

# Special Board Meeting School Reopening Update

January 5, 2021



For the future of every student

# Major Interests

## A. Health and Safety of:

1. Students
2. Staff

## B. Benefits of returning to in-person instruction

1. Instructional and academic
2. Social and emotional
3. Enrollment
4. Economic for families



## Recent Developments in the Local Context

- A. Current COVID Pandemic Spike and its Impacts
- B. Operational Capacity to Sustain Hybrid Learning
- C. Governor's Newly Proposed "California's Safe Schools Plan for All"
- D. Current Projected Dates of Return and Timelines
  - 1. Elementary January 11
  - 2. Secondary January 26

# Health and Safety



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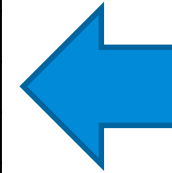
# State and Local Guidance

## – California Guidance and Evaluation Model

	Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission***			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Measure				
Adjusted Case Rate for Tier Assignment** (Rate per 100,000 population* excluding prison cases^, 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
Testing Positivity^ (Excluding prison cases^, 7 day average with 7 day lag)	>8%	5-8%	2.4-9%	<2%

# Data Release Timeline

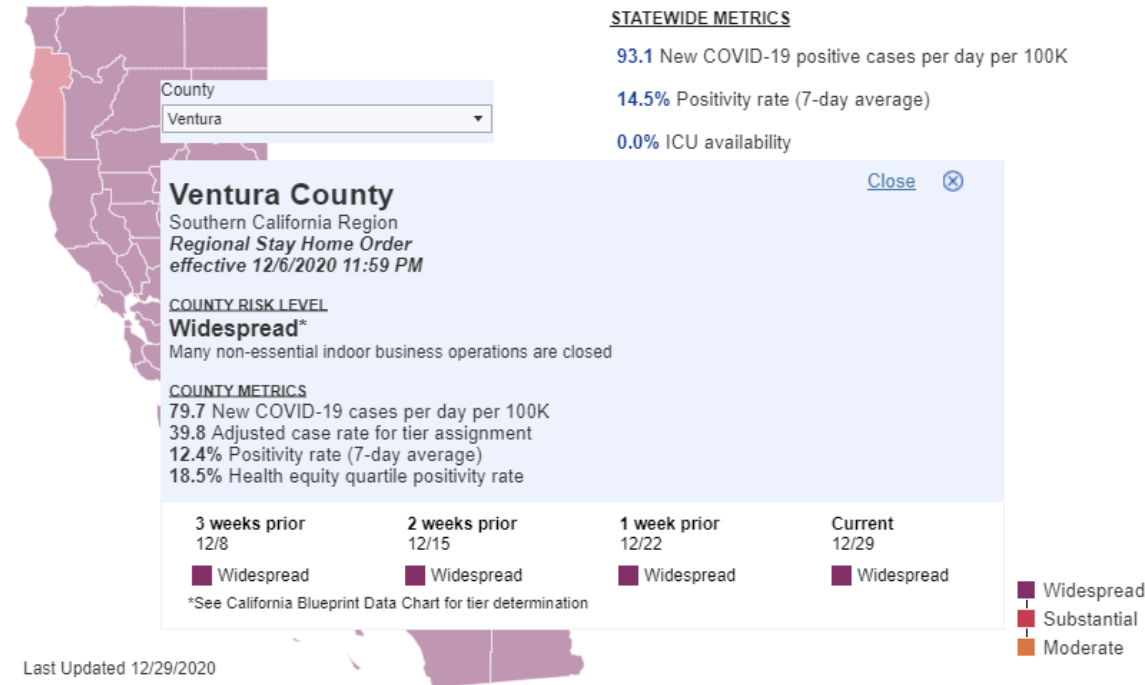
Actual Date of Data Determination	Release of Tier Data
12/5/2020	12/15/2020
12/12/2020	12/22/2020
12/19/2020	12/29/2020
12/26/2020	1/5/2021
1/2/2021	1/12/2021
1/9/2021	1/19/2021
1/16/2021	1/26/2021
1/23/2021	2/2/2021
1/30/2021	2/9/2021
2/6/2021	2/16/2021
2/13/2021	2/23/2021
2/20/2021	3/2/2021
2/27/2021	3/9/2021
3/6/2021	3/16/2021
3/13/2021	3/23/2021
3/20/2021	3/30/2021
3/27/2021	4/6/2021
4/3/2021	4/13/2021



# Current Status of Ventura County Posted as of December 19, 2020 (Most Recent Data Available)

## Current tier assignments as of December 29, 2020

Tier assignments may occur any day of the week and may occur more than once a week. Select a county to see what region it's in.



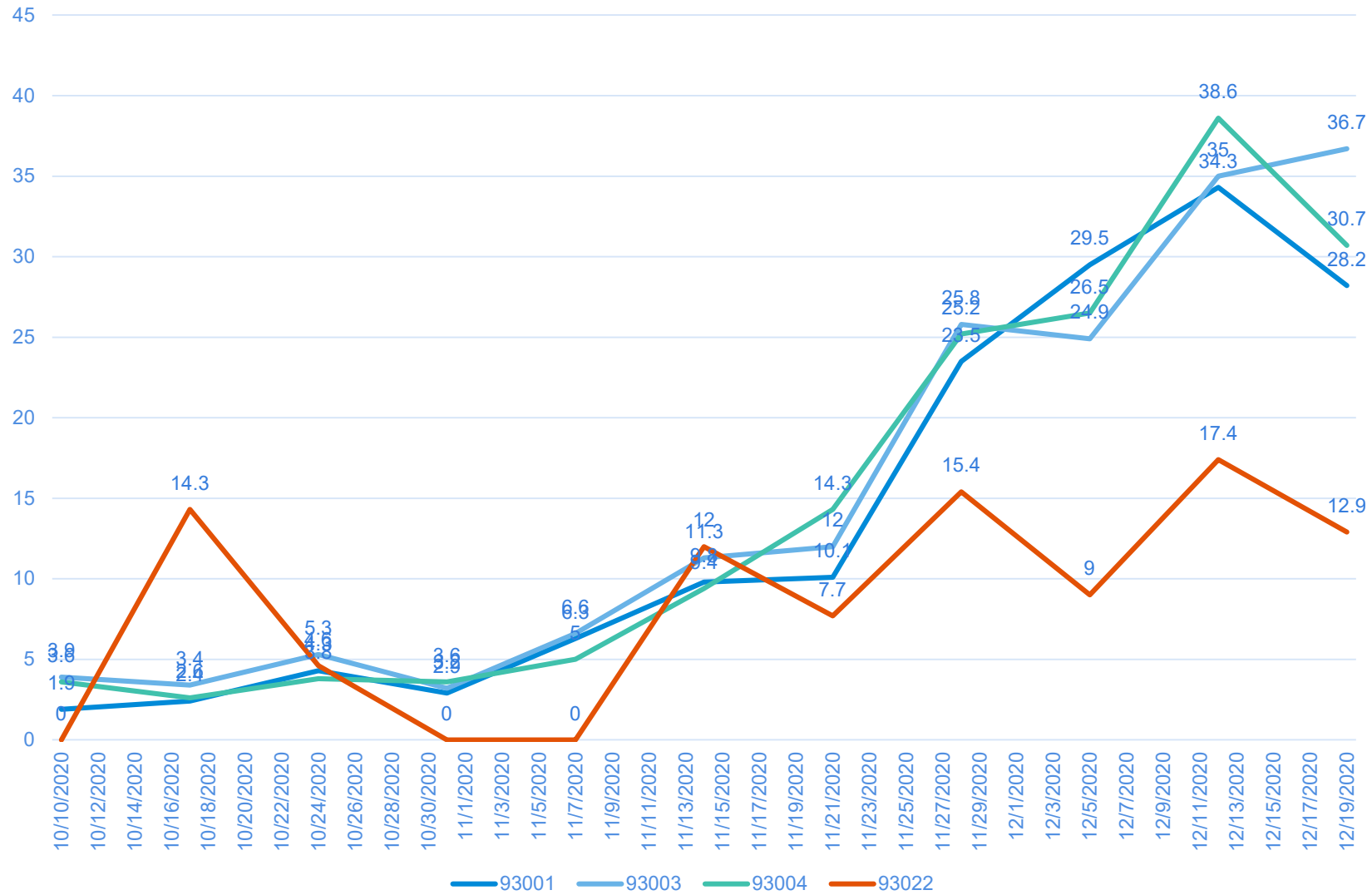
Blueprint Metrics Ventura County\_Week End December 19th

City/Zip	7 Day Average Case Rate for Week Ending December 12th w/ Adjustment	7 Day Average Case Rate for Week Ending December 19th w/ Adjustment	7 Day Average Positivity Rate for Week Ending December 12th	7 Day Average Positivity Rate for Week Ending December 19th
91307 - Bell Canyon	3.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
91320 - Thousand Oaks/Newbury Park	42.6	29.2	11.6%	7.4%
91360 - Thousand Oaks	28.1	36.8	7.5%	8.7%
91361 - Thousand Oaks/Lake Sherwood/Westlake	8.7	8.0	4.7%	4.3%
91362 - Thousand Oaks/Westlake	19.4	17.0	6.4%	5.6%
91377 - Oak Park	4.5	12.0	1.9%	4.8%
93001 - Ventura	34.3	28.2	8.2%	7.0%
93003 - Ventura	35.0	36.7	6.1%	7.3%
93004 - Ventura	38.6	30.7	9.9%	7.6%
93010 - Camarillo	26.6	31.2	6.8%	7.4%
93012 - Camarillo/Santa Rosa Valley	16.9	20.1	5.6%	5.2%
93015 - Fillmore	58.1	61.4	12.7%	12.8%
93021 - Moorpark	28.8	26.5	9.1%	8.0%
93022 - Oak View	17.4	12.9	4.7%	3.6%
93023 - Ojai	18.7	23.9	4.8%	5.6%
93030 - Oxnard	64.0	60.1	14.3%	15.1%
93033 - Oxnard	64.9	65.6	16.1%	17.4%
93035 - Oxnard	32.4	34.0	8.8%	9.3%
93036 - Oxnard	52.2	58.0	12.4%	14.3%
93040 - Piru	83.6	81.9	19.8%	16.3%
93041 - Port Hueneme	32.4	40.5	9.6%	13.4%
93060 - Santa Paula	68.9	67.4	15.2%	15.2%
93063 - Simi Valley (Santa Susana)	40.4	34.5	11.0%	9.1%
93065 - Simi Valley	43.8	39.6	11.5%	10.6%
93066 - Somis	25.4	20.5	8.3%	7.2%
Health Equity Metric - Lower HPI Quartile	N/A		16.8%	18.5%
Ventura County	40.9	39.8	12.6%	12.4%

Purple: Highest-risk tier Positivity rate 8%+ and case rate of 7 new cases per 100,000  
Red: Second highest-risk tier Positivity rate 5-7.9% and case rate of 4-6.9 new cases per 100,000  
Orange: third highest-risk tier Positivity rate 2-4.9% and case rate of 1-3.9 new cases per 100,000  
Yellow: Lowest risk tier Positivity rate less than 2% and case rate of less than 1 new case per 100,000

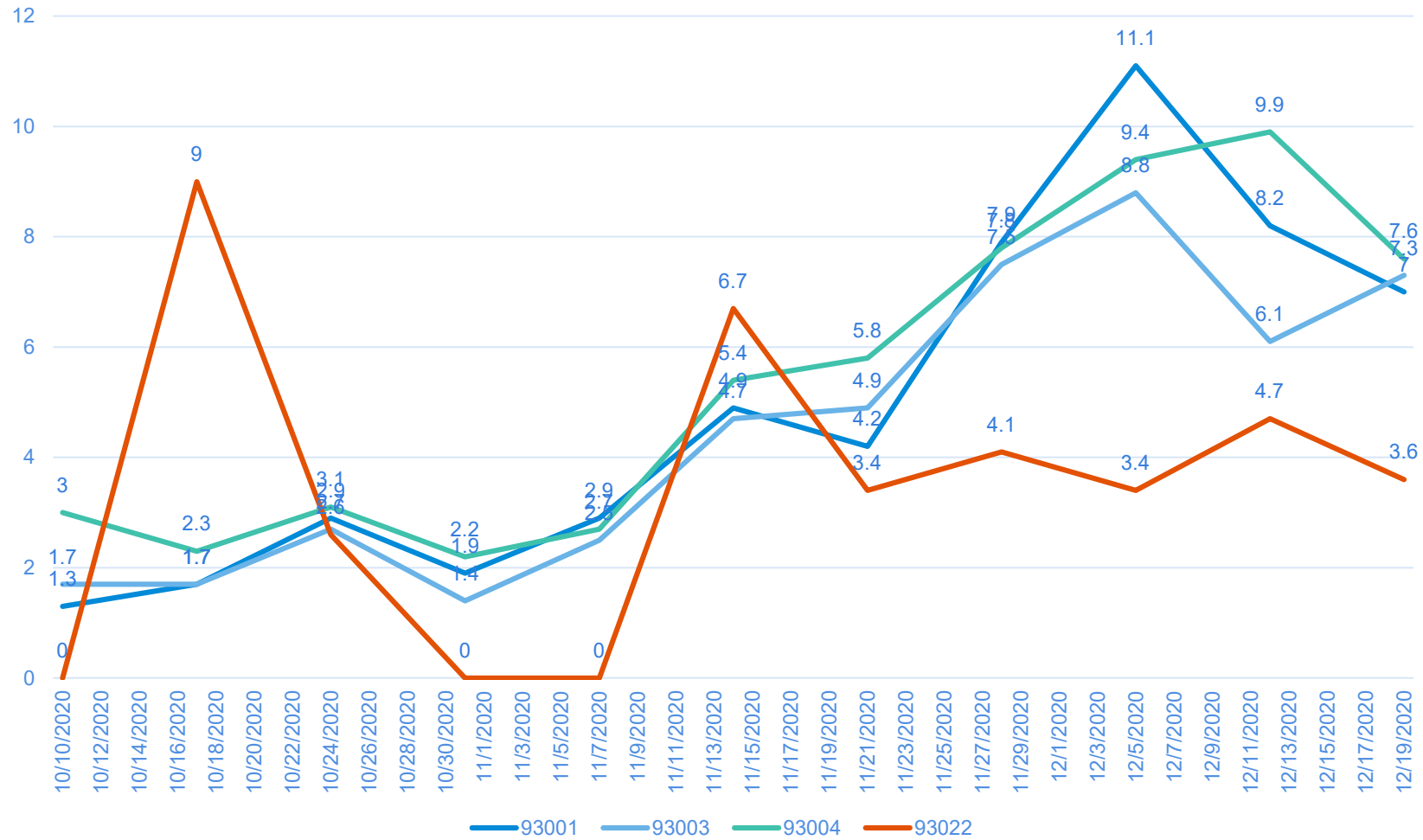


### Case Rate by Zip Code



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### Positivity Rates by Zip Code



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# Operational Capacity



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## COVID Surge Impact on VUSD

- The pool of substitute teachers willing to teach in the in-person program is inadequate.
- Absences in support positions have necessitated making very difficult assignment decisions and has stretched site operations to the point where there is little room for error.
- Nutrition Services currently is without 25% of its workforce due to absences and vacancies



## COVID Surge Impact on VUSD

- The workforce issues in transportation have not improved and any further outbreaks or quarantines will result in worker shortages that will impact our ability to cover this vital function
- Custodial services are experiencing the same dynamics
- Upon return to work yesterday, VUSD Risk manager had an additional 15 cases to perform contact tracing on due to newly reported cases or exposures.
- There are numerous reports of employee plans to go out on medical or stress leave if made to return next week.



# California's Safe Schools for All Plan



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## **Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan**

- Funding.
  - \$2 billion for the safe reopening of schools beginning in February
  - Approximately \$450 per student to school districts offering in-person instruction
  - Funds will provide and will be weighted for districts serving students from low-income families, English learners and foster youth.
  - Priority for returning the youngest children (TK-2nd grade) and those who are most disproportionately impacted first
  - Return other grade levels to in-person instruction through the spring.



# Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan

- Safety & Mitigation.
  - Testing. The Administration will support frequent COVID-19 testing for all school staff and students, including weekly testing at schools in communities with high rates of transmission.
  - PPE. All staff and students in schools are required to wear masks. Furthermore, surgical masks will be recommended for school staff, and the Administration will distribute millions of surgical masks to schools at no cost.
  - Contact Tracing. Schools will continue to be on-boarded onto the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT) to improve collaboration between school and health officials, and members of the state contact tracing workforce will be deployed to improve communication with schools.
  - Vaccinations. School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021.



## **Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan**

- Oversight & Assistance.
  - State Multi-Agency Team will provide hands-on support to help schools develop and implement their COVID-19 Safety Plans. These supports include school visits and walk-throughs as warranted, webinars and training materials, and ongoing technical assistance.



## **Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan**

- Transparency & Accountability.
  - A state dashboard will be developed
  - A web-based “hotline” will empower school staff and parents to report concerns to the Safe Schools for All Team

# Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan

## Challenges for Local School Districts

- A. The Plan is still being negotiated at the State Level and Significant changes could still occur.
- B. The funding to support this plan is still uncertain and is anticipated to be Proposition 98 funding taken from next year's allocation. Depending on how much is allocated and spending deadlines, this will likely require a significant increase in the borrowing we have to do to account for cash-flow issues since it is likely the spending will be required before we receive the money

# Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan

## Challenges for Local School Districts

- C. New testing requirements provide major challenges including:
  1. The increased testing may not be feasible given local capacity – especially if it relates to adding the testing of students.
  2. The new testing plan will be expensive and we do not know if we will have the funding to support the cost.
  3. New testing invokes parental choice issues

# Governor's Proposed Plan: California's Safe Schools for All Plan

## Challenges for Local School Districts

4. New COVID testing requirements could invoke collective bargaining issues.
5. New accountability procedures, including reporting requirements are unclear and will likely require technical and logistical changes and professional development.



# Secondary Education



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## Secondary Education – Middle and High Schools

- A. No Waivers Allowed
- B. Must be in the Red Tier for 2 weeks in order to open
- C. No new openings will be allowed at any level for schools in counties with new case rates over 28 per 100k.

## Return to the Red Tier Projection Timeline

Actual Date	Data Released	Current Case Rate Per 100k	Target Rate For Red Tier	Over Goal
12/19/2020	12/29/2020	39.8	8	31.80
12/26/2020	1/5/2021	39.8	8	31.80
1/2/2021	1/12/2021	39.8	8	31.80
1/9/2021	1/19/2021	39.8	8	31.80
1/16/2021	1/26/2021	39.8	8	31.80
1/23/2021	2/2/2021	31.84	8	23.84
1/30/2021	2/9/2021	25.47	8	17.47
2/6/2021	2/16/2021	20.38	8	12.38
2/13/2021	2/23/2021	16.30	8	8.30
2/20/2021	3/2/2021	13.04	8	5.04
2/27/2021	3/9/2021	10.43	8	2.43
3/6/2021	3/16/2021	8.35	8	0.35
3/13/2021	3/23/2021	6.68	8	-1.32
3/20/2021	3/30/2021	5.34	8	-2.66
3/27/2021	4/6/2021	4.27	8	-3.73
4/3/2021	4/13/2021	3.42	8	-4.58
	Assumes there is NO increase in the current rate due to Holiday Gatherings and Celebrations			
	Data reflecting 2 weeks after New Year's Day			
	Assumes an aggressive 20% reduction per week			
	Reflects when VUSD could reach Red Tier with aggressive improvement rate			
	Reflects when VUSD could Legally return to school under the current model			





# Secondary Education - Moving Forward

- A. End of Third Quarter is April 1, 2021
- B. Friday, April 2, 2021 is a Board Holiday
- C. Spring Break is from April 5-9

Adjust Projected Target Opening Date for all VUSD Secondary Schools from January 26, 2021 to **April 12, 2021**

**As always, monitor progress and changes – including Governor's Plan for Re-opening**



# Moving Forward

- A. Use Federal Stimulus dollars to:
  - 1. Expand small group support services already in progress with priorities to include:
    - a. Special Education
    - b. English Learners
    - c. Homeless and Foster Students
    - d. Academically Struggling Students
    - e. Enrichment Activities
- B. Significantly Expand Summer School to Address Learning Loss
- C. Expand Tutorial Options to include on-demand, live tutoring sessions via Zoom or other distance learning platforms.



# Elementary Education



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# Recognize and Appreciate Progress

## Elementary Hybrid, In-person instruction

- A. High student attendance rate
- B. Very low teacher absence rate
- C. High levels of compliance with:
  - 1. Cleaning protocols
  - 2. Mask wearing
  - 3. Social distancing
- D. Extremely rare incidents of school-related COVID spread
- E. Almost universal appreciation of the high degree of success of the program

## Recognize and Appreciate the Value of the Effort

Key Learning from the 2 Weeks of Hybrid Instruction that will serve VUSD well moving forward:

- A. Campus ingress and egress adjustments.
- B. Students (even the youngest) can and will follow the safety rules including social distancing and wearing their masks.
- C. Class management of “behaviors” was not a significant issue
- D. Parents and community members appreciated VUSD efforts and respected campus visitor guidelines.



# Recognize and Appreciate the Value of the Effort

Key Learning from the 2 Weeks of Hybrid Instruction that will serve VUSD well moving forward:

- E. VUSD contact tracing and mitigation efforts work. There were NO campus outbreaks following numerous positive test results among employees and students.
- F. Transportation adjustments were made and worked very well.
- G. Our pre-k programs reported positive experiences and outcomes
- H. Nutrition services adjustments were made and worked very well.
- I. There were no significant issues reported with distance learning
- J. Class sizes are an issue to address moving forward



## Elementary Education – Moving Forward

- A. Approved waiver remains in force.
- B. Operational capacity has not improved as noted above
- C. Governor's Plan represents significant changes and challenges
- D. Remain Committed to Hybrid Instruction – Our students need to be in school with their teachers
- E. Keep Current Model (including teacher/student assignments) – Further Disruption would be untenable top teachers and students.

# Elementary Education

- F. Maintain the Current Safety Week/Distance Learning Status until February 1 to allow the following things to happen:
1. Get through the Pandemic Surge – helps address numerous current dynamics including:
    - a. Rebuild Human Resources and operational capacity that we can sustain
  2. Learn more about the Governor’s Plan especially as it relates to COVID testing requirements, New OSHA Regulations, funding determinations and reporting requirements
  3. Return to Hybrid, In-Person Instruction on February 1<sup>st</sup> when all these things should be much clearer and VUSD better able to provide a sustainable, legally compliant program of instruction





# Elementary Education - Moving Forward

- A. End of second trimester is March 12, 2021
- B. Spring Break is from April 5-9

Adjust Projected Target return to Hybrid, In-Person instruction for all VUSD Elementary Schools to February 1, 2021

**As always, monitor progress and changes – including Governor's Plan for Re-opening**



# Elementary Education - Moving Forward

- A. Use Federal Stimulus dollars to:
  - 1. Expand small group support services already in progress with priorities to include:
    - a. Special Education
    - b. English Learners
    - c. Homeless and Foster Students
    - d. Academically Struggling Students
    - e. Enrichment Activities
- B. Significantly Expand Summer School to Address Learning Loss
- C. Expand Tutorial Options to include on-demand, live tutoring sessions via Zoom or other distance learning platforms.

## Next Steps

- A. Board Discussion
- B. Prepare for return to Hybrid, In-Person Elementary return
- C. Monitor developments and prepare for anticipated changes due to Governor's Plan – adjust as necessary.
- D. Expand small cohort supports and services and implement (already in progress)
- E. Keep teacher and student assignments

# Questions / Discussion



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