



## RUSD Headline News Wednesday, September 2, 2020

### **A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now into our second full week of school, and I hope that you and your families are finding a structure and rhythm for school that is working for you in this distance learning model. All of our district efforts and resources have gone into making this a robust program for our students and understand that there may be times during the year when we need to move in and out of distance learning given the ever-changing environment of the spread of COVID-19.

Last Friday, Governor Newsom released a new metric that replaces the former monitoring list which restricts counties from open schools and businesses based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases. The new system allows for schools to open if the county remains in the red category for 14 days. Based on current case number and trends in Marin County, Dr. Willis anticipates that we will move from the purple category to red on September 8th. If the county remains in the red category for 14 days, schools could be allowed to reopen no sooner than September 22nd. This is not a confirmed date, and we will continue to take guidance from Public Health while we complete implementation of procedures that will ensure we are ready to reopen schools safely. There is still very important work that needs to be completed in preparation for students to return to school including the Herculean task of coordinating schedules when bringing students on campus in small cohorts in Phase 2. Additionally, we need to complete preparations to the campuses that are part of our Safely Reopening Schools Plan, securing substitute teachers and instructional aides that will be needed when staff are ill, completion and Public Health Department review of the School-Specific Protection Plans. All of these important task that will make returning to school safely and successfully may delay our reopening beyond the potential September 22nd date.

In order for students to safely return to schools, parents and guardians will be critical partners in this effort by conducting a daily health assessment of your child before they come to school to ensure that they are healthy, and keeping

them at home when they are not feeling well. You can also assist now to prepare your children for in-classroom instruction by getting them used to putting on and wearing their own mask for extended periods and performing regular, thorough hand washing throughout the day. A Student and Family Handbook for COVID-19 Safety will be sent to you in the next week through Actionally that will include protocols and procedures for students returning to school and instructional videos to view with your child to educate them on procedures in preparation for the return to school. Parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have completed this review with their children.

Thank you in advance for your support as we prepare to move into our first phase of in-person instruction in the era of COVID-19. While we have worked diligently and in a detailed manner over the summer to develop a plan for the safe return of students and staff, there will always need to be adjustments as we implement that plan and make it work for the safety of all. I am confident we will be successful working together in kindness to bring students back to school in the safest manner possible for the entire RUSD community.

Warm regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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