



Reopening Update # 9; August 24, 2020

Dear SVUSD Community,

Now that we have completed the first week of school with Distance Learning 2.0, I hope that all of our students had a productive first week meeting their teachers, adjusting to a new method of instruction, and becoming familiar with expectations and protocols. I also want to share some important information and updates.

State Monitoring List Status and Implications

As you may be aware, yesterday (8/23/20), Orange County was removed from the State's Monitoring List after public health officials reported 3 consecutive days of data below the state's monitoring thresholds (state-set thresholds established for Case Rates (less than 100 per 100,000 people) and Testing Positivity (less than 8%)). Orange County will need to remain off of this list for 14 consecutive days to then be authorized to reopen for in-person, on campus instruction. The decision of when students will attend the Hybrid model will be at the discretion of the local School Board (SVUSD Board of Education).

Transition to Hybrid Teaching Model

What does this mean for SVUSD? If Orange County remains off the Monitoring List for 14 consecutive days, the SVUSD Board of Education may approve a start date of the SVUSD Hybrid Model (students returning to campus) to be as early as September 21, 2020, which is two weeks after the projected allowable date. This will be discussed at our September 10, 2020 Board meeting. This tentative date has been selected with a great deal of thought as we want to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. September 21 is two weeks after Labor Day, which gives us time to ensure that the cases do not spike after the holiday weekend as they did on Memorial Day and July 4. It is extremely important to note that Orange County must remain off the list for 14 consecutive days for us to be able to offer in-person instruction (Hybrid model). If at any time the county surpasses the state-set thresholds, we will be placed back on the Monitoring List and would remain on the list until numbers reported fall below the threshold limits. After 3 days of reporting below limits, we would be taken off the list and the 14 consecutive day count would begin again.

While we are cautiously optimistic about remaining off the list for the required 14 days, there are many factors that will determine if we are able to stay off the list, including the continued following of state and health agency directives and guidance. As we near Labor Day, it is imperative for everyone to continue adhering to physical distancing and the use of face masks to help decrease the risk of spreading COVID-19. SVUSD will continue to closely monitor the data and work with the Orange County Health Care Agency regarding reopening plans for the Hybrid model.

SVUSD has implemented a detailed Reopening and Safety plan for when it is permissible to begin offering the Hybrid Model. The plan was shared with all families and staff in Reopening Update # 4 (7/23/20) and is posted on the SVUSD website homepage (www.svUSD.org). With this new information, schools will be working to create detailed Hybrid schedules for each site.

In closing, I'd like to recognize and thank everyone for their flexibility and patience as we continue to work through any DL 2.0 challenges as well as our potential move to the Hybrid model. While the first week of instruction went relatively smoothly, we are aware that there are still some situations staff and families are working through. Additionally, you may be aware that earlier this morning Zoom experienced a partial system outage nationwide. While the outage has been resolved and didn't seem to affect many of our students or staff, it is important to recognize that these types of situations may arise, and when they do, our staff will work to ensure they are communicating with you on any updates or alternative plans.

Thank you,

Crystal Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent