



Redlands Unified School District

February 15, 2021

Dear RUSD Families and Staff Members,

Leading up to the winter holiday season and at the turn of the calendar year, COVID cases in San Bernardino County rose at an alarming rate. Since the release of the four-tiered system developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the State of California, San Bernardino County has remained in the most restrictive tier, purple. The latest framework released on January 14th, allows provisions for some grade levels to resume in-person instruction, despite being in the purple tier. Once the adjusted case rates of COVID-19 reach less than 25 cases per 100,000 residents for five consecutive days, school districts may become *eligible* to reopen for in-person instruction. In order to reopen, we *must* submit required documents (See Below) to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBDPH), San Bernardino County Schools and the State Safe Schools for all Team to request to return to in-person instruction. Each of these agencies has seven business days to communicate to the District any deficiencies they find in our plans which we must address, correct, and send notice of corrections.

The good news is the data is finally trending in the right direction. As of today, San Bernardino County's adjusted COVID-19 case rate is 22.23 per 100,000 residents. In response to that very positive news, the District is once again taking every step possible, to prepare for in-person instruction to resume during this school year as outlined by State mandates. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released an updated guideline related to returning to in-person instruction safely. ***Please be advised that schools in California must follow and adhere to the mandates in place by the California Department of Public Health and the State of California.*** As part of the new process to resume in-person instruction, a District must submit and acquire the following required documents;

1. A complete and thorough COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) which will include:
 - A plan to maintain staff and students in stable groups while on campus
 - A comprehensive Contact-Tracing Protocol
 - A plan to ensure all staff and students are tested every two weeks
2. COVID-19 Guidance Checklist
 - Agreements with labor group organizations
3. Cal-OSHA Covid-19 Prevention Program (CPP)

RUSD continues to ensure our campuses and District sites are as safe as possible in preparation for resuming in-person instruction. In order to support our staff and be prepared for in-person instruction, here are a list of non-exhaustive safety protocols the District have been implemented:

- Desk shields for student desks have been purchased and delivered to each school site
- Desk shields for teachers and staff have been purchased and delivered to each school and District sites

- Face coverings, which include both disposable and cloth masks have been purchased for all students and staff. Students and staff have the option of wearing their own face coverings
- Surgical masks and face shields are available, as needed
- Multiple non-contact thermometers have been purchased and delivered to each school and District sites
- EPA-approved hand sanitizer has been purchased in bulk to supply all school sites throughout the school year
- Bold signage has been purchased and delivered to all schools to promote healthy hygiene steps and mark proper social distancing in high traffic areas and to address the flow of student traffic during school hours
- Filters have been installed on air conditioning units with the appropriate MERV rating throughout the District
- Ionization devices have been installed on all air conditioning units to increase the level of filtration, including those with fixed filtration systems
- A contact-tracing protocol has been developed and implemented following SBDPH and Cal-OSHA requirements
- A contract is being finalized with a rapid-test company to administer COVID-19 testing and deliver immediate results which will be conducted for all staff and students at the cadence mandated by CPDH
- All schools have identified a supervised Isolation Room, which is required to house students who may become ill and exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day
- EPA approved disinfecting spray and tools have been purchased and delivered to all schools to assist in disinfecting a campus throughout the day as well as after a work day
- All schools have developed plans to control Ingress and Egress of staff and students each day
- All schools have developed plans to conduct health screenings of all staff and students entering campus and District sites each day

Our staff members not only want a safe work environment when they return, but an overwhelming majority of our staff members have also expressed their desire to receive the vaccine. The rollout of the vaccines for educators in our County started off slow but it is gaining momentum as the County Board of Supervisors has made it a priority to vaccinate educators with the ultimate goal of getting students back to school. Thanks in part to our partnership with local community providers, our staff members are being vaccinated starting this week. Many staff members are utilizing the county website to find vaccine events throughout our County. While the State highly recommends vaccination, public educators are not required to receive the vaccine as a condition for employment or as a requirement to return to in-person instruction. The District also highly encourages anyone who wishes to be vaccinated to schedule an appointment using the County website, www.sbcovid19.com/vaccine or through the collaborative process established between the District

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and Redlands Community Hospital. We will continue to share any vaccination opportunities with our staff members as it becomes available.

As of today, and based on the State and County requirements to maintain students in stable groups as well as the Governor's current tiered structure, the return to in-person instruction criteria prioritizes Elementary-aged students. The Governor's proposal specifically targets grades TK -6 (if 6th grade is part of Elementary School, in RUSD it is not) for counties currently in the purple tier. The District and leaders of the Redlands Teacher's Association will begin to negotiate this week to work towards an agreement in order to be prepared to return to in-person instruction this school year.

We recognize that some families would like their children to continue Distance Learning. The District will continue to offer Distance Learning for these students for the remainder of the year, if families so choose. However, the District will not be able to guarantee a student remains with their currently assigned teacher. Every effort will be made to do so but it will be determined by the number of students who return to in-person instruction and the number of teachers who can safely teach in an in-person setting. In order to accurately assess students who will be returning to in-person and those who will remain on Distance Learning, we will soon survey our families and ask them to update the preference for their student(s). We will provide you with more information, timelines, updates, and/or direction as more clarity is provided. Thank you for your continued patience.

Respectfully,

Mauricio V. Arellano
Superintendent of Schools