



## Announcement from Dr. Nancy Lynch July 14, 2020

### Update On Our Progress with School Re-opening Plans for August

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to provide you with an update on our progress with school reopening plans for August. The safety of all students and staff is our highest priority and balancing that safety while still providing full educational opportunities for all students is our goal. As you can imagine, it has been a very detailed process as we have been utilizing Marin Public Health guidelines to determine the needed protocols and procedures to provide a safe environment for students and staff to return, while including additional safety measures that we think are important. Furthermore, as part of this planning process we are addressing changes in the working conditions of our employees to ensure their safety and well-being through the negotiations process.

This is a sample of the many areas that school teams and departments are addressing to prioritize the safety and health of our students and staff:

- Health and safety protocols and training for staff, students and parents
- Daily student and staff temperature check protocols
- Strategies for creation of stable cohorts (ensuring siblings at the same school have the same schedule)
- Arrival and departure procedures (staggered arrival and dismissal times)
- Social – emotional health lessons and activities as we transition back to site-based instruction
  - Staggered student break schedules in designated playground areas to keep cohorts separate
  - Classroom layouts to provide for physical distancing
  - School office and other shared working space protocols and configurations
  - Development of a School Site Protection Plan for each school site
  - Increased staffing
  - Facilities needs including enhanced cleaning methods, disinfecting protocols, plexiglass shields, etc.
- Procurement of and training in the use of Personal Protective Equipment/Essential Protective Equipment
  - Development of distance learning model as needed

This is by no means a complete list of all areas being addressed in our school reopening planning. We have reviewed input from parent, staff and student surveys administered last spring to guide our thinking. Next, the school teams and departments will begin work with a larger stakeholder planning group, including parent representatives, to more fully develop several models that will be presented to the Board of Trustees to consider for reopening schools. A Board meeting will be scheduled during the last week of July for the

Trustees to consider the options and approve a plan on reopening schools. Once approved, the plan will be shared broadly with our families and other stakeholders.

## How can you help us prepare our students to return to school safely in August?

Here are a few important suggestions:

1. Have your school-aged children wear masks when in public and around others who are not part of your household. Additionally, review this [guidance](#) with your child on the proper way to wear a face mask. Students will be required to wear a facemask while at school, unless there are medical or behavioral reasons to make it unsafe for them to do so. We will provide masks to each student, however, try to find a one that your child prefers over the summer so they can get used to wearing it.
2. Have your child practice regular handwashing before and after eating, touching surfaces outside of the home, using the restroom, touching items that are shared by others, etc. Teaching children how to [properly wash](#) their hands is very important. Handwashing schedules will be implemented at school, and students will have access to sinks, soap and hand sanitizer.
3. Before your family goes on an outing, [assess](#) each person for symptoms of COVID-19, including doing a temperature check. Parents will be required to assess their children each day for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending them to school and keep them at home when they are ill. When students arrive at school, their temperature will again be checked, and they will be assessed for signs of illness.
4. If you have been traveling outside of Marin County during the summer recess we would highly recommend that you return from your travels and shelter in place at least 14 days prior to the start of school on August 20 to help us minimize COVID-19 exposure for all students and staff as they return to classes.
5. Emergency contacts will need to be updated to ensure someone who lives near school is available during the day to pick up your child if they become ill. Be thinking of people over the summer who will be your “back up” if needed.

By everyone practicing the procedures noted above, we will minimize the risk of individuals contracting COVID-19 when we return to school.

### **REMINDER: Distance Learning Commitments due July 20**

If you are confident that you would choose to have your child participate in the Distance Learning Option for all of the 2020-2021 school year, please email [Keith Woodard](#) in the Superintendent’s Office with “DISTANCE LEARNING” in the subject of the email and include the names of your children and the grades they will be entering in the body of the email. The deadline for these responses is 5:00 PM on Monday, July 20. You will have an additional opportunity to request the distance learning option in August after the reopening plan has been shared. Please see my last [letter](#) for more information.

Thank you again for your understanding and patience during these rapidly changing and unsettling times. Know that we are keeping the health and safety of our entire RUSD Family (students, staff and families) at the core of our decisions and plans and that we will offer a high-quality, equitable education to your children.

Please know that I would like nothing better than to share specifics of our reopening plan with you today, however, I will be able to do so after the Board meeting to be scheduled at the end of July.

Warm regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Reed Union School District

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