June 3, 2020

Dear Santa Clara County Community,

The Santa Clara County educational community is eager to know if Santa Clara County children and youth can return to in-person instruction in the Fall. A variety of logistical and public health considerations must be addressed in order to ensure that a return to in person instruction is done as safely as possible. We are working diligently toward that goal. The Santa Clara County Office of Education, school district superintendents, and our educational partners from across our county have been hard at work reviewing and assessing the most up-to-date guidance from the Santa Clara County and California Departments of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the California Department of Education. We will continue to monitor state level guidance for alignment. Our local implementation will necessarily adhere to the local public health officer orders as they are most responsive to our local health conditions.

We continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID-19 and assess the conditions that must be addressed as we make plans to resume school in the Fall with the modifications necessary to prioritize student and staff safety concerns.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education, local public school districts, and the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health are working in close partnership to develop deliberative and responsible guidance for local schools as they plan for the opening of school with the appropriate mixture of in-person and distance learning that prioritizes student safety while also considering the learning needs of students and the needs of parents and our broader community.

Opening school campuses to in-person instruction will require intensive collaboration and support. A robust system of COVID-19 testing and contact tracing will need to be in place. And, a clear set of public health protocols regarding how to respond to any occurrence of the virus will be essential.

We are all eager to have answers so that families across the county can make plans. We anticipate having countywide planning guidance ready for release soon. An announcement with an update of how schools may open in the fall will be made by Wednesday, July 1st. Updates will be shared regularly over the summer.

While there remain many questions that need to be answered, we are working on a daily basis to better understand this evolving and unprecedented situation and to consult with the best minds in public health across our county and state. The health, safety and wellness of our youth remains our top priority.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education

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Dr. Robert Bravo
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Campbell Union High School District

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East Side Union High School District

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Los Altos School District

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Superintendent
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