

November 17, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

The last week has been extremely hard on South Lake Tahoe for COVID-19 infections. The number of new cases across the city has risen dramatically, and the Lake Tahoe Unified School District has not been immune. In collaboration with our local health expert partners, we have analyzed all of the data and see that South Lake Tahoe has spiked to over a 10% positivity rate, over 300 per 100,000 case rate over a 14 day time period, and testing availability is many days delayed. Additionally, El Dorado County was moved to the Purple Tier (Widespread) designation in [California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) effective today at 12:00 PM.

In accordance with the Purple Tier designation, all schools currently operating in Phase 2 Hybrid Learning (Grades TK-8) may continue to operate as scheduled. We are currently assessing the implications of our local health data and the Purple Tier on our TK-8 schools remaining open as well as our ability to open STHS and Mt. Tallac to in-person learning. These decisions will be made in collaboration with the El Dorado County Public Health Department and El Dorado County Office of Education and families will be notified as soon as possible.

Our schools have done an excellent job adhering to the stringent safety protocols put in place for hybrid learning environments and the District feels that schools are, and continue to be, among the safest places for students. The District, along with its health partners [and other districts in El Dorado County, do agree that it is in our children's and families' best interests to remain in hybrid learning](#) until such time that it is no longer feasible due to rising cases or lack of resources.

With this in mind, the school district is beginning to see an increase in both positive cases and presumptive positive cases causing multiple staff and students to be at home isolating and monitoring their own health for symptoms. Currently there are over 30 staff members out on isolation and more than 150 students out because of symptoms of illness or the need to isolate. Staff in isolation or who are ill creates multiple challenges with ensuring resources are available for district services (bussing, food services, and custodial/maintenance support) and instruction.

Today the district received confirmation of 2 staff members who are positive, 1 staff member who is presumptive positive, and 2 students who are positive. All staff and students who are considered close contacts have been notified and are at home monitoring their health. The district will continue to closely monitor the

health and safety of the district and the community. As well, we will continue to inform and communicate transmission rates in our schools.

The district has adopted a more rigorous communication system and conservative approach to excluding staff and students from campuses who are either exhibiting symptoms of illness, exposed to someone who is positive, or who are determined to be positive themselves for COVID-19. **With the holidays approaching it is critical that our students, staff and community adhere to the health and safety guidelines established for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is to celebrate with the people in your own home, to avoid travel, and avoid indoor or large gatherings. Together, we can turn this around. Thank you for your diligence.**

Sincerely,

Office of the Superintendent
LTUSD Health Services Department