

Regular Board Meeting: School Reopening Update

January 26, 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. California Department of Public Health Guidelines
- E. Current Projected Dates of Return and Timelines
 - 1. Elementary February 1
 - 2. Secondary April 12

Health and Safety



For the future of every student

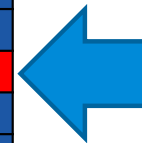
State and Local Guidance

– California Guidance and Evaluation Model

Measure	Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission***			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
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 January 19, 2021

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

STATEWIDE METRICS

105.4 New COVID-19 positive cases per day per 100K

15.2% Positivity rate (7-day average)

0.0% ICU availability

Ventura County
Southern California Region

Regional Stay Home Order effective 12/6/2020 11:59 PM

COUNTY RISK LEVEL
Widespread*
Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed

COUNTY METRICS
153.1 New COVID-19 cases per day per 100K
76.6 Adjusted case rate for tier assignment
15.4% Positivity rate (7-day average)
21.0% Health equity quartile positivity rate

3 weeks prior 12/29	2 weeks prior 1/5	1 week prior 1/12	Current 1/19
Widespread	Widespread	Widespread	Widespread

*See California Blueprint Data Chart for tier determination

Last Updated 1/19/2021

- Widespread
- Substantial
- Moderate

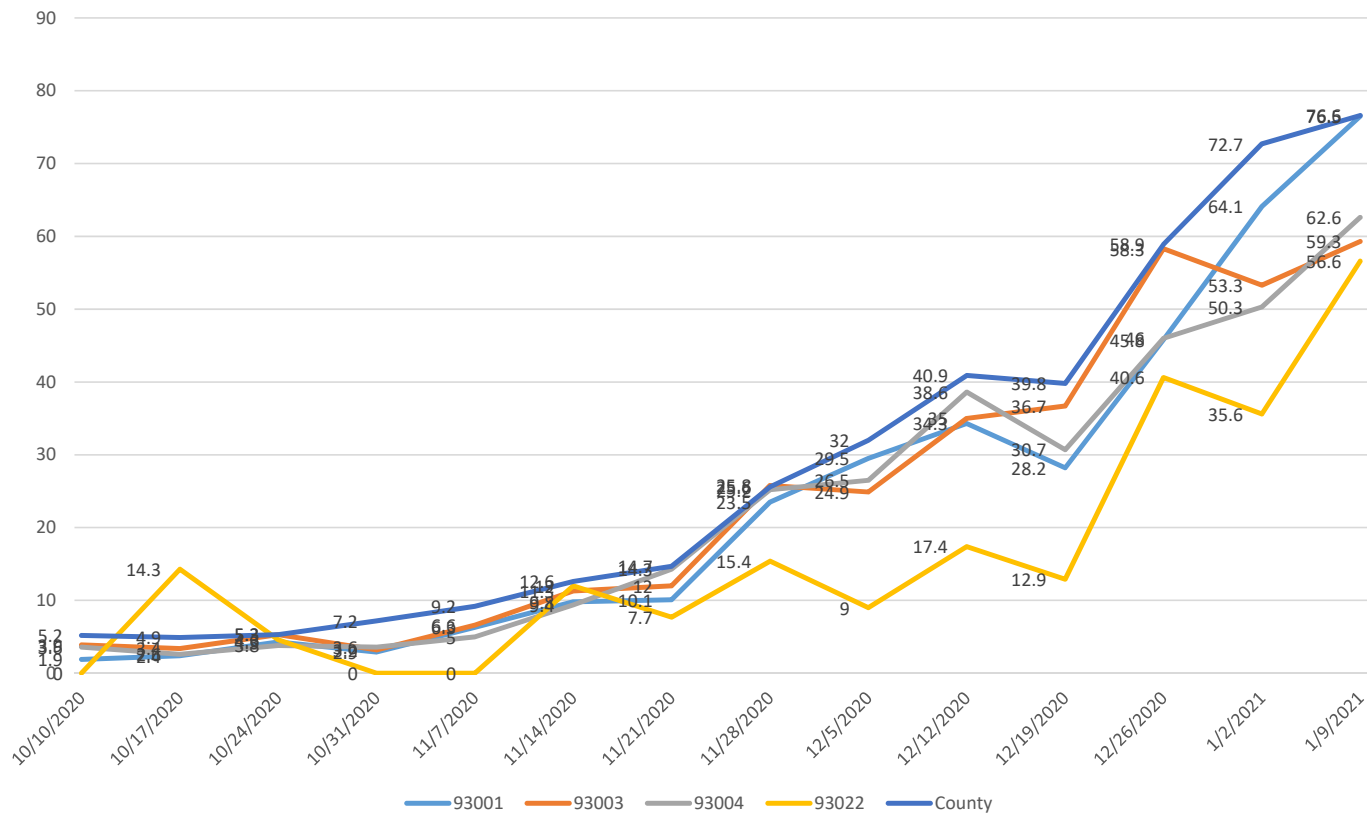


Blueprint Metrics Ventura County_Week End January 9th

City/Zip	7 Day Average Case Rate for Week Ending January 2nd w/ Adjustment	7 Day Average Case Rate for Week Ending January 9th w/ Adjustment	7 Day Average Positivity Rate for Week Ending January 2nd	7 Day Average Positivity Rate for Week Ending January 9th
91307 - Bell Canyon	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
91320 - Thousand Oaks/Newbury Park	31.3	27.5	8.9%	6.6%
91360 - Thousand Oaks	40.1	39.0	10.0%	8.0%
91361 - Thousand Oaks/Lake Sherwood/Westlake	14.7	16.4	7.9%	7.0%
91362 - Thousand Oaks/Westlake	23.1	27.8	7.9%	7.0%
91377 - Oak Park	16.1	24.6	8.0%	6.3%
93001 - Ventura	64.1	76.5	14.1%	13.7%
93003 - Ventura	53.3	59.3	9.2%	8.4%
93004 - Ventura	50.3	62.6	11.4%	11.2%
93010 - Camarillo	58.4	63.6	10.7%	10.1%
93012 - Camarillo/Santa Rosa Valley	35.9	45.4	8.2%	8.9%
93015 - Fillmore	113.6	116.0	22.6%	16.7%
93021 - Moorpark	50.3	53.1	12.7%	10.1%
93022 - Oak View	35.6	56.6	10.2%	11.2%
93023 - Ojai	35.2	50.1	9.0%	10.6%
93030 - Oxnard	137.1	124.7	21.2%	17.2%
93033 - Oxnard	133.3	153.5	22.5%	20.0%
93035 - Oxnard	69.1	66.8	15.0%	12.0%
93036 - Oxnard	115.6	114.1	18.7%	16.0%
93040 - Piru	125.1	152.1	24.8%	22.9%
93041 - Port Hueneme	79.9	77.5	17.1%	14.4%
93060 - Santa Paula	128.5	137.7	22.2%	19.9%
93063 - Simi Valley (Santa Susana)	56.1	58.3	14.6%	12.2%
93065 - Simi Valley	60.3	62.2	14.6%	12.1%
93066 - Somis	70.3	67.7	19.3%	12.9%
Health Equity Metric - Lower HPI Quartile	N/A		24.3%	21.0%
Ventura County	72.7	76.6	17.5%	15.4%

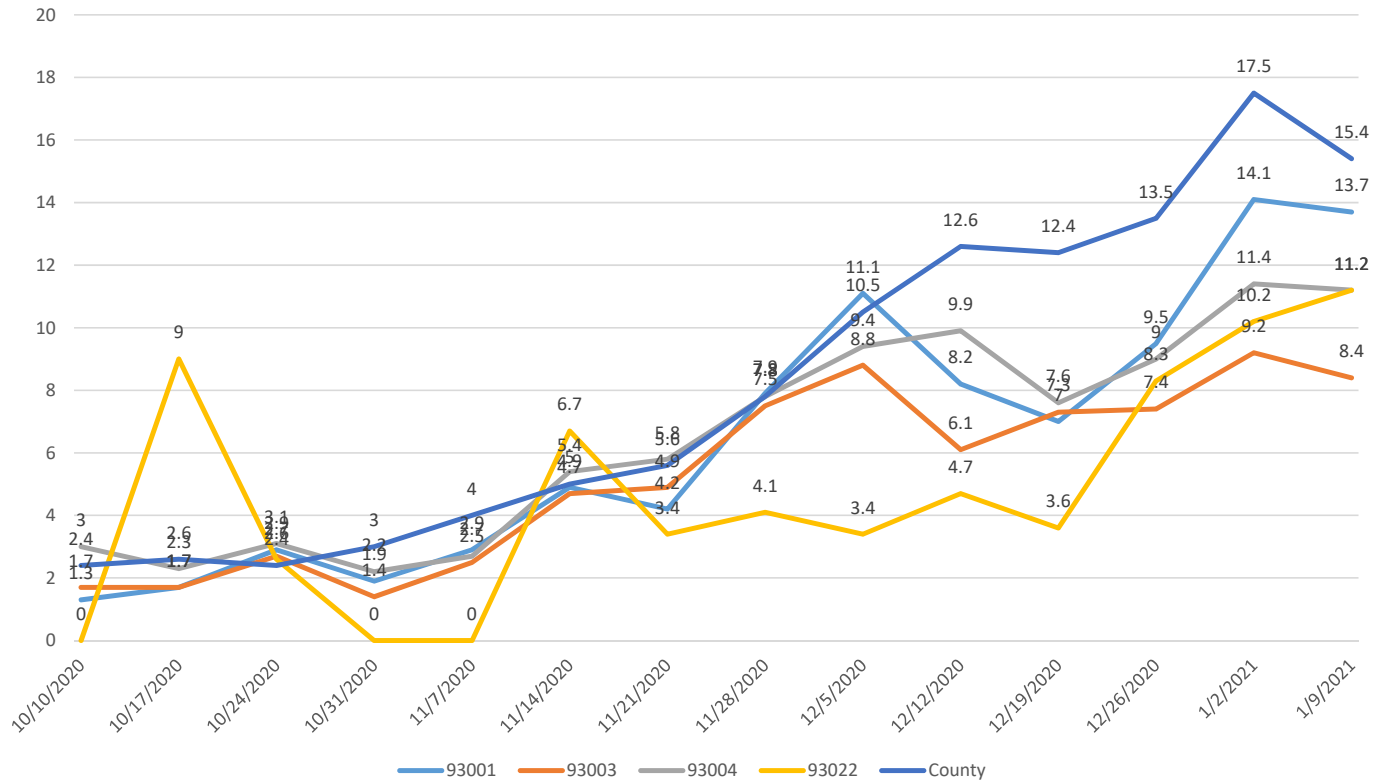
*Reflects most recent data used for tier rating status

Case Rate by Zip Code



For the future of every student

Positivity Rate by Zip Code




For the future of every student

Operational Capacity



For the future of every student

UPDATE on - COVID Surge Impact on VUSD

- The pool of substitute teachers willing to teach in the in-person program is inadequate. 
- We have added approximately 15 subs to the pool of available substitute teachers
- Recruitment of sub custodians has been successful (20 interviews on this past Friday)
- Interviews to fill permanent custodial positions are today and tomorrow.
- Timeline to post positions has been agreed upon with VESPA from 10 days to 5 days for internal postings to allow faster response times to vacancies during this pandemic.

-  Nutrition Services currently is without 25% of its workforce due to absences and vacancies

For the future of every student

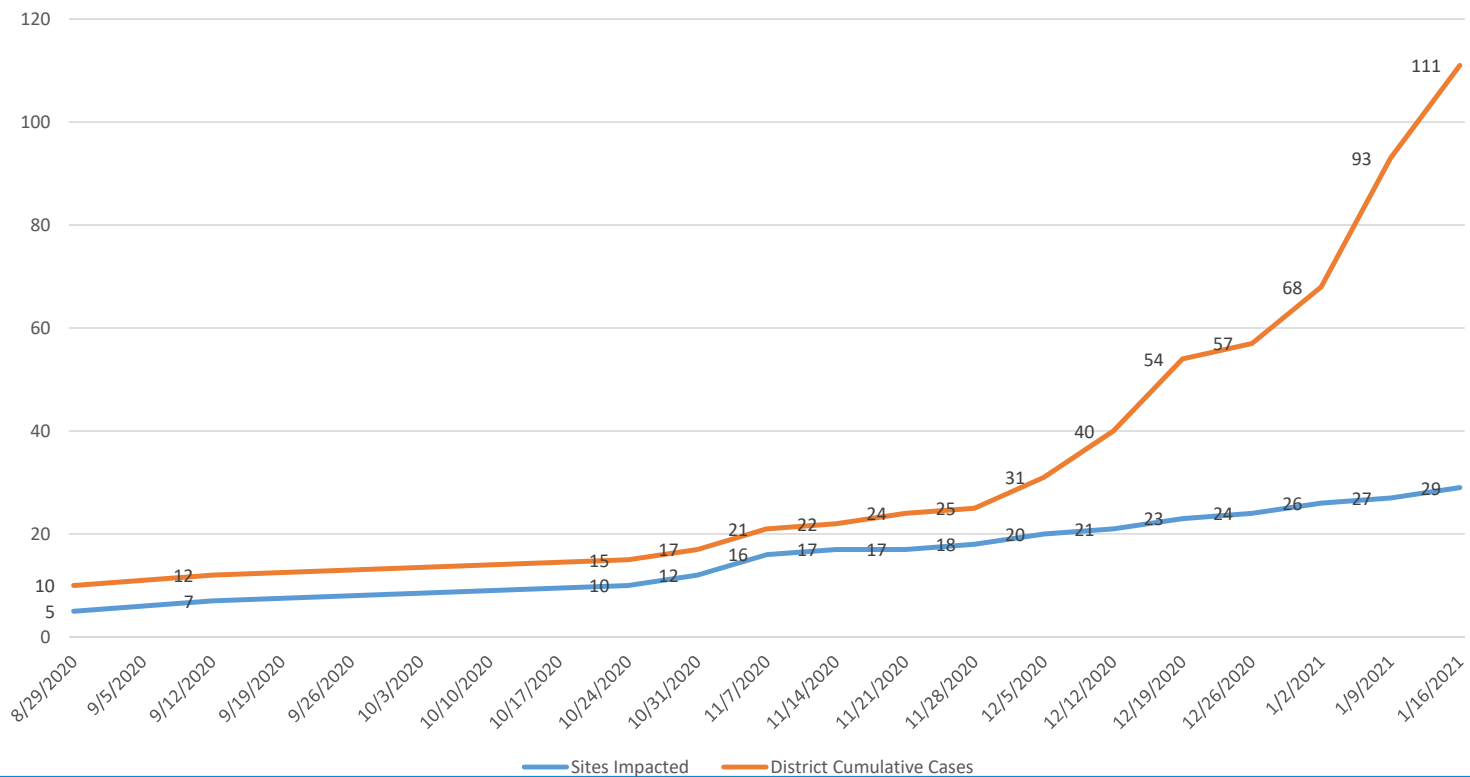
UPDATE on - COVID Surge Impact on VUSD

- 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.
 - Though our capacity to deal with absences is improved, this dynamic continues mostly because of community spread and the requirement to quarantine
- Nutrition Services currently is without 25% of its workforce due to absences and vacancies
 - This situation is improved...



COVID Surge Impact on VUSD

Work Sites and Employees Impacted




For the future of every student

California's Safe Schools for All Plan




For the future of every student

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
 - The Program is structured as an Incentive Grant using the LCFF Formula. It is not a new entitlement.
 - Lays out requirements and conditions that MUST be followed to qualify for the grant including:
 - Testing all students and staff no less than every two weeks
 - Reaching a new agreement with our bargaining units to all requirements in the plan that are not included in the current MOU
 - Completing required elements by February 1.

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
 - Budget estimates are that funding is insufficient to test employees and students using the required testing cadence of once every two weeks
 - Range of funding = \$x million - \$x million
 - Range of expenditures for TESTING ONLY (at x amount per test)
 - 100% of students and staff
 - 50% of students and staff
 - 25% of students and staff

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. **?**
 - No apparent mandate to test all students and staff unless you are applying for the incentive grant. This is still uncertain as there is “pushback” from the management associations and the legislature around how the funding is structured.
 - Uncertainty around the requirement to test students; excluding students; and requiring it of staff.
 - Capacity is uncertain in the County and in the State to handle all students and staff every 2 weeks.
 - Turnaround times for lab processing are also uncertain.

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

- Safety & Mitigation.
 - 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.

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

- Safety & Mitigation.
 - **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.

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

- Safety & Mitigation.
 - **Vaccinations.** School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021. **?**
 - Vaccinations for school staff designated as health workers has begun and includes:
 - School Nurses
 - Health Techs
 - School Psychologists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Other Educators are designated in Tier 1b, the one to follow the current Tier 1a
 - Currently estimated to begin in mid to late February and run through the month of March

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

- Safety & Mitigation.
 - Vaccinations. School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021.

Phase 1B, Tier 1

- 65+ with an underlying health condition and/or a disability
- Other persons 65 years of age or older
- Essential workers (law enforcement, DA Investigators, food and agriculture, dispatchers, non-active EMT and non-EMT Fire Department employees, emergency services sector, education sector, childcare, corrections officers, youth authority, public health, U.S. postal workers, grocery store workers, jail custody staff)
- Child welfare workers



For the future of every student

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

- Safety & Mitigation. **?**
 - **Vaccinations** - What we are hearing:
 - As of 1/19/21 31,553 individuals have been vaccinated in Ventura County
 - It will take months to vaccinate all people. Vaccine supply is the biggest barrier to making this effort move more quickly. This is impacting Counties throughout the State.
 - County PIO – “We wish we could vaccinate everyone now. We are advocating for more vaccines so we can vaccinate more people and move through the phases quickly.”

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

- Safety & Mitigation.
 - Vaccinations. School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021. **?**
 - What we are hearing:
 - Kaiser Permanente – “Expanding California vaccine guidelines to include everyone age 65 and older increases eligibility by nearly 6 million people in the state. Unfortunately, the vaccine supply to distributors has not yet been increased to vaccinate that many people. Right now, vaccines are in extremely short supply for all vaccine distributors across the country, including Kaiser Permanente.”
 - Kaiser Permanente – They “...are receiving roughly 20,000 weekly first and second doses of the vaccine since December. Unfortunately, this is well below the needed capacity...”

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. (If required) ?
 3. New testing invokes parental choice issues (If required) ?

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



For the future of every student

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. 
 - Once in the Red Tier, New testing cadence is being required. 
 - In order to maintain our current testing plan and not have to implement the new testing cadence, VUSD would have to be in the Orange Tier 

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			



For the future of every student

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

Adjusted Projected Target Opening Date for all VUSD Secondary Schools is currently **April 12, 2021**

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



For the future of every student

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



For the future of every student

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 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 to 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 1st 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

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

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



For the future of every student

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 and Action on:
 - 1. Prepare for return to Hybrid, In-Person Elementary return -OR -
 - 2. Maintain status as DL until date TBD
- B. Monitor developments and prepare for anticipated changes due to Governor's Plan – adjust as necessary.
- C. Expand small cohort supports and services and implement (already in progress)
- D. Keep teacher and student assignments

Questions / Discussion



For the future of every student