

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

July 24, 2020

WJUSD Summer Happenings – Good News!

On June 10th, WJUSD was identified by the California Department of Education (CDE) as a model distance learning program (grades TK-6) for dual language instruction. We were one of two programs identified on the CDE website!

On June 15th, WJUSD received the final report for our Federal Program Monitoring (FPM). This year we had one minor finding (which is already resolved) compared to 24 findings in 2017. This is wonderful news!

June 16th, The restroom building for the PHS stadium was delivered to the site. The building is currently being installed.

June 24th, We were informed that the number of WJUSD students attending Woodland Community College (WCC) over the summer increased by 35%.

July 8th, We were notified that Yolo County school districts, including WJUSD, received a \$1.1 million dollar grant (for the consortium) known as the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program grant (IEEEP). This grant is designed to support staff so that more inclusive practices for students with disabilities can be implemented.

July 23rd, We were notified that a consortium of Yolo County schools and Yolo County Health and Human Services was awarded an MHSSA grant. This grant will expand the capabilities to provide mental health services throughout the county.

WJUSD's Re-opening Plan Update

On Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Board heard a report on details of the plan to re-open schools. Those details can be viewed here as attachments to an agenda item:

<https://woodland.agendaonline.net/public/Meeting.aspx?AgencyID=14&MeetingID=79551&AgencyTypeID=1&IsArchived=False>

We have also posted our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document pertaining to our most recent decision to open schools in a phased approach. The FAQs can be found on our website under the Return to School Resources Center: <https://www.wjUSD.org/Return-to-School-Resource-Center/index.html> or see below.

WJUSD Re-opening Schools Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The answers provided here have been updated as of 7/24/2020.

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

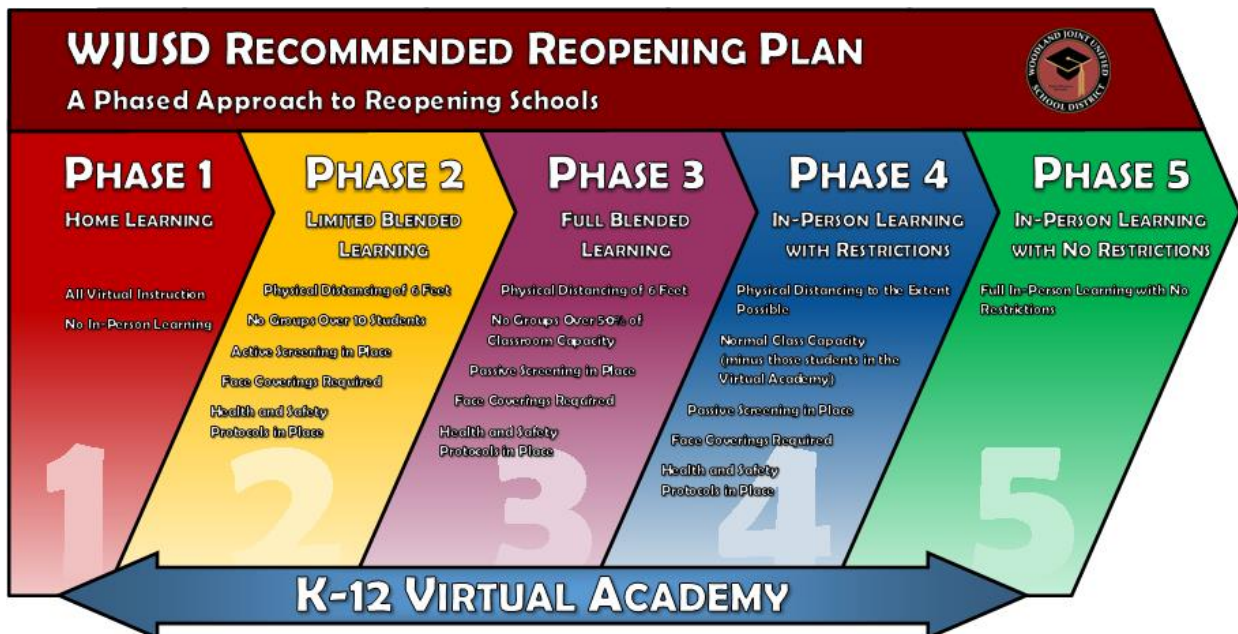
1. Is it true that the Governor ordered schools to start virtually?

Yes. The WJUSD Board of Trustees voted to start the 20-21 school year using a phased-in approach with Phase 1 being virtual instruction. The Governor supported that decision by ordering schools to begin instruction virtually if the county in which the district resides is on the State "watchlist".

The Governor's order is located [HERE](#) and the guidelines are located [HERE](#). The mandate says we will be unable to physically reopen for "in-person instruction" until the county is off the "watchlist" for 14 days. Yolo County is currently on the watchlist. If we are unable to reopen schools, all students will be served through Google Classroom as well as CANVAS, our distance learning platforms. We are looking forward to getting students on campus, but our current plan is to do so gradually with a phased-in approach.

2. Will Remote Learning Occur All Year?

No. WJUSD has planned for a Phased-in approach. This means that as health and safety indicators improve, we will work with our local health officials to gradually re-open in Phases. Please let me be clear, this does not mean that we will jump from Phase I to Phase 5.



3. Will Remote Learning Be the Same as the End of Last Year?

No. The governor described a "robust" distance learning program that will be offered to each student, as we begin school with an all distance learning model. Some foundational components of the program are as follows:

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

- ✓ All students have access to distance learning (either online or through independent study).
- ✓ Provide standards-aligned content and instruction.
- ✓ Provide daily live interaction with students "for instruction, progress monitoring, and maintaining school connectedness".
- ✓ Maintain regular communication with parents on student progress.
- ✓ Establish procedures to re-engage students who are absent for more than 60% of instruction per week.
- ✓ Provide academic supports for English learners, students with disabilities, foster youth, homeless students, and students who have fallen behind in their academic progress.
- ✓ Continue special education services.

Our staff has been hard at work building on this foundation to fully implement a quality experience for students using a distance format.

4. How will we know when to re-open to 100% in-person?

Our plan involves a Phased-in approach to re-opening gradually. To begin with, our schools will start the year using distance learning for all students. We will remain in that mode for at least 14 days beyond the point at which Yolo County is removed from the State's COVID-19 watchlist. As the health and safety of our community improve, WJUSD staff will work closely with our local public health department to determine when it is appropriate to move to Phase 2, Phase 3, and so on.

5. What is the CIF Sports Timeline

The State California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) released a timeline for sports which delays each of the sports. The overall delays are posted [HERE](#). These timelines are going to be honed by each section and we will have more information once that happens. We are in the San Joaquin Section of the CIF.

6. Will Grab-n-Go Food Distribution Continue?

Yes. We will continue to provide breakfast and lunch meals at the same place and at the same time, we have been distributing meals.

The following locations are distribution sites:

- Gibson Elementary

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

- Tafoya Elementary
- Sci-Tech Charter School at Knights Landing
- Lee Middle School
- Douglass Middle School
- Woodland High School
- Cache Creek High School
- Yolano Village
- Casa del Sol (Beginning 6/10/2020)
- Mutual Housing at Spring Lake (Beginning 6/15/2020)

Meals provided will consist of Lunch for that day and Breakfast for the following day and will be available between 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Please inquire at 530-406-5955 with questions regarding meals during this time.

7. How do I get a work permit?

We have students getting jobs during this shutdown that require work permits. If you require a work permit. Please call the enrollment center for more information. Their number is 530-406-3240.

8. I am new to WJUSD, how do I register my student?

All students currently enrolled in WJUSD will roll forward and be enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students new to our district (for elementary grades) can enroll for the 2020-2021 school year remotely via our website (<https://air.wjUSD.org/>) or visit the enrollment center at 435 6th Street, Woodland, Ca 95695. If you have any questions, you can contact the district office Enrollment Center at 530-406-3240 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

9. What is the Phased-in Approach?

Our Phased-in approach means we will start the school year using remote learning, monitor health conditions, and gradually return to in-person instruction as conditions permit.

10. What is Remote Learning?

Remote learning is instruction away from the classroom designed to maintain the continuity of teaching and learning. Students and teachers remain in their

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

regular classroom configurations, but learning is facilitated through an online platform while students are at home.

11. What is the Virtual Academy?

The Virtual Academy is a new instructional program for families who want to opt-out of remote learning for the entire school year. This provides an option for those parents who prefer not to send their children to a physical school setting (Phases 3-5). This also helps build on the already existing program such as our K-8 Home Study and 9th-12th Independent Learning Center.

12. What are some Remote Learning considerations for special education students?

The special education staff presented to our Board on July 23rd. The presentations can be viewed here:

[file:///C:/Users/thomas.pritchard/Downloads/F_1_DistanceLearningImplicationsForSpecialEducationStudents_0%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/thomas.pritchard/Downloads/F_1_DistanceLearningImplicationsForSpecialEducationStudents_0%20(1).pdf)

WJUSD's Lawsuit Against JUUL, Inc. Update

As a brief update, our lawsuit against JUUL, Inc. continues through the procedural phase. Judge Ann Jones continued our hearing to September 17, 2020. As part of the September 17th hearing, all of the clients (32 districts and 2 COEs) involved in the lawsuit will help develop a Plaintiff Fact Sheet. In addition to JUUL, Inc., our legal team is evaluating the idea of adding some additional Defendants, including Altria the "parent" investor, and Chevron.

WJUSD Athletics

CIF Postpones Football and Other Fall Sports to December 2020 Due to COVID-19

On July 20, 2020, the California Interscholastic Federation ("CIF"), the state's governing body for high school sports, issued an updated press release regarding the impact of COVID-19 on fall sports for the 2020-21 academic year, which can be viewed in full here: https://www.cifstate.org/covid-19/7.20.20_release. The statement provides that athletics for the 2020-21 academic year will proceed with a modified schedule under a sports calendar postponing the beginning of the traditional fall season of sports to December 2020. The revised calendar sets the last day for regional or state football playoffs as April 17, 2021. The last day for all other rescheduled fall sports will be sometime between March 20 and April 17. Winter sports, such as basketball, will be woven into spring sports, with regional or state playoffs ending June 19. Each CIF Section will release their calendar to reflect regular season starting and ending dates and Section playoffs. It is anticipated that most Section fall season start dates will commence in December 2020 or January 2021.

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

The CIF's statement takes a similar approach to the California Community College Athletic Association's ("CCCAA") announcement on July 9, 2020, which postponed fall sports to practices in January and competitions in February. The move is also reflective of what several athletic conferences across various National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA") divisions have already done in suspending fall conference play or postponing until the spring.

The CIF's statement also temporarily suspends Bylaws 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, and 605, which regulates outside competition, for all sports for the 2020-21 school year. Accordingly, students will be allowed to participate in an outside club team at the same time they participate on their high school team.

The updated "directive" follows CIF's June 12, 2020, statement which guided its member schools and school districts to consider in designing return to physical activity/training standards that are per state and local county requirements. A copy of the June 12, 2020 statement can be viewed in full here: https://www.cifstate.org/covid-19/Resources/RTP_Combined.pdf. It appears based on the CIF's July 20, 2020, announcement that student-athletes will now have more time to prepare for the "fall" season. It also appears that Sections and individual leagues will be responsible for coordinating practice and game schedules to address other issues related to the CIF's plan to allow winter and spring sports to run concurrently, e.g., multisport student-athletes and/or coaches, shared facilities, etc.

Governor Newsom's Message 7/17/2020

State Issues Clear Guidance on School Reopening, Face Coverings and More

At a press conference held on Friday, July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom announced a much anticipated California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Framework ([located here](#)) and Guidance ([located here](#)) for reopening schools in the 2020-2021 school year, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and in the face of rising infection rates in many parts of the state.

The CDPH Framework and Guidance collectively provide needed clarification on a range of significant issues, including:

1. When schools can open.
2. When schools that have opened must be closed.
3. Rules for responding to COVID-19 symptoms and infections.
4. Mask/face covering requirements for younger students.
5. Options for dealing with students that will not wear a mask.

According to the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20, issued on March 12, 2020, the guidelines outlined in these documents are mandatory and enforceable in the State of California.

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

NEW CDPH CRITERIA TO OPEN SCHOOL

Under the CDPH Framework, an LEA cannot reopen for in-person instruction unless the county in which the LEA is located has been off the State's County Monitoring List for at least 14 consecutive days. The County Monitoring List, which is regularly updated, can be found at the following link (<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>).

The only apparent exception to this criterion allows a district superintendent (or equivalent for a charter or private school) to seek a waiver for an elementary school (i.e. K-8). However, a waiver request may only be made "in consultation with labor, parent and community organizations," and requires both reviews by local public health officials and consultation with CDPH.

LEAs barred from offering in-person instruction by September 1 (as required by SB 98) should also have a comfort level that funding will not be denied for that reason (though additional legislation on this front may be required).

In evaluating whether a county will be placed on the monitoring list, CDPH uses several different factors including elevated cases in specific populations, large outbreaks in congregate settings, elevated public interests, and significant resource requests for personal protective equipment, contact tracers, or testing capacity. However, CDPH has identified the following as the primary metrics considered:

- 1) Case Rate. CDPH will flag the county if either of the following occurs –
 - The infection rate exceeds 100 individuals per 100,000 (this is calculated as the total number of cases diagnosed over 14 days, divided by the total number of county residents, multiplied by 100,000) or
 - The rate exceeds 25 individuals per 100,000 (calculated using the same method above) **and** the county has greater than an 8% testing positivity rate over a 7-day period (calculated as the number of positive tests, divided by the total number of tests over the period, multiplied by 100);
- 2) Hospitalization Rate. This metric will be flagged if there has been greater than a 10% increase in the average number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized over the last 3 days;
- 3) Hospital Capacity. Specific considerations include the overall hospital capacity, availability of intensive care unit beds, and availability of ventilators. If there is an increased transmission rate in the county, along with increased hospitalization, this factor becomes important for determining whether the county is capable of responding to needed treatments.

A county is flagged if –

- Less than 20% of staffed intensive care unit beds are available or
- Less than 25% of ventilators are available

When a county fails to meet the minimum requirements for these various metrics, CDPH monitors the county for 3 days before placing it on the monitoring list. Once on the list, CDPH works directly with the county to develop strategies, identify action steps, and create timelines for reducing transmissions, including a process for exiting the monitoring list.

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

CLOSING SCHOOLS ONCE REOPENED

Once a school or district has reopened, closure is not mandatory simply because the county in which the LEA is located goes back on County Monitoring List. Rather, CDPH advises that case-by-case decisions to close must be made based on the following principles, and in consultation with local health officials:

- Individual school closure may be warranted if the school has "multiple cases in multiple cohorts" or "at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/students/staff are cases within a 14-day period" or as otherwise determined by local public health authorities.
- District closure may be warranted if 25% of schools within the district are closed.

Schools/Districts that have closed (after initially opening) may generally reopen after 14 days, but must clean and disinfect the facility, and must engage with local public health officials for purposes of investigation and consultation.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND CONFIRMED CASES

The CDPH Guidance provides additional clarity as to how LEAs should respond to reports of COVID-19 symptoms or confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst students/staff. As always, LEAs are advised to consider orders of local county public health officers, which may be more restrictive and may have requirements in addition to those of the CDPH Guidance.

Responding to Students/Staff With COVID-19 Symptoms

The CDPH Guidance articulates a clear rule for use when students/staff report COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing). In those situations, the individual should be separated and sent home and encouraged to test. The CDPH specifically advises: (1) use of an isolation room; (2) not cleaning the exposed area for 24 hours or as long as practicable; and (3) immediate notification of local public health authorities.

If students/staff test negative, they may return three days after symptoms have resolved. Significantly, CDPH advises that other students/staff need not be sent home unless a positive case is confirmed, though they advise that LEAs consider notifying students/staff.

Responding to Students/Staff With Confirmed COVID-19 Infection

The CDPH Guidance articulates rules for responding to confirmed cases (e.g. positive test result, doctor's diagnosis) of COVID-19 infection, but there is significant room for LEAs to decide, in consultation with local public health officials, how to apply this guidance.

LEAs should first determine when a confirmed case arose for purposes of determining whether others should be required to self-quarantine. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently advises that contact with a person who has COVID-19 is significant for purposes of considering whether self-quarantine is required if the contact occurs: (1) 48 hours before a positive COVID-19 test if there are no symptoms; or (2) 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. (See link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>). **Note** that local public health guidance on this point may be more restrictive.

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."

At a minimum, any "close contacts" (i.e. within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) of a confirmed COVID-19 case must be sent home to self-quarantine for 14 days. CDPH specifically advises: "In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other groups may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors."

When Can Students/Staff Return to School After Being Sent Home

CDPH advises that **students/staff who are infected** be sent home for **at least 10 days** from the onset of symptoms, and in compliance with current CDC guidance (which, as of this writing, requires that symptoms have improved and the individual has gone 24 hours without a fever and use of fever-reducing medication).

CDPH advises that **students/staff sent home to self-quarantine** because they are "close contacts" of an infected person may return **14 days** after their last exposure.

CDPH advises that **students/staff sent home with symptoms** — but no positive test — may return **3 days after symptoms resolve**.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

Under the new CDPH Guidance, the pre-existing face-covering guidance (discussed in a prior Alert here <https://www.aalrr.com/newsroom-alerts-3741>) has been adjusted in many key respects.

For students, the rules have been clarified as follows:

- Face coverings are not required for babies or toddlers under 2 years old.
- **Face coverings are "strongly encouraged" but no longer required for children age 2 years old through 2nd grade.** If children of this age cannot wear a face-covering properly, a face shield is an acceptable alternative. LEAs may adopt a stricter standard.
- Face coverings remain required for students in grades 3-12 unless exemptions apply.
- Students who are required to wear face coverings, and who refuse to do so, must be excluded from campus:
- CDPH: "In order to comply with this guidance, schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face-covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school." Such students may be excluded from campus but should be offered alternative educational programs (e.g. 100% distance education).

Under the new CDPH Guidance, the following clarifications apply to staff:

- All staff are obligated to use face coverings following prior CDPH guidelines unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection;
- In limited situations where face coverings cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, such as communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs, a face shield can be used instead of a cloth face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the

Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

“Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities.”

- extent practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face-covering outside of the classroom;
- Workers or other persons handling or serving food must use gloves in addition to face coverings.