

## County of Fresno DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

January 21, 2021

Dear Superintendents,

The purpose of this advisory is to clarify the status of schools in Fresno County.

It is important to understand that Fresno County and its neighboring counties continue to experience a large number of COVID-19 cases. Local and regional hospitals and ICUs are at or exceeding normal capacity to care for patients. Cases per 100,000 population and the positivity rate continue to remain high. With the large number of cases and limited hospital capacity, the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) has implemented the following policy for all schools:

Delay bringing any additional students back on campus until Fresno County's case rate is 25 cases per 100,000 population and maintain only the number of students you previously allowed back to campuses this past fall. Staff may come back to fulfill their duties in accordance with safety and surveillance measures outlined previously.

School districts throughout Fresno County demonstrated they could manage the number of students they currently had on their campuses in a safe and responsible manner, following all state and local return-to-school COVID-19 safety requirements.

We appreciate and cherish the partnerships with all of you during this historical public health crisis that has impacted your students and staff. The safety and success of your students is very important to us. We thank you for your patience and flexibility during these trying times.

We will continue to keep you updated as we work together to keep our students, staff and community safe.

Rais Vohra MD

Interim Health Officer

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Fresno County Department of Public Health

David Pomaville

Fresno County Director of Public Health