

CWS – Covid-19 Workplace Safety

WHEREAS, the coronavirus is a global pandemic threatening the health, safety, and economic well-being of the people we represent and those we serve; and

WHEREAS, temporary school building closures due to COVID-19 highlighted and exacerbated existing inequities within the education system caused by polarization, privatization, and cuts to public education funding, and added to the challenges many students already face in their daily lives, such as food scarcity and insufficient housing, child care and health services; and

WHEREAS brain science tells us that healthy cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of students must be our focus; and

WHEREAS, we are at a critical moment when we must move toward opening & closing of school buildings based on science and continuing West Virginia public education—not as it is today or as it was in the past but as it can be—as the center of democracy and the cornerstone in our community where every child can succeed:

RESOLVED, that AFT-West Virginia will continue to advocate for the health & safety of our teachers, school service personnel, and students by supporting the following:

- **Data & reporting based on science, public health recommendations, and CDC guidelines to determine workplace safety protocols, practices, and procedures.**
- **Metrics determining school closures and openings that are developed and supported by nationally acclaimed public health professionals and are based on sound science as supported by the larger healthcare community.**
- **Timely and accurate contact tracing from the local health departments and local boards of education.**
- **Immediate notification of positive cases & exposure.**
- **The application and practice of not using an employee's accrued sick days or personal days when they must quarantine as determined by their employer or the local health department.**
- **Call on each county Board of Education & Superintendent to use their authority under 18A-5-2 to close any school that meets the above criteria for an unsafe work environment & meets the calamitous clause provision.**