

# CAUSE ADVISORY

## Baseless Public Statements from CUSD's Administrators CUSD's Spins Its COVID Response

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Dear Superintendent Rigby, Principal Persoon, & District Staff / Faculty:

It is imperative that District personnel know what our students and families are told about the District's COVID mitigation efforts. Today, in a PARENT SQUARE posting that reads like District propaganda, Principal Persoon stated, "**We have now been in school 4 months without a documented in-school transmission of Covid.**" Last week, in Carpinteria's community-newsletter (*the Coastal View News*) Ms. Rigby shared the same sentiment.

Many have asked the Union, "**How could our administrators possibly declare such things?**"

Perhaps through similar carefully worded statements? In other words, there is no "**documented in-person transmission at Canalino,**" because the CUSD is not properly documenting and responding to the recent COVID surge and OUTBREAKS on our elementary campuses.

Of course, if District leadership believes otherwise, they could easily clarify by simply sharing the date that CANALINO and ALISO STAFF & FACULTY were comprehensively tested within 24 hours of the confirmed OUTBREAKS that occurred on these campuses. They could also share the dates of the follow up tests that were supposed to occur each week thereafter (*until the OUTBREAK conditions had been resolved*). The Union does not believe they will, because such rigorous contact-tracing never occurred.

These testing actions are a District mitigation obligation, as per CAL-OSHA, (*See guidelines below*). Without engaging in this level of contact-tracing, the CUSD could not possibly have collected and

reviewed sufficient data to understand the surge occurring on CUSD campuses. Yet, somehow, the CUSD's failure to perform these contact-tracing tests did not stop either our esteemed Principal or Superintendent from making such brazen and poorly informed claims to CUSD students, employees, and their families. Failing to manage the CUSD's mitigation responsibilities is already alarming and dangerous. But claiming and celebrating wild interpretations based on the absence of data... That is reckless. Staff, students, and their families not only deserve better, they are legally entitled to it.

Therefore, Union leadership is compelled to discourage District employees from relying on such administrative statements. **We ask that you make every effort to clarify your experiences with your colleagues, community members, and especially, student families.** Although we must not include confidential data and names of specific students/families in our conversations with parents, community members, and the media, the "1st Amendment" of the US Constitution protects an employee's right to share their experiences related to workplace safety, environment, and conditions.

Please, consider how you will use this 4 day weekend to clarify the record with District stakeholders and relevant governing authorities!

Respectfully,

~ jHotchner \* CAUSE President

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RESOURCES: (A), (B), & (C)

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**(A) Reporting opportunities:**

Below, CAUSE leadership is providing two resources; where staff, faculty, students, and families may report the current

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY violations to the external authorities responsible for supervising CUSD's mitigation obligations.

# 1 : California Department of Public Health

<https://caschoolsopening.powerappsportals.us/comments-and-concerns/?stepid=e7b29749-a555-eb11-a812-001dd801a230>

# 2 : The COMPLAINT Process for CAL OSHA (California Office of Occupational Safety & Health Administration)

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Complaint.htm>

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**(B)** As per, **Consolidated Schools Guidance.pdf**, an **OUTBREAK** is defined by ...

" **CDPH defines a school outbreak as 3 or more confirmed or probable cases of staff or students occurring within a 14-day period who are epidemiologically- linked in the school, are from different households and are not contacts of each**

other in any other investigation cases (e.g., transmission likely occurred in the school setting)."

The follow up from, **CAL/OSHA EMERGENCY STANDARDS**, defines the required response to the outbreak conditions experienced across the CUSD. It states...

" An outbreak occurs when there are three (3) or more COVID-19 cases at a worksite within a 14-day period. The outbreak persists until 14 days pass without any new COVID-19 cases. If an outbreak occurs at the worksite, all employees in the ex-posed workplace must be tested immediately and then tested again one week later. The employ-er must provide ongoing testing, at least once per week, for every worker who remains at the worksite for the duration of the outbreak."

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**(C) Recent PARENT-SQUARE**

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 9:39 AM Jamie Persoon via ParentSquare <[donotreply@parentsquare.com](mailto:donotreply@parentsquare.com)> wrote:

Canalino  
Elementary  
School

Jamie Persoon posted in  
Canalino Elementary School

## **Update from the Principal**

Campus Families,

I wanted to thank you for your diligence in following safety protocols and staying away from large gatherings and other high risk environments. I am pleased to report that Canalino/ CFS has not had a Covid positive student or staff member since February 1. So we are now 10 days without a case! This is great news. As I stated before, the cases have followed the county patterns and trajectories. We appreciate when you send your student to school on their cohort days when they are healthy and haven't been exposed to a positive Covid person. We also appreciate when you follow

guidelines when you keep your student home when they have symptoms or have been exposed.

**We have now been in school 4 months without a documented in-school transmission of Covid.**

The staff has done an outstanding job in maintaining health and safety with strict adherence to protocols. That being said, we are having FUN here at school, especially this week with the hundredth day of school, Valentine's math, writing, reading, and celebrating, and activities around Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. In fourth and fifth grade, the students are doing novel studies featuring diverse characters. Fourth grade is reading Esperanza Rising and fifth grade is reading Bud, not

Buddy.

We hope you have a relaxing and healthy four day weekend. We look forward to welcoming Cohort A on Tuesday, February 16, and Cohort B on Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19.

Best  
Jamie Persoon  
Principal

[View or Reply](#) [Appreciate](#)



**\* C.A.U.S.E. - Yes We Can ! \***

Feel free to visit our CAUSE website:

<https://cause2216.org/>

Your feedback and interest are appreciated!

*\* In the event you received this email and are not either  
a District Administrator, Board Member, or Union Member,  
please contact us immediately. We will remove you from this email group list. \**