



February 8, 2021

**ADDRESS**

**Dear :**

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, two key priorities set by the Board of Trustees and Plano ISD Administration were to support efforts to ensure public health and to maintain our outstanding workforce. Our teachers, administration and staff have gone above and beyond and are to be commended for their valiant efforts to provide an excellent education to every student whether they are learning in the classroom or at home.

In December when the vaccination groupings were released and educators were not part of the plan for “front line” group 1A or the next 1B group, it caused a great deal of concern on the part of our educators. Our schools have opened; we do not have the choice to work from home to serve students. In addition, we have been told over and over that if we are to get our economy back on track and deal with the increasing concerns of social and emotional health, schools must remain open with as much face-to-face interaction as possible. We agree, but we also think our staff needs to have priority status in the vaccination equation.

In Plano ISD, once prioritization for vaccinations was rolled out by the State, we immediately began to apply to become a vaccination site. Our first two applications were denied and we are continuing to work on our refrigeration system so that we can become a vaccination site for our employees. In the meantime, we pivoted and sought partner organizations to administer the vaccines to our Plano ISD 1A and 1B groups. We are hopeful that some of these partnerships will help speed up the vaccination process for these staff members. In addition, although it would not net any preferential treatment for our own staff, the District volunteered its stadium for free as a site for the County/City to become a super site for vaccination. Plano ISD is actively supporting all efforts to protect our community.

Every step of the way, Plano ISD has tried to do everything possible to maintain public health and take care of its employees. When we hit roadblocks, we seek alternative solutions. Every bit of this effort takes time, manpower, money and persistence. For the good of our employees, we continue to persist. We have partnered with every group we could find to feed families, engage parents, and provide broadband internet and technology devices without complaint. We have applied, reapplied, and worked to find vaccination partners. It is time to show our school district employees that they are essential workers who should have priority in the vaccination plans. In this regard, we ask for your support:

- Prioritize teachers and school employees in an earlier vaccination group
- Provide resources to school districts with vaccine-ready refrigeration equipment to become vaccine providers if they elect to do so

We support any effort that allows school districts to become vaccination sites if they choose to apply and we support the prioritization of school staff in the vaccination process. We would gladly speak with you at any time on this very important topic.

Sincerely,

*Sara M. Bonser*  
Sara M. Bonser, Superintendent