



The Baltimore Teachers Union believes in person learning should be expanded **only when it's safe**. We define safety based on the health metrics put forward by the CDC and City Schools own community indicators. On every major indicator we remain in the highest risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools category, and far beyond City Schools' own decision-making tree category of "limited or no in person programs." Additionally, the vast majority of facilities have not been adequately equipped with ventilation upgrades needed, and staff have not been vaccinated.

Taken altogether, to set an arbitrary reopening date regardless of the public health data and preparedness of our facilities is an irresponsible decision that will jeopardize human life, in particular the lives of our black and brown students who disproportionately live in intergenerational homes. We urge the district to follow the science on these high stakes decisions.

#### **Longform Statement with Citations:**

The Baltimore Teachers Union believes in person learning should be expanded **only when it's safe**. We define safety based on the health metrics put forward by the CDC and City Schools own community indicators. [City Schools' decision making tree](#) first says to look at the positivity rate, where there's a stated threshold of 5%, [we're currently at 7%](#). Next you look at the case rate per 100k over the last week, and if we're over 15 cases per 100k then we should have limited to no in person learning. We're currently at 41.2 cases, **almost triple the threshold!** Additionally, the [CDC's core indicator for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools](#) is # of cases per 100k over the last 2 weeks. Baltimore city's rate is [over 500](#) as of 1/4, meaning **you could cut our case rate in half and we'd STILL be in the highest risk of transmission in schools category.**

Finally, our facilities are inadequately equipped. 117 schools are merely "scheduled" for their MERV-13 filters and air purifiers, and [only 15 schools have had their work "completed"](#). This all supposes that air filters and purifiers are sufficient, when we know that many of these buildings lack adequate air flow and air exchanges. Keep in mind City Schools had a [3 billion dollar backlog](#) in essential facility maintenance work BEFORE the pandemic.

Taken altogether, to set an arbitrary reopening date regardless of the public health data and preparedness of our facilities is an irresponsible decision that will jeopardize human life, in particular the lives of our black and brown students who disproportionately live in intergenerational homes. We urge the district to follow the science on these high stakes decisions.