

October 23, 2020

Dear St. HOPE Families and Scholars,

I hope you are doing well as we come to the end of our second week of instruction in Quarter 2! We have had a strong and smooth start to the quarter and continue to work our hardest to ensure that our distance learning model is as effective as possible for each and every one of our scholars. In addition, we continue to plan and prepare for our future transition to our Hybrid learning model. I am reaching out today to provide you with an update on what we are expecting to see in our future at St. HOPE Public Schools as it relates to COVID-19.

As I previously shared, on Tuesday, September 22nd Sacramento County reported COVID-19 data that met the criteria to move from the purple category on the state's watch-list down to the less-restrictive red category for the first time. In order to officially be re-categorized into the red, Sacramento County had to stay at the required "red" levels for 14 consecutive days. Tuesday, September 29th marked the 14th consecutive day and as a result, the County was officially moved into the red category on this date. At this time, the Sacramento County Public Health Department indicated that they would be updating their guidance and recommendations for schools opening in-person once we had remained in the red category for an additional 14 consecutive days.

On Tuesday, October 13th, our first day of Quarter 2, Sacramento County met the criteria for being in the Red Tier 2 on the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy for the 14th consecutive day **and the Sacramento County Public Health Department updated our local health order clearing all schools and all grade levels to open for in-person instruction. We are now officially cleared to begin in-person instruction!**

In preparation for this update, our team has been hard at work! Our Site Leads held parent meetings at the end of Quarter 1 to provide these updates directly to our families and to review our Distance Learning and Hybrid models so that families would be best equipped to choose the most appropriate program for their scholar(s) for Quarter 2. We sent out a survey to all of our families and had them select Distance Learning or Hybrid for the duration of Quarter 2. These selections were imperative for us to know how many scholars to plan for in each model and to be able to make necessary adjustments to our Hybrid plan to make our program as effective as possible for every scholar. We have held focus groups and continued to consistently elicit input from all of our stakeholders. We know that these are unprecedented times and the most important thing is that we collaborate on how best to approach each new stage. From a health and safety perspective, we have been set up and ready to go with new safety procedures, PPE supplies and new classroom layouts since the summer in preparation for scholars to return to campus! We will absolutely be following all of the guidance provided by the Health Department including the mandatory use of masks, social distancing and reduced classroom capacity ranging from only 12-15 scholars to ensure that all students are situated at least 6 feet apart at all times.

Additionally, we have a trained contact tracer for St. HOPE Public Schools. Ms. Perez has participated in over 7 hours of training and has been directly working with the Sacramento County Health Department. Should we become aware of a scholar or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 we will be following the process of informing the Health Department and per their direction quarantining those that have been in

contact with the individual for 14 consecutive days. During the quarantining, all scholars impacted by the quarantine will temporarily be placed on distance learning.

At this time, we are preparing to tentatively bring our entry-level grade level scholars who have opted-in for Hybrid back on campus on Monday, November 9th. We are beginning with our TK/K, 6th and 9th grade scholars only as they have not yet had the chance to physically attend school at these campuses. We want to give them the care and attention they need to transition onto campus. In addition, beginning with one grade level per campus allows us to implement all of our procedures with additional staff members present so that we can fine-tune any procedures as needed.

Then, on Monday, November 16th we will be implementing our Hybrid plan for all grade levels. Since we will be operating at a reduced student capacity for the duration of the school year in order to promote social distancing, scholars who opt-in to the Hybrid model will only return to campus two days a week. Scholars will be placed on a “Track A” or “Track B” and will be on campus either Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday. Our Wednesday schedule will not change and all scholars will continue to participate in our virtual live Zoom lessons on these days. This will ensure we can deliver at least three days of live instruction for every scholar.

In order for our school teams to be best prepared for this transition, we will be shifting Friday, November 6th from an instructional day to a Professional Development day. This day will be dedicated to our team participating in final preparations for scholars to return to campus. We will then be adding an instructional day to the end of the quarter in order to meet our minimum number of instructional days for the year. This means that our last day of Quarter 2 will be Thursday, December 17th instead of Wednesday, December 16th.

We are excited about this plan as it allows us to ease into the transition to Hybrid. Quarter 3 is our longest and undoubtedly most important quarter of the school year as it is our last full quarter before state assessments. We want to give our community time to adjust to our new model before the start of a new quarter. Our data shows that about 50% of our scholars will be returning for in-person instruction while 50% of our scholars will be remaining on distance learning. We are eager to put in place a plan that meets the needs of both of these groups. We are anticipating a much higher increase in scholars attending in-person in Quarter 3 and are excited to be prepared to welcome everyone back who is ready to join the physical learning environment!

Our Site Leads will be following up with additional communication next week that outlines the details of our Hybrid Model for each of our three campuses. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and flexibility. We are so excited to be this close to having our scholars back on campus!

We will remain in close communication. If anything changes to our plan due to stakeholder input or changes in guidance from the Sacramento County Public Health Department we will immediately update you! Please reach out to your Site Lead with any questions you may have!

Sincerely,
Kari Wehrly



County of Sacramento

October 13, 2020

Dear Families:

These are indeed unprecedented times; and 2020 has turned out to be a year like no other! We thank you all for your patience as we strive to navigate the challenges brought on by this pandemic, and help our communities get through to a safe re-opening of our schools and businesses. In the past month, we have seen a steady decline in cases of COVID-19, and on September 29th, Sacramento County Public Health advanced to the red tier, which means that starting today, schools can re-open for all grade levels.

In order for us to continue this downward trend in cases and to be able to keep our schools open, we all have to continue to remain vigilant in following the preventive measures put in place to prevent the spread of the virus. As we work towards moving more activities back onto school campuses, we have asked schools to make some big changes to how they operate. I have outlined a few of these changes below and I am asking that you support the school staff and work together to keep our schools and our communities healthy.

Face Coverings will be

- Strongly encouraged for children age 2 through second grade.
- Required for grades 3 and up in all indoor spaces and outdoors when distancing of 6 feet or greater cannot be achieved and consistently maintained.
- Required for all adults on campus (with some exceptions).

Hygiene – everyone is reminded to

- Wash their hands with soap and water often.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when sneezing or coughing and always wash or sanitize your hands after.

Monitoring Your Health – everyone should

- Be checked daily for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school.
- Have temperature checked every morning before coming to school.
- Stay home if they have symptoms that could be related to COVID and check with a healthcare provider.

Physical Distancing – everyone should

- Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more from others. This may mean changes in school schedules, classroom configurations, and different procedures for lunch, recess or activities.
- Avoid large gatherings such as assemblies, rallies and parties. There may also be restrictions on some activities such as sports, music, and clubs.

Quarantine and Isolation – make sure to

- Notify your school immediately if a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19
- Follow quarantine/ isolation instructions for all members of the household.
- Work with school and public health officials if a member of your household is suspected to have or has confirmed COVID-19.

We also ask that you make sure that you and your household members get your flu shot. The flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, but it is highly recommended to help keep you healthy. When a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, we will share more information at that time.

Thank you again for your attention to these matters. We know the changes required by the COVID-19 pandemic are disruptive for all of us, but by working together and adhering to these guidelines, we can help minimize the risk of spread of disease and keep our communities healthier as well as accelerate a return to life without restrictions.

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer

COVID-19 Resources

To learn more about COVID-19, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html (CDC)

covid19.saccounty.net (Sacramento County)