

PFT COVID-19 Update 7-29-20: Dr. Fauci & AFT- Florida Cases Spike- Misinformation-links

CORONAVIRUS Updates

AFT President Discusses COVID & Reopening with Dr. Anthony Fauci.

In a live Facebook event Tuesday evening, our national union president had the distinct opportunity to speak frankly with America's most respected infectious disease expert.

AFT President Randi Weingarten held an hour-long, one-to-one discussion with Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease—possibly one of the most informative and frank pieces of information you will find anywhere. As it relates to COVID-19, reopening, and facts about the science and reality of Coronavirus, this is truly must-see information.



[Click here to see the Q&A on AFT's Facebook page.](#)

Randi posed questions for PFT members from around the country to Dr. Fauci. Our nation's leading expert provided answers that were honest, direct, and backed by the still-emerging science of COVID research.

There are questions answered in this discussion that deal with community spread, wearing masks, teacher and student safety, whether or not children spread the virus, vaccine development and necessary “variable” reopening approaches.

These truths may be hard to accept for some people—however this quote sums up our persistent position on the matter:

“The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.”
— Neil deGrasse Tyson

CNN Segment Highlights the Information Challenges of Reopening.

In contrast to the above, when it comes to the coronavirus, we are seeing an exponential spread of misinformation and outright falsehoods by administration officials, news outlets, select state governors, national legislators and so-called “sources” on the internet.

CNN recently aired a segment that crystallizes the challenges facing all of us who want to trade in the marketplace of facts. The story is about the sudden spike in cases among children in the hotspot of Florida—a state with a mandatory school reopening in just a few weeks time.

In this story, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos completely lies about children being “stoppers” of the disease. We cannot afford these mixed messages and false truths from people in power—please [click here to view this story and video from CNN](#) in the hopes that truth can begin to win the day.

New York Times Briefing Features Story On Information Contagion.

It's a problem that's not going away.

For the District to finalize a reopening plan informed by input from the PFT and numerous stakeholders, and for all of us to move forward as a community and as a region in the safest way possible, we must be guided by accurate, validated information.



Today's briefing from *The New York Times* leads with a story dedicated to the mixed-message information challenge that has crippled and confused our nation's response to Coronavirus. The story is choked full of additional information links and hard truths about the misinformation that is impeding safe progress in our country.

[Click here to read the first story called “Information Contagion” in today's Times briefing.](#)

Don't Forget To Watch The Reopening Public Hearing Tonight At 5:00 PM.

The PPS Board of Directors is having a special public hearing on Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 pm. **Over 140 people have signed up to have their testimony heard; many many of them teachers!**

[Click here for Board Meeting information and directions on how to view meetings.](#)

[Click here to go directly to the district Livestream page and set a reminder.](#)

Tonight's meeting is set to receive comments on **only the Health and Safety Plan and the [resolution for remote learning](#)** the first nine weeks of the school year.

PFT President **Nina Esposito-Visgitis** added her thoughts on this subject this morning on *Channel 11 News*—[click here to view the story.](#)

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) (*login upper right*)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control](#)

[Allegheny County Health Department Rumor Control](#)

**** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Weekly ****

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here.](#)

Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity—

Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).