



January 13, 2021

Dear Jefferson School District Community,

At the Jefferson School District Board meeting last night, the Board set the dates for an in-person learning option to begin. With COVID-19 cases the highest since the pandemic started and hospital ICUs at 175% of capacity, the decision was made to wait a few more weeks to allow for the post-holiday surge to peak and begin to subside. The District has an extensive COVID-19 Prevention Program in place that includes the following; opportunity for asymptomatic testing for staff, PPE including the requirement of the use of masks by everyone, regular hand washing, daily cleaning schedules of highly touched surfaces, additional hospital grade filtration systems in all instructional settings, cohorting of student groups, contact tracing, and isolation/quarantine procedures for individuals with COVID-19 or exposure to COVID. In addition, the District is working with San Joaquin County Public Health Services and the San Joaquin County Office of Education to get all employees vaccinated in February. Furthermore, the District is working with the State's Valencia Testing Lab to provide asymptomatic testing to all students that return to in-person instruction. Based upon these measures and the expected decline in COVID transmission within the county in February the following timeline for reopening was set:

February 1st – All students receiving specialized services (Tier 1, 2, and 3)

February 16th – TK-3rd grade students

March 1st (Beginning of the 3rd Trimester) – 4th-8th grades

In the next few days, an electronic form will be sent asking families to commit to the instructional model they would like their student to participate in for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The options include a return to in-school instruction on a modified schedule, Distance Learning, or the Jefferson Virtual Academy. The current Independent Study model will end on February 12, 2021.

The Jefferson School District is committed to providing all students with a quality education in whichever instructional model parents choose for their students.

Sincerely,

James W. Bridges
Superintendent