



SOUTH COAST EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

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March 15, 2021 via e-mail

Staff,

Recently, I shared with you that the Governor was making some changes to school requirements including requiring schools to offer in-person or hybrid learning to students by specified dates. On March 12, 2021 the Governor Issued [Executive Order 21-06](#) which specifically orders public school districts and charter schools to offer fully On-site or Hybrid in-person instruction by designated timelines to include:

- Provide in-person instruction for K-5 students on or before the week of March 29, 2021
- Provide in-person instruction for students grades 6-12 on or before the week of April 19, 2021

As explained, this new requirement will do very little to change the way the districts on the south coast operate because we have primarily had our students in-person/hybrid throughout the year. There are a couple of high schools that have yet to finalize opening but they are working diligently to do so and have been hindered by the case rates in our community and the previous RSSL guidance. This executive action will support them in moving forward and finalizing their plans to opening in-person to high school students.

In addition, the Governor also directed ODE and OHA to review current health protocols and update the [Ready School Safe Learners](#) guidance. The Governor's Office explained, "Because there is more research today than even a few months ago, this review of requirements will explore areas that can better facilitate the return of in-person instruction while also reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19." The areas for review included:

- Entry Screening
- Physical Distancing
- Face Coverings
- Cohorting
- Hand Hygiene
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Airflow and Ventilation
- Isolation and Quarantining
- Outdoor learning protocols
- On-site COVID-19 Testing
- Educator Vaccinations

After OHA and ODE reviewed the above measures thoughtfully, it was decided that very little will change at this time. I have reviewed the [RSSL Guidance](#) and found two primary changes that may be of interest to you:

- [Revised Metrics Explainer](#) – This reflects the Governor's executive order but still has decision making zones of green, yellow and red
- Cohorting-Removes the 100 total contacts within a week requirement BUT keeps the 6 foot physical distancing and the 35 square foot per person for occupancy

At this time there will be no changes in safety protocols for SCESD. We will work with the local districts and the LPHA to see if any items need to be addressed from this new guidance. If we find that there will be changes, we will work with your union leads to discuss impacts and keep you updated.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work this year.

Tenneal

Tenneal Wetherell

Superintendent

(she, her, hers -[Why Pronouns Matter](#))

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