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Superintendent

Robert A. Haley, Ed.D.

710 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, CA 92024
Telephone (760) 753-6491
www.sduhsd.net

Office of the Superintendent

March 5, 2021

Subject: School Safety Request Approval

Dear San Dieguito Union High School District Community,

I want to personally thank our teachers, staff, counselors, administrators, and student leaders for the countless hours in preparation for Monday, March 8. As we await authorization from the California Department of Public Health, we remain committed to offering all students who selected "in-person" learning instruction the opportunity to access campus starting the week of March 8. We are doing everything we can to receive authorization to expand general in-person instruction, however, we do not have local control to do so. Per Governor Newsom's Executive Orders and the CDPH K12 Guidelines, we cannot move forward without authorization from Dr. Naomi Bardach, Lead of the Safe Schools for All Team for the State of California.

We look forward to welcoming students on campus during their assigned day to connect with fellow students and staff members during the instructional day. Site administrators have contingency plans to welcome on-campus learners in the event our **district's plan is not authorized prior to Monday by Dr. Bardach**. Site principals will communicate with their school communities on Sunday.

Timeline:

- On Monday, February 22, we submitted our School Safety Review request to San Diego County Public Health, the first step in the process.
- On Saturday, February 27, San Diego County Public Health Officer, Dr. Wilma Wooten, approved our plan and submitted it on our behalf to the CDPH K12 Safety Review Portal for final approval prior to the start of the business day on Monday, March 1.
- Under the review process, the CDPH has seven business days in which to make a decision or request more information. The maximum number of days for the review takes us to March 9.
- On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, we sent a request, along with Carlsbad Unified School District and Poway Unified School District, on behalf of a combined 40,000 middle and high school students asking for final approval by Friday, March 5. ([see letter posted on our Website](#))
- On Wednesday, March 3, we received a response that indicated that they were aware of our concern, but could not guarantee a response by Friday, March 5.
- On Friday, March 5, we sent another request for a determination so we could proceed on Monday, March 8. **We are still waiting, but we are hopeful.**

We remain optimistic and confident we will hear from the state either today or throughout the weekend. As soon as we hear something -- we will notify our SDUHS Community.

Robert Haley
Superintendent
Committed to the Future