



## **CMSD TO PROCEED WITH REOPENING DESPITE PUSHBACK FROM CLEVELAND TEACHERS UNION**

### **For immediate Release**

March 5, 2021

The District is aware that CTU has directed its members not to return to work, citing a number of non-specific concerns about the safety of our classrooms, schools and District.

CMSD has spent a great deal of time, effort and money, preparing our school sites with:

- ample Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for each school and classroom, additional cleaning and sanitation supplies for each school and classroom, hand sanitizer gel and disinfectant spray for every single classroom.
- enhanced sanitizing and cleaning procedures for every building.
- COVID-19-related signage.
- installation of Quarantine Centers for students and adults displaying COVID-like symptoms while at school.
- reconfigured classrooms, offices, cafeterias, restrooms, and other school facilities to meet social distancing requirements.
- updating of technology available to classroom teachers, including additional laptops, cameras, microphones, and earbuds.
- the enhancing of ventilation systems with higher-grade filters, the installation of portable air purifier units in older school buildings, and more.

The District is confident our buildings are safe and ready for learning next week, as planned. The District will continue to work

with CTU today and through the weekend to identify any specifically identified concerns in our buildings and classrooms.

The District believes teachers and other professionals have an ethical responsibility to return to their classrooms on Monday; however, we will not lock teachers out of their digital classrooms. While doing so may be an effective negotiating tactic to place pressure on teachers and the Cleveland Teachers Union, it would also be done at the expense of our students, and that is something the District will not do.

CMUSD will continue our current efforts to prepare our students and parents for the phased-in return to school we previously announced, with the full expectation that any specifically identified concerns of the Cleveland Teachers Union can and will be effectively addressed.