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To the Members of the Chicago Teachers Union:

The Illinois Nurses Association unequivocally supports your fight for school openings that take into account the safety of not just students, but the teachers, nurses, and additional staff it takes to make a school whole. Chicago Public Schools' plan disregards data that the Chicago Department of Public Health has published and obfuscates the outbreak occurring in schools currently open. Additionally, Mayor Lightfoot's call to extend the stay-at-home order, while maintaining that schools can open safely is a contradiction we cannot ignore. The city's current positivity rate is over 10%, but only for the areas that are performing enough testing to provide relevant data. There is dearth of testing in the city's Black and Brown neighborhoods, which we believe would raise that rate even higher.

We implore CPS and the Mayor's Office to renew talks with CTU and set thresholds that will allow for a true safe opening of schools. Until that agreement has been agreed upon and the threshold reached, remote learning must continue unimpeded.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors
Illinois Nurses Association