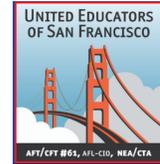


Media Advisory for Noon, Jan. 5, 2022

Media Contact: Cassondra Curiel ccuriel@uesf.org, 415-696-2493 & Frank Lara (se habla español), flara@uesf.org, 415-676-9720



San Francisco Educators Say District Has Created a COVID Test Crisis

To Keep Schools Open Safely, Union Offers to Help with Test Distribution

News Conference on Wednesday at Noon

SAN FRANCISCO—The United Educators of San Francisco will hold a news conference Wed., Jan. 5, to lay out a framework for keeping school buildings open safely amid the latest COVID-19 surge and will respond to the school district’s inept and negligent handling of COVID-19 testing and distribution of test kits at schools. As infections soar, more than 620 San Francisco educators were out on Jan. 4 alone, exacerbating an existing staffing crisis that puts the city’s students at a disadvantage.

UESF President Cassondra Curiel said the school district has refused to develop a plan for handling the latest surge of COVID-19, which is necessary to keep students, their families, educators and school staff safe and school buildings safely open. Currently, district management does not require students, educators or other school staff members to show a negative test result (unlike neighboring districts) and lacks a plan for distributing the impending test shipment expected later this week.

To fill the void in decision-making, the union and the city’s Labor Council president will once again offer a plan to get the tests distributed as soon as they are delivered to the district’s warehouse.

“Our goal is to keep school buildings open safely, and that requires regular, accessible testing and guaranteed COVID sick leave,” Curiel said. “The district could have avoided this crisis with forethought and a sincere interest in keeping schools open and kids and educators safe. There have been serious gaps in judgment. But we can all turn it around so that we can give our students the opportunity for a smooth school year. UESF and our labor colleagues are offering to do our part. We hope SFUSD and the city can step up to the challenge.”

WHAT: News conference
WHEN: Noon, Wednesday, Jan. 5
WHERE: In front of San Francisco Unified School District offices, 555 Franklin St.
WHO: UESF President Cassondra Curiel
San Francisco Labor Council Executive Director Kim Tavaglione

###