a few small tweaks) the school opening guidance. We have also included the executive summary you suggested.
Please know we are listening and working hard to ensure your confidence and partnership in this endeavor.
My very best,
Rochelle

- 3rd – AFT [thanks](#) Walensky for her team’s “responsiveness” and “commitment to partnership” with them.

From: Kelly Trautner, Health Issues
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:36 PM
To: aux7@cdc.gov; Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO [(b)(6)] sob8@cdc.gov; dawn.oconnell@hhs.gov; Martin, Carmel EOP/WHO [(b)(6)] Tracey-Mooney, Maureen EOP/WHO [(b)(6)] McIntee, William T. EOP/WHO [(b)(6)] 'Okolo, Osaremen F. EOP/WHO' [(b)(6)] Gonzalez, Noe EOP/WHO [(b)(6)]
Cc: Michelle Ringuette, Office of the President <mringuette@aft.org>; Jane Meroney, Legislation <JMeroney@aft.org>; Marla Ucelli-Kashyap [(b)(6)] Beth Antunez, Legislation <bantunez@aft.org>
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Dr. Walensky,

Thank you so much for your responsiveness to the suggestions made by Randi and our team. We are immensely grateful for your genuine desire to earn our confidence and your commitment to partnership. We will pass this message along to Randi. She will certainly be most grateful.

We look forward to continued dialogue and partnership as we continue our respective focus on safe reopening of schools and society.

Kind regards,

Kelly

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- 7th – Walensky and Randi Weingarten [have](#) a 15 minute call.

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD)
Sent: Sun, 7 Feb 2021 18:05:18 +0000
To: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS); Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS); Scales, Scott L. (CDC/OD/OCS)
Cc: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
Subject: RE: Request for today please

Ok thank you, I think 15 min is plenty

From: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <veu4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>; Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>; Scales, Scott L. (CDC/OD/OCS) <ixj3@cdc.gov>
Cc: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for today please

Just heard from Randi. She can be on a call at 2PM today. I will send an invite now and have her call Dr. Walensky's mobile.

Kindest Regards,

Lynn

Wisdom is knowing the right path to take; Integrity is taking it.

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <veu4@cdc.gov>; Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>; Scales, Scott L. (CDC/OD/OCS) <ixj3@cdc.gov>
Cc: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>
Subject: Request for today please
Importance: High

Can you see if we can get a 15 min call between Rochelle and Randi today? Maybe reach directly to Kelly to get her contact info? Thank you

- 7th – AFT and NEA [ask](#) the White House and CDC for help shaping their press strategy ahead of school guidance release.

From: McIntee, William T. EOP/WHO
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Saenz, Adrian EOP/WHO (b)(6) Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <veu4@cdc.gov>; Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>; Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) <FJRO@cdc.gov>; Schuchat, Anne MD (CDC/OD) <acs1@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Teacher roundtable

Good morning,

I'll check with NEA/AFT. That might be a tough time for teachers to meet in the middle of the school day, but we'll see what they can do.

They also had a few comms-related questions, could we please get these answers to these for them?:

- They'd like to tweet ahead of the meeting to say something to the gist of "The CDC has invited a group of AFT/NEA teachers to meet with the Director on safe school reopening this Monday. What information would you like our members to relay to the CDC Director in the meeting?" (b)(5)
- They'd like to coordinate on a readout press release after the meeting. They are battling stories being written that unions and the Administration are locking heads over the safe school reopening plan, so they think it would be helpful for there to be a positive readout of the meeting from both sides afterwards. (b)(5)
- They'd also like 2-3 staff to join the call from each union (political, digital/comms, and policy staffers) with cameras off, but so they can listen and jump in on any answers their members might not have. (b)(5)
- They'd like to be able to either tweet during or after about the meeting. (b)(5)

Thanks!
Will

- 8th – Emails [show](#) the Biden administration is considering "labor issues" and "teacher contract negotiations" as a part of their reopening guidance.

From: Baker, Michael (OS/IEA) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021
To: Pearlman, AJ (HHS/OS) <[REDACTED]>; Figueroa, Marvin (HHS/IEA) <[REDACTED]>; Tatem, Anne (HHS/OS/ASL) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: School Guidance Rollout
Importance: High

Hey team –

Just got off a call with the White House and Department of Education regarding the school reopening guidance that is projected to roll out on Friday. We have some homework assignments:

1. Try to think through and aggregate any people that have sent us incoming on school reopening (whether that is mayors, govts, Members, stakeholders, etc). We want to have them lined up for consideration by EOD tomorrow for touches.
2. Eduardo is going to connect with AJ on some of the mayor/labor union issues that are ongoing across the country. We need to think about this in the broader context of teacher contract negotiations.
3. Marvin, we should also be thinking about supplementing the Governor and mayor outreach that Eduardo wants to plan.
4. Anne – by 4pm WH Leg Affairs, Ed Leg Affairs, and HHS Leg Affairs needs a general ranking/prioritization of who on the Hill needs touches.
 - a. The 4pm cutoff is so that Elizabeth Jurinka (WH Senate), Alicia Molt-West (WH House), Molly Peterson (Ed), and us (HHS) have seen each other's lists before the next meeting tomorrow evening.
5. We will need to begin a tick tock that outlines all of the notifications being made, Hill/stakeholder calls being held, etc. The relative "go time" seems to be the 11am WH briefing. Dr. Walensky should be mentioning it there.
6. One area that I raised on the call that I want to check with CDC and Ben Wakana on is lining up pediatrician validators. I don't know if CDC has already done this, but I think it would be a good opportunity to get buy-in.

Happy to cover this in the 9am, or to pull together a separate call in the morning to discuss the HHS asks. Let me know!

Thanks!
Michael

Michael Baker
Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- 11th – AFT [emails](#) Rochelle Walensky suggesting new language for the CDC's forthcoming guidance on reopening schools.

From: Kelly Trautner, Health Issues <ktrautne@aft.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>; Johnson, Carole A. EOP/WHO <[REDACTED]>; Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>; dawn.oconnell@hhs.gov; Martin, Carmel EOP/WHO <[REDACTED]>; Tracey-Mooney, Maureen EOP/WHO <[REDACTED]>; McIntee, William T. EOP/WHO <[REDACTED]>; 'Okolo, Osaremen F. EOP/WHO' <[REDACTED]>; Gonzalez, Noe EOP/WHO <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Randi Weingarten, Office of the President <rweingar@aft.org>; Jane Meroney, Legislation <JMeroney@aft.org>; Marla Ucelli-Kashyap <[REDACTED]>; Beth Antunez, Legislation <bantunez@aft.org>
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Dr. Walensky:

Thank you for your continued openness to our suggestions and input. We would like to share some thoughts regarding the paragraph below which was apparently leaked from the imminent guidance on reopening schools:

"At any level of community transmission, all schools can provide in-person instruction (either full or hybrid), through strict adherence to mitigation strategies. Recommended learning modes vary to minimize risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in school by emphasizing layered mitigation, including school policies requiring universal and correct mask use. The recommended learning modes (in-person, hybrid) depend on the level of community transmission and strict adherence to mitigation."

It would be great to see the insertion some variation of the following: "In the event high-community transmission results from a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, a new update of these guidelines may be necessary."

We are deeply concerned about likely implications this language will have in schools where strict adherence to mitigation strategies is lacking or is impossible to implement, particularly those schools in high-density, crumbling infrastructure areas, and particularly when community transmission is high. We don't believe that any current research has demonstrated that all schools in those areas can safely reopen.

In light of the new variants of the virus, we are concerned the absence of a closure threshold might put safety of adults and kids in school settings. There is not yet conclusive research to support that keeping schools open in those countries would have been a safe decision, though the Imperial London model seems to show infections among secondary school students in the UK spiked when the new variant began to spread. And we also know that, while infection rates are beginning to drop, the B117 variant is expected to cause a sharp uptick in infections- even becoming the predominant variant by March. The UK was forced to close schools in the wake of the variant spread; Germany had to make a similar decision to close schools. When teachers and school staff see that [travel restrictions](#) are being considered in the U.S., we expect even more hesitation about in-person learning. Even a "variant closing metric" would go a long way in allaying hesitation and fears related to reopening.

We really want to lend our efforts to helping restore faith in the CDC, and we believe you are off to a great start. We must, however, urge the inclusion of clear closure triggers in the imminent guidance. Provisions providing for when schools should close, like what is in place in New York City, instill some degree of confidence for those who are hesitant about returning to school. Embedding such a threshold bolsters transparency and is a must for ensuring parents and administrators can plan for a surge like we have seen in Great Britain and in Germany.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you and your team.

Kelly

Kelly D. Trautner

Senior Director | Health Issues

(she/her/hers)

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- 11th - CDC officials [work](#) to set up "technical discussion" with NEA/AFT to talk through "CDC operational strategy."

From: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
Sent: Thu, 11 Feb 2021 22:00:19 +0000
To: Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD)
Cc: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCCO/OD)
Subject: Re: AFT/NEA Closing the Loop

Perfect. Will do. Will try to reach them before I board. Thank you!

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From: Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) <FJR0@cdc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 4:52:56 PM

To: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>

Cc: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCCO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>

Subject: AFT/NEA Closing the Loop

Greta and team will reach out to NEA/AFT this evening to set up a technical discussion tomorrow with both groups to talk through the CDC operational strategy. Targeting 1130am so they have time to digest prior to the 2pm release.

Feel free to make that offer when you talk to them this evening and say CDC will be reaching out later tonight to set it up.

Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH
CAPT, US Public Health Service
Acting Associate Director for Communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
O: 404-498-0756 | C: 404-747-5988
E: fjr0@cdc.gov

- 12th - Flurry of emails show CDC officials actively [working](#) to insert language, as requested.

From: Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <hfw3@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Yes, will work with team

From: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 6:57 AM
To: Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <hfw3@cdc.gov>
Subject: FW: AFT Follow-up

(b)(5)

R

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 6:50 AM
To: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>; O'Connell, Dawn (HHS/IOS) <Dawn.Oconnell@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: AFT Follow-up

Flagging, for possible follow up. Thanks

From: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
Sent: Fri, 12 Feb 2021 17:13:48 +0000
To: Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI)
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Super, thank you for doing that (b)(5)
I'm so grateful for your help.
Hill calls have been going well (and there have been a lot of them!)
R

From: Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <hfw3@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <aux7@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: AFT Follow-up

Yes see below, new is second paragpah

(b)(5)

- 12th – CDC [sends](#) teachers' unions an embargoed copy of the school reopening guidance prior to public release.

From: Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) <FJR0@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Frey, Meghan T. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DIP) <wpk5@cdc.gov>; Heldman, Amy B. (CDC/OD/OADC) <evd4@cdc.gov>; Massetti, Greta M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP) <ghz6@cdc.gov>; Sauber-Schatz, Erin K. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DIP) <jge7@cdc.gov>; Williams, Kymber (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DASH) <knw0@cdc.gov>
Cc: Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) <meh0@cdc.gov>; Haynes, Benjamin (CDC/OD/OADC) <fxq2@cdc.gov>; Ana Toro, (CDC/OD/OADC) <pvq1@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Materials round up - media briefing

HHS said they are comfortable if we want to send something out at 145 we can. I am going to send the strategy and FS to the unions at 145. If you all want to send the FS to partners at that time that is fine. Amy, lets send FS to press at 145.

From: Jones, Christopher M. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD)
Sent: Fri, 12 Feb 2021 18:46:48 +0000
To: NEA Becky;Randi Weingarten, Office of the President
Subject: CDC operational strategy
Attachments: 322649-B_K-12_Operational_Strategy_FS_4.5.pdf, 12.33pm WEB K-12 Operational Strategy_2021-2-21.pdf

Hi Becky and Randi,

Thanks again for your continued partnership and input. Attaching a PDF version of the operational strategy that will post today (some formatting might change slightly when on the web). Also attaching a short fact sheet. Embargo lifts at 2pm. I know not much lead time, but wanted to send your way as soon as I was able.

Chris

Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH
CAPT, US Public Health Service
Acting Associate Director for Communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
O: 404-498-0756 | C: 404-747-5988
E: fjr0@cdc.gov

- 12th – CDC [unveils](#) new guidance on reopening schools and Education Department [releases](#) volume 1 of guidance for in-person learning.
 - Walensky [claims](#) that the release is “free from political meddling”
- 12th – AFT follows with a [press release](#) saying “CDC met fear of the pandemic with facts and evidence.”

MARCH

- Walensky [blocks](#) off time in her schedule to meet with AFT and NEA to further discuss school guidance.

MAY

- 1st – New York Post [reports](#) on emails obtained by APT showing NEA/ AFT meddling in crafting CDC school reopening guidance.
- 13th – CDC [announces](#) fully vaccinated American could stop wearing masks indoors and outside.
- 14th – NEA informs White House and CDC that their union plans to criticize the end of the mask mandate without direction for schools. Both components pledge to [work](#) with NEA.

From: Dinkel-Smith, Erika S. EOP/WHO [redacted]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOD/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>; Hussain, Farhana P. EOP/WHO [redacted]; Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <yeu4@cdc.gov>; Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>
Cc: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <yeu4@cdc.gov>; Harris, Seth D. EOP/WHO [redacted]; Butterworth, Zach Z. EOP/WHO [redacted]; Wakana, Benjamin L. EOP/WHO [redacted]; Saenz, Adrian EOP/WHO [redacted]
Subject: RE: [redacted]

Hi Sherri –

Would you know when Dr. Wolensky would be able to call NEA-Pres. Becky Pringle? They've gotten significant incoming and are getting targeted for a response from the media. I've gotten them to hold on their statement calling for clarification.

Feel free to call me: [redacted]

Thanks,
Erika

Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:33 PM
 To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOD/OD) <so8@cdc.gov>; Hussain, Farhana P. EOP/WHO
 (b)(6) Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <yeu4@cdc.gov>; Williams,
 Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>; Molina, Jennifer EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 Cc: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <yeu4@cdc.gov>; Harris, Seth D. EOP/WHO
 (b)(6) Butterworth, Zach Z. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 Wakana, Benjamin L. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Saenz, Adrian EOP/WHO
 (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: (b)(5)

+Jenn
 NEA just sent me the following draft statement:

We appreciate the developing nature of the science and its implications for guidance, but releasing the new guidance without accompanying school-related updates creates confusion and fuels the intentional politicization of this basic health and safety issue. CDC has consistently said, and studies support, that mitigation measures, including to protect the most vulnerable, remain necessary in schools and institutions of higher education—particularly because no elementary or middle school students, and few high school students, have been vaccinated. This will also make it hard for school boards and leaders of institutions of higher education to do the right thing by maintaining mitigation measures. We need CDC clarification right away.

- 14th – Rochelle Walensky’s calendar shows [meetings](#) with national union bosses, including AFT’s Randi Weingarten, about the updated masking policy.

May 14, 2021

Friday

May 2021							June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

Time	Event
	FRIDAY
	14
	From May 12 Teleworking
	FOR MATERIALS ONLY (4:30-4:40PM) Joining ASTHO SHO Call
	FOR MATERIALS ONLY Secretary's DAILY COVID BRIEFING - Topic: India - Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
	FOR MATERIALS ONLY 1:1 Introductory Meeting w/ Dr. Trevor Mundell, BMGF (TFAMS) - Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
7 AM	Media: CBS This Morning (6:30AM) NBC Today (6:40AM) ABC GMA (7:00AM); Videolink West Newton Studio 1230 Washington Street, Walensky, Rochelle
	Transit to Residence
8	Prep for Call w/ Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO); (b)(6) Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
	Prep for Deputies Call; (b)(6) Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
9	Phone Media: McClatchy Interview; Paul will call RW at 9 a.m., add reporter at approx. 9:05 a.m.; interview concludes approx. 9:20 a.m.; Walensky, Rochelle
	Call w/ Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO); (b)(6) Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
10	Secretary's DAILY COVID BRIEFING - Topic: India; Zoom; OS Scheduling (HHS/OS)
	Media prep; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Tumphey, Abigail (CDC/DDPHSS/CSEL) (10:45AM) Call w/ Sen. Cindy Hyde Smith (R-MS)
11	LUNCH; (b)(6) Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
	Webcam Mount Set Up; Zoom - link below; Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
12 PM	Media: TIME for Kids (Note: Paul will call at 12:00PM, interview starts at 12:05PM); Zoom link below NOTE: Paul will call RW at 12:00PM, and we will log
	Virtual: 1:1 Introductory Meeting: Dr. Trevor Mundell, BMGF and Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)
1	4 RW Zoom Recordings- JOIN FROI (b)(6) (1:05PM) Social Media Taping (3-5 mins) Taping: Asian Pacific A Virtual; Walensky, Rochelle (CDC)
	Additional Time for RW Recording (2-3 mins) Taping: Johns Hopki Taping: (30 Sec) POB Video Launch Virtual; Walensky, Rochelle (CDC)
2	(2:15-2:30PM) Call Bonnie Castillo (Executive Director, National Nurses L (2:30-2:45PM) Anthony "Marc" Perrone (President, United Food and Con (2:45-3:00 PM) Call w/ Mary Kay Henry, Pres. SEIU; Direct/Call (b)(6)
3	(3:00-3:15PM) Call w/ Lee Saunders President, American Federation of S 3:15-3:30 PM Randi Weingarten President, American Federation of Tea
	Senate LHHS Hearing Prep #2 Public Messaging Decisions; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Meaney Delman, Da
4	(b)(6) (4:45-5:00PM) Becky Pringle President, National Educators Association
5	BLOCK - Do Not Schedule
6	

- 14th – CDC [tells](#) White House that they had met with Randi Weingarten and Becky Pringle.

Thank you, Sherri. I'll reach out on the staff level to follow up on the msg.

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCCO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Dinkel-Smith, Erika S. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Wakana, Benjamin L. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Molina, Jennifer EOP/WHO (b)(6) Hussain, Farhana P. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <veu4@cdc.gov>; Williams, Teresa (CDC/OD/OCS) <coo4@cdc.gov>; Berner, Kate EOP/WHO (b)(6) Munoz, Kevin EOP/WHO (b)(6)
Cc: Gershman, Lynn E. (CDC/OD/OCS) <veu4@cdc.gov>; Harris, Seth D. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Butterworth, Zach Z. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Saenz, Adrian EOP/WHO (b)(6) Rowe, Courtney M. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
Subject: Re: (b)(6)

Update on my end: left four messages and spoke with Randi and Becky. Thanks

- 15th – CDC [tightens](#) masking guidance, saying people should wear a mask at school regardless of vaccination status.