The members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association remain committed to creating safe in-person learning environments in all of our public schools. Doing so as cases of COVID-19 surge — amid the presence of the highly transmissible omicron variant — requires a comprehensive strategy.

As of today, the state is not providing adequate plans or resources to educators, school districts or communities. We must act ***now*** — and act together — to ensure that we can give our students a high-quality education while protecting our communities.

**Your local educators urge you to contact Governor Charlie Baker and state Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley and demand the following:**

* Weekly testing in districts statewide for educators and students — vaccinated and unvaccinated.
* Immediate steps to address the major staffing problems in many districts — including the critical shortage of nurses and the overwhelming demands on them — and initiatives to address the need for personnel to do testing and contact tracing.
* Providing local districts with the flexibility to determine when brief periods of remote learning are appropriate for that district, based on COVID-19 absenteeism and staff shortages. ***And counting those days as time on learning.***

**Please share your views and your stories about the impact of rising infection rates and the realities of what is needed to safely keep schools open by contacting:**

**State Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley**

[*commissioner@doe.mass.edu*](mailto:commissioner@doe.mass.edu)

781.338.3111 or 781.338.3100

**Governor Charlie Baker**

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office>

617.725.4005

**The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

[*BoardofEducation@mass.gov*](mailto:BoardofEducation@mass.gov)