



August 11, 2021

Mr. Ben Ward, Executive Director
Ms. Amy Mizialko, President
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
5130 West Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Mr. Ward and Ms. Mizialko:

My role as the City of Milwaukee Health Commissioner is to provide good public policy and practice as advised by authoritative organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. I have consistently followed these sources for public health policy to guide my decision-making. There are multiple special interests the Milwaukee Health Department is expected to counsel for identifying related best practices. We strive to respond to not only individuals, but organizations that partner with us in promoting credible public health policy. Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is, and continues to be, a critical and valued organization to our work. We have responded to all stipulations and requests for customized support from not only the district's administration, but the governing board as well. When we support those two branches of the school district, we consider ourselves to be supporting MPS. We were not aware that there was yet another constituency, namely the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA), which is within the district that would counter the understanding that we are responding to and working with the school district.

We strongly agree with the statement in your letter, *"...We believe that serious and consistent requirements for all schools should include masking, distancing, improved ventilation, as well as the establishment of enforceable metrics for when remote instruction should take place to contain outbreaks and an elevated regime for testing, isolation, and contract tracing until Milwaukee returns to low transmission and the vaccine has been widely distributed to all students."* I would go as far as to request that MPS, MTEA, the Board of Directors, and support staff, follow the recommendation of one of the national teachers' unions, that all educators be vaccinated and in-person for the start of school.

I reached out some time ago requesting to receive information and plans from whom I hope are the correct individuals within the district. However, I am still waiting for that information and a meeting to be scheduled. Also, if I misunderstood meeting with Dr. Posley and Ms. Bronaugh was out of sync with expectations, please do not hesitate to let me know who I should meet with instead. Since it appears we are not in conflict with what we consider the path forward, I look forward to working in conjunction with MPS leaders and staff, students and their parents, to achieve a successful school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Johnson".

Kirsten Johnson, MPH, CPH, CHES
Commissioner of Health