

My name is John “Woody” Woodruff, I have taught Science for 30 plus years, 16 of them in Christina schools. I am currently teaching Special Education Science at Newark High School.

As a Science teacher, I teach that lab safety is rule #1 in class. In fact, the state mandates that a lab safety unit is taught every year to protect our students and staff. With the pandemic, safety guidelines are even more important to know and follow.

As you may not be aware, nearly all Science classes are hands-on learning. This means shared equipment, crowded laboratories and classrooms, and other unacceptable situations under CDC rules.

Case in point, 3 examples of how Science classroom do not meet CDC standards

- 1) Most Science classroom are set up with Lab tables, not desks. 2 to 3 students are seated at each table with little room for social distancing at current class sizes.
- 2) My department has not had a new textbook in 15 years. We are reduced to sharing a classroom set of textbooks between 100 plus students.
- 3) Safety equipment like lab goggles, lab aprons or lab coats are shared between students. Face shields, gloves and even working safety showers or eyewash stations do not exist.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, please ladies and gentlemen of the board and Dr. Shelton, we are not ready to reopen safely. Teachers want to teach, but only when it’s safe!