



Jeremy Decker  
Superintendent

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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Dear Windsor Community,

I hope that all of you had a chance to relax and unwind over the holidays. There is a lot going on in the State and Country right now, and I hope that we can continue to stay strong for one another as we navigate the effects of this pandemic and recent political turmoil.

Relative to our schools, there is also a lot of information floating around regarding the reopening of our schools, some accurate and some not so accurate. In the following, I will attempt to explain some of the recent developments, and the effects on the school district.

**Governor Newsom**

Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced a proposal to encourage schools to resume in-person instruction as early as 2/16/2021 for students in grades TK-2, and 3/15/2021 for students in grades 3-6, by providing incentive grants under the new “Safe Schools for All Plan”. In his speech on 12/30/2020 he stated that schools could apply for the grants if the average rate of infections in a County over a 7 day period were less than 28 cases per 100,000 residents.

This would be a massive change to the current threshold to open without a waiver. Currently, school districts are not eligible to open without a waiver until entering into the red tier, when the average rate of infection over a 7 day period is less than 7 cases per 100,000 residents. Governor Newsom has proposed that school districts reopen when the case count is 4 times that number. The proposal still needs to go through the legislative process before being implemented at the local level. As such, the district will be continuing to operate under the metrics that we have been utilizing over the past months until all of this has been worked out at the state capitol.

**Sonoma County Metrics**

Sonoma County remains in the purple tier within California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Below you will find the current metrics for Sonoma County, and the thresholds to move to the red tier under the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”:

- Rate of new daily cases/100,000 population: 38.6 → less than 7 to move to the red tier.
- Testing positivity rate: 9% → less than 8% to move to the red tier.
- Regional ICU availability is 7.4% → more than 15% to avoid mandatory Regional Stay-Home Order.
- Equity metric testing positivity rate is 13.5% → less than 8% to move to the red tier.

Brooks Elementary School – Cali Calmécac Language Academy – Mattie Washburn Elementary School  
North County Consortium Program – Windsor High School – Windsor Middle School  
Windsor Oaks Academy – North Bay Met Academy



**Re-Opening Plan**

The district is still moving forward with a phased in approach to reopening schools. We have planned for a 7 phase reopening based on the following: Adjusted case rate per 100,000, Positivity rate, and Health Equity Quartile.

Phases 1-5 are planned to happen when we enter into the red tier, but they will not all happen at the same time. Instead, they will be phased in based on the metrics (Adjusted case rate, Positivity rate, and Health Equity Quartile) continuing to improve. As our metrics improve, we will bring more students back. The table below provides the specific metrics that will need to be met in order for each group to return to in-person instruction:

Tier	Red					Orange	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Phase	NCC, ED, SDC	English Learners	Foster, homeless, high need students	Grades TK/K	Grades 1-2	Grades 3-6	Grades 7-12
Adjusted Case Rate	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
Positivity Rate-County	7.5%	7.0%	6.5%	6.0%	5.5%	5.0%	4.5%
Health Equity Quartile	7.8%	7.3%	6.8%	6.3%	5.8%	5.3%	4.8%

**Vaccine**

It has been established that school personnel will be the first group to be offered vaccines in phase 1b, which is the next tier of priority after the current 1a phase hopefully wraps up in late January or early February. Getting all of our school personnel vaccinated could be a potential game changer for reopening. There are a number of things that still need to be worked out, such as who is administering the vaccine, where it will take place, whether or not it is required, how long it will take to get everyone vaccinated, etc. Be that as it may, I am extremely excited that school personnel have been moved up to phase 1b for the vaccines as it can only positively impact us with regard to offering in-person instruction sooner than we would have been able to offer it otherwise. Phase 1b has not been a priority for planning, but I anticipate that we should be receiving more information in the coming weeks that explain what this process looks like for our school district employees.

**Return to In-Person Instruction This Year**

I know that the content in this communication probably creates more questions than answers. Unfortunately, I am currently in the same space, as I have more questions than answers as well. Having said that, the recent developments regarding vaccinations leave me hopeful that we have a chance to get students back in the classroom in some form this school year. I know I keep asking you to hang in there, and I am going to do that again today. Be that as it may, I feel like there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Let’s all hold out hope that we can get staff vaccinated in a safe and timely fashion, the rates of COVID-19 in our community begin to



decline, and the ICU bed availability improves. I promise you that we will be ready to welcome students back into the classroom when the time comes as we are actively planning for that day.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support our students during this time.

Sincerely,

*Jeremy Decker*

Superintendent

Windsor Unified School District