

PRESS RELEASE

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
4675 MISSOURI FLAT ROAD
PLACERVILLE CA 95667

Contact Information:
Serena Fuson
(530) 622-5081 ext. 7225
sfuson@eduhsd.k12.ca.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2020 | El Dorado County, CA

In the early part of summer we saw stable numbers of COVID-19 in the County but in the latter weeks of July we have all witnessed a spike in identification around the Country, California and locally. This trend has resulted in complicating the clarity of our return. Each County is in a different status but we are all monitoring closely the impact and spread of this virus. El Dorado County is not currently on the Watch List but we monitor that status daily.

On Friday, Governor Newsom, in consultation with State Public Health, announced that the Counties in California on the State Watch List will start school in distance learning and provided guidelines on how to open school. The link to this document is here: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

El Dorado County, at this point in time, is not on that list. We are in the process of consulting County Health on the likelihood that we will be placed on that list in the near future. In addition, we are working with Public Health to assess our local testing capacity and contract tracing abilities.

Due to the nature of this changing situation we will delay the decision on what type of schedule to open school for approximately another week. We do not want to rush to a decision that may need to be changed in just a few weeks.

The Board of Trustees will meet in person on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm. to discuss full time distance learning, hybrid and five day plans. Ongoing talks are taking place with both the Faculty Association and CSEA. The Board will discuss and take comments on the plans at that meeting but will NOT be deciding on a schedule for August 10, 2020. The Board Agenda on our web page has the Google Meet details posted. Please see the agenda for guidelines on the meeting approved by Public Health.

Thank you for your patience as we try to do our absolute best to protect the health of our students, staff and community in this time of great challenge and anxiety. We are truly working as hard and fast as possible on making a final decision.

As you know, there are no simple answers to these complex challenges and yet we are trying to be as thoughtful as possible as we weigh our responsibilities, safety needs and also educate our students. I have received dozens of letters expressing concerns about coming back and concerns about not coming back. There is great worry and anxiety on all sides that do not make this an easy decision. Our Board has all of the correspondence received from any member of our staff and the community. Everyone is being thoughtful and reflective as we weigh the Governor's guidance on school this fall.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Carruth