Secretary Cardona Holds Virtual Roundtable with Early Childhood Stakeholders to Discuss Priorities for Early Learning

Today, U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona held a virtual roundtable conversation with a diverse group of early childhood stakeholders and leaders who bring perspective from the experiences of early educators, families, and communities during the public health emergency. Today's conversation will help inform the Department's early learning priorities. Topics that the early childhood stakeholders discussed included the early educator workforce, childcare and pre-K, early intervention and early childhood special education services, and family supports.

Secretary Cardona opened the discussion saying, "We know that this upcoming year is going to be critically important, and this conversation today is going to help shape some of the work that we do in early learning. We have the early learning heavyweights from across the country on

this call. I'd love your perspective on how we can build back bet-

think we've seen a renewed coming together of parents as teachers, and teachers, realizing

that upon that," said Joan Lombardi, senior scholar at Georgetown University and international expert on child development and social policy. "I can't reinforce enough how much we need to revolutionize the K-3 system ··· and the childcare and



at UC Berkeley they're in this together and I think you can build said, "We know in this country that 90% of other occupations are paid more than people who are working with our youngest children. And within that we know that we have some serious racial inequities and wage gaps. As we think about build-

ing back better, for me it really means having

Lea Austin,

director of the

Center for the

Study of child-

care employment

preschool discusthose educators who are the linchpin to early care sion · · · they and education quality, thriving and for these to be should be plangood jobs so that we have people clamoring to be ning together in early educators in this country.' a community.'

Secretary Cardona closed the conversation saying, "I want to go from these conversations to actually planning. Going back to what it was prior to March 2020 is not the goal; that's a low bar.

"I've visited about 11 states already during and after the tour, and those places that are doing the best are the ones that understand intentional collaboration; that doesn't mean you agree ··· but be intentional about making sure you're putting students at the center of the conversation.

"Supporting the development of our young children and families should be a community ef fort because when our children succeed, our com-

「輪爆疫! 打疫苗也感染



全員持陰性證明+疫苗證明登船的巨輪, 本應是 0 病毒的狂歡樂園

全球大流行爆發至今,已經過去15個月。 隨着各國接種疫苗規模不斷擴大, 越來越多的 人,開始期待顛覆的人生與命運回歸原位。

然而,今天,一件令人絶望的事情發生 一艘搭載上千人、全員接種疫苗的巨型

豪華游輪,在海上航行5天 後,突然爆出新冠疫情。已 接種過疫苗的感染者,毫不 知情的密切接觸者,立即遭 到隔離,大規模核酸檢測在 船上展開。前一秒還在狂歡 的乘客們,頃刻被恐怖氛圍

這艘號稱全球首個 "全員接種"的豪華游輪,叫 "名人千禧號"(Celebrity Millennium),隸屬皇家加勒 比公司,運營的固定航線中, 包括從加拿大溫哥華出發 的航線, 價格從\$1200到

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周六, 這艘游輪搭載着 600 名乘客和650名船員,從加 勒比海聖馬丁島出發。所有 船員以及16歲以上乘客在 登船前,都必須出示72小 時內的新冠檢測陰性證明, 以及已經完全接種新冠疫 苗的證明。

陰性證明 + 疫苗證明,每一 個登船的人,都有"雙重保 險"傍身。揚帆起航的名人 千禧號,在衆人眼中,應該是 0病毒的海上樂園。

作爲熬過疫情後首批重享 豪奢游輪之旅的乘客,大家

登船後都相當興奮。

人們或是宅在擁有海景落地窗的房間,或 是在船上泡泡溫泉,吃個大餐,擺拍或自拍,有人 健身,有人游泳曬太陽,允許下船的空檔,更是海

然而,這趟完美的航行,在第5天突然急轉

上兩名住在同一船艙 房間的乘客,查出了新 冠陽性。

按照規定,航行應 該在6月12日結束 所有乘客必須在下船 前,接受一次新冠檢測 並得到陰性結果。兩 名陽性乘客,就是這樣 被發現的。

一位女乘客透露 事發當時,她在岸上玩 完回到船上,就聽到船 上所有人都在驚恐地

議論有兩人查出陽性的消息。

更糟的是,該女乘客隨後接到工作人員通 知:兩名感染者,曾和她一道下船遊玩。在不知 不覺中成了密切接觸者的女乘客, 和其他多名 密切接觸者一樣,被要求回到自己的船艙房間. 等待接收檢測,並且在結果呈陰性前,不得擅自 離開。該女乘客稱,這場游輪爆疫事件,眞實證



明瞭,疫苗並非100%有效。兩名陽性乘客目前 仍在隔離中,受到游輪醫療團隊監測。

實際上,名人千禧號已經不是本周第一艘 爆出疫情的游輪。

另一艘名爲 "海岸線號"(MSC Seaside)的 游輪上,也出現了兩名感染乘客

和名人千禧號上的乘客不同,海岸線號上 的兩名陽性乘客, 並非一起

旅行。目前,兩人已經和各自 的同行者一起被隔離。這艘 游輪, 要求所有乘客登船前 必須接受兩次核酸檢測並呈 陰性, 但未要求乘客出示疫 苗接種證明。

無論如何,接種疫苗後,在不 斷變異的新冠病毒面前,也 不是鐵板一塊,這個令人不 太愉快的真相, 最好還是儘 快接受,並做出準備和應對。 曾經期盼的打完疫苗後,可 以重新安心坐飛機、坐游輪 的願望,現在看來,似乎無法 輕易實現了。





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