

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COVID-19 Update**

We wanted to share our thoughts as we look forward to the next three weeks of school and the end of the first semester. We are seeing a significant increase in daily positive COVID-19 tests in all areas of our school attendance boundaries, but some areas are seeing dramatic increases more than others are. We are also observing the impact of increased positive cases in the schools and increased quarantines.

As the numbers spike upward, our goal is to keep students, teachers, and staff safe and maintain the hybrid schedule unless we see it cannot be safely managed due to the number of quarantines and availability of substitute teachers. In such cases, consistent with actions taken across the Country, we may need to temporarily move to distance learning. This decision may become necessary at the individual school level, and we all need to be prepared for a rapid transition. If a school is moved to distance learning, the school shall reopen to hybrid once the number of students and staff quarantining subsides.

We are also monitoring sports and co-curricular activities such as band, drama, and choir (to name a few). The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) is pushing back Season #1 start dates as the move to the Purple Tier has made these activities more difficult to manage. We monitor this situation daily and will notify you if CIF releases further guidance.

Please help us do everything possible to keep our schools open by assisting us with the following three actions:

1. Please keep any student home who is exhibiting cold and flu like symptoms associated with COVID-19.
2. If any family member has tested positive, please have students stay home and consult with your school nurse before sending them to school.
3. Encourage students to practice social distancing in other venues to limit the potential impact of being placed on quarantine.

The Board of Trustees' stated goal is to open schools, as conditions are safe the week of January 11, 2021. We will monitor conditions very carefully to determine if we see cases declining to a level that makes us feel confident that this is safe. We do not anticipate making that decision until the first week of January 2021.

In addition, families wishing to enroll in the online distance learning program for the semester starting in January 2021 may do so by contacting their counselor if they wish to avoid in-person instruction.

Thank you again for your help in making our schools safe and doing all that we can to help get back to normal as soon as possible.