

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:8.1
AGENDA DATE: August 25, 2020

SUBJECT:

Update Related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and Essential Services in Stanislaus County Including a Report on the Authorities of the Board of Supervisors Related to State of California Public Health Orders for Schools in Response to COVID-19 and Related Matters

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0449

On motion of Supervisor Withrow Seconded by Supervisor Berryhill
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Withrow, Berryhill
Noes: Supervisors: Chiesa, DeMartini, and Chairwoman Olsen
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) _____ Approved as recommended
- 2) _____ Denied
- 3) _____ Approved as amended
- 4) X Other:

MOTION: The motion failed to approve that Stanislaus County will not expend any staff or resources to enforce the State's current order prohibiting schools from opening

ATTEST: Kelly Rodriguez
KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:8.1
AGENDA DATE: August 25, 2020

CONSENT

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Update Related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and Essential Services in Stanislaus County Including a Report on the Authorities of the Board of Supervisors Related to State of California Public Health Orders for Schools in Response to COVID-19 and Related Matters

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept an update on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency and essential services in Stanislaus County, including a report on the authorities of the Board of Supervisors related to State of California Public Health Orders for schools in response to COVID-19 and compliance requirements for receipt of funding to assist in the local response to the Pandemic authorized per the State Budget Act of 2020.
2. Provide direction to staff as deemed necessary by the Board of Supervisors.

DISCUSSION:

During the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 11, 2020, Supervisor Withrow asked the Board to consider action regarding the orders of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the reopening of schools in California. Within the CDPH's Framework and Guidance documents, the CDPH set forth criteria that prevents all schools within Stanislaus County from conducting in-person learning until certain criteria are met.

State and Local Orders

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency regarding COVID-19. The County issued a Proclamation of a Local Emergency on March 11, 2020, and a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, Ratifying the Declarations of Local Health Emergency and Local Emergency Proclamation on March 17, 2020. COVID-19 affects the entire State; therefore, the measures necessary to preserve and protect the public health within the County have been prescribed by the State Public Health Officer, the California Department of Public Health, and by orders issued by the Governor.

One question often asked is what are the powers and duties of the Governor, the Board of Supervisors, the local Public Health Officer, and State Public Health Officer in this

pandemic. The consensus is that the Board of Supervisors and the local Health Officer have a duty to comply with the Governor's orders and the orders and directives of the CDPH and the State Public Health Officer, and to enforce those orders.

The Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, provides that "[a]ll residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19." In Executive Order N-33-20 issued on March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered that "all residents are directed to immediately heed the current State public health directives, which I ordered the Department of Public Health to develop for the current statewide status of COVID-19."

State law gives the Governor complete authority over all agencies of the State government and all police power vested in the State by the Constitution during an emergency. (Gov. Code § 8627) Within the California Emergency Services Act, emergency orders and regulations by the Governor "shall have the force and effect of law." (Gov. Code, § 8567(a)) The State Department of Public Health "may advise all local health authorities, and, when in its judgment the public health is menaced, it shall control and regulate their action." (Health & Safety Code §131080)

Furthermore, the Governor ordered all residents to comply with the orders and directives of the CDPH. Consequently, not only are the County Public Health Officer and other County officers required to comply, but also parents, school administrators, educators, and students.

Courts analyzing preemption have recognized that, "[p]ublic health is a matter of statewide concern" (*City of Huntington Beach v. Becerra* (2020) 44 Cal.App.5th 243, 275 [immigrant health care]; *Department of Public Health v. Board of Supervisors* (1959) 171 Cal.App.2d 99, 106 [rabies control program]). A local ordinance or regulation that conflicts with State law is void (*Bldg. Indus. Ass'n v. City of Livermore* (1996) 45 Cal.App.4th 719, 724). Thus, the Governor's order directing the County to comply with the directives and orders of the CDPH preempts any contrary order by the Board of Supervisors.

While the Board maintains the general power to control the budget and spending of the County, any action by the Board that defeats the purpose and intent of the orders of the CDPH regarding in-person learning would likely be void. As the court stated in *Anderson v. City of San Jose*, 42 Cal. App. 5th 683, 713–14, 255 Cal. Rptr. 3d 654, 675 (2019), review denied (Mar. 11, 2020), "general laws seeking to accomplish an objective of statewide concern...may prevail over conflicting local regulations even if they impinge to a limited extent upon some phase of local control." (Citation omitted)

Framework for Re-Opening Schools

On July 17, 2020, the State Public Health Officer issued a framework for re-opening in-person learning for K-12 schools in California. Schools and school districts may reopen for in-person instruction provided they are located in a local health jurisdiction that has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days; Stanislaus County is on the State's County Monitoring List (<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>). The

updated guidance issued by CDPH on August 3, 2020 applies to all schools, including “public schools (traditional and charter), private schools (including nonpublic nonsectarian schools), school districts, and county offices of education,” which are collectively referred to as “schools” in the document.

Similarly, CDPH’s document, “COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year” makes no distinction between public and private schools, mandating that “[i]f the [local health jurisdiction] has been on the monitoring list within the last 14 days, the school must conduct distance learning only, until their [local health jurisdiction] has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days.” This CDPH requirement is not simply advisory, but enforceable by virtue of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-33-20, and all schools must comply.

The framework allows elementary schools to seek a waiver to allow in-person instruction, which “may only be granted if one is requested by the superintendent (or equivalent for charter or private schools), in consultation with labor, parents, and community organizations.”

On August 3, 2020, the CDPH issued several documents related to the waiver process. The criteria the CDPH set out includes a pass-fail test that schools within jurisdictions with 14-day case rates of more than 200 cases per 100,000 in population should not be considered for a waiver to re-open in-person instruction. Additionally, a waiver is only available for grades K-6 and the school must consult with labor, parent, and community organizations, and publish elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent).

To meet the CDPH requirements for all schools in Stanislaus County to return to in-person learning, the residents of Stanislaus County must reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and the County must meet the criteria to be taken off the State’s watch list and maintain that status for more than 14 days.

Jurisdiction Over Schools

Public school districts are separate public entities, and unless a county has been provided specific statutory authority over some issue related to a school district (e.g. zoning at Government Code § 53094), the county has no legal jurisdiction over school districts. Consequently, our local public schools, not the Board of Supervisors, control whether they open to in-person learning. That decision will be made by the local school district board and the California Department of Education (CDE), if conditions warrant opening under the framework and guidelines issued by the CDPH.

Private schools are independent of the CDE. The CDE has no statutory authority to regulate or monitor private schools or private education and the teachers are not required to hold credentials (Education Code § 48222). There are eight private schools in the Stanislaus County unincorporated area:

School Name	Site Address	Area	BOS District
Brethren Heritage School	3549 Dakota Ave.	Wood Colony	3
Kirk Baucher	3524 Finney Rd.	Wood Colony	3
Modesto Christian School	5755 Sisk Rd.	Salida	3
New Harvest Christian	1360 Lone Palm Ave.	Unincorporated Modesto	3
Oakdale Academy	7565 Patterson Rd.	S/o Oakdale	1
Oakdale Christian Academy	10055 Valley Home Rd.	Valley Home	1
Reyn Franca	4041 Main St.	Denair	2
Stanislaus Academy	2513 Youngstown Rd.	S/o Turlock	2

Role of the Local Public Health Officer

The CDPH advises all local health authorities and is required to control and regulate the actions of Local Health Officer (LHO) when in its judgment public health is menaced. CDPH also has the power to govern the actions of the LHO through its orders, rules, and regulations. For example, each LHO is required by law to enforce all orders, rules, and regulations concerning quarantine or isolation prescribed or directed by CDPH. (Health & Safety Code § 120195). CDPH orders, rules, and regulations generally set the minimum measures applicable statewide. LHOs can generally issue more stringent measures based on local conditions, but not less restrictive.

Stanislaus County’s Public Health Officer is required to comply with the directions of the CDPH. Under Health and Safety Code § 120175, “Each health officer knowing or having reason to believe that any case of the diseases made reportable by regulation of the department, or any other contagious, infectious or communicable disease exists, or has recently existed, within the territory under his or her jurisdiction, shall take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence of additional cases.” Likewise, under California Code of Regulations, Title 17, § 2501(a) “... the local health officer shall take whatever steps deemed necessary for the investigation and control of the disease, condition or outbreak reported.”

Regarding enforcement of public health orders, Health and Safety Code § 131082 states, “[e]very person charged with the performance of any duty under the laws of this state relating to the preservation of the public health, who willfully neglects or refuses to perform the same, is guilty of a misdemeanor.” This means that the failure of the local health officer, or any public officer charged with the duty to preserve the public health, to perform that duty is punishable and subject to misdemeanor arrest.

Impacts of Local Compliance

A little over a month ago, on July 7, 2020, in order to receive State CARES Act CRF subrecipient funds and Realignment backfill funding that would allow the County to mitigate costs and lost revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, your Board agreed to:

- Adhere to Federal guidance and the State’s stay-at-home requirements and other health requirements as directed in gubernatorial Executive Order N-33-20, any subsequent Executive Orders or statutes, and all California Department of Public Health orders, directives, and guidance in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

If the Board were to take action to prohibit enforcement of the State’s orders, that action would be a violation of the Board's commitment to adhere to all California Department of Public Health orders, directives, and guidance in response to COVID-19 emergency, which could result in the loss of State CARES Act CRF subrecipient funds and Realignment backfill funding.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Board of Supervisors is asked to consider the staff report and provide direction as deemed necessary in their discretion to best respond to the local impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As part of the State Budget of 2020, counties were offered two significant funding streams to assist during the local COVID-19 response: Realignment backfill to mitigate the sales tax shortfall in support for realigned programs and CARES Act CRF pass-through funds. Both allocations required certification statements indicating compliance with State of California Department of Public Health orders related to the pandemic response for receipt of funds. The Recommended Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 22, 2020, and will rely on leveraging both Realignment backfill and CARES Act CRF pass-through funding to offset deficits in the Health and Human Services programs, primarily Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and the Community Services Agency. Details of the two sources of State support for the County follow.

Realignment backfill – The State Budget Act of 2020 provides \$1 billion for safety net services that counties administer on behalf of the State. Of this total, \$750 million is provided directly with State General Fund and \$250 million is dependent upon the State receiving additional Federal COVID-19 relief funding, which will be determined by October 15, 2020. “While the funding does not flow through Realignment Subaccounts, language in AB 89 specifies that this one-time safety net funding is for revenue losses for realigned programs and shall be used for health and human services programs, entitlement programs and programs that serve vulnerable populations.” Stanislaus County’s allocated portion of the statewide \$750 million is \$9.1 million.

The Realignment backfill certification requires counties to:

- Adhere to Federal guidance and the State’s stay-at-home requirements and other health requirements as directed in gubernatorial Executive Order N-33-20, any subsequent Executive Orders or statutes, and all California Department of Public Health orders, directives, and guidance in response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

- Use the funds in accordance with Provision 3 of Item 9210110-0001 of the State Budget Act of 2020.

State pass-through of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – The State of California received Federal CARES Act CRF funds directly from the U.S. Treasury in the amount of \$1.3 billion. Of this total, Stanislaus County has been allocated \$12.8 million as a “subrecipient” of these funds. The Federal pass-through funds are subject to all of the Federal rules for allowable expenditures and time-frames as the Federal CRF allocation the County received directly (as the “prime” recipient) from the U.S. Treasury; those direct funds total \$96.1 million for the County. Beyond the Federal rules, the State has additional criteria for the pass-through allocation for which the County must certify compliance monthly in order to receive the \$12.8 Million.

The CARES Act CRF pass-through certification requires counties to:

- Adhere to Federal guidance and the State’s stay-at-home requirements and other health requirements as directed in gubernatorial Executive Order N-33-20, any subsequent Executive Orders or statutes, and all California Department of Public Health orders, directives, and guidance in response to the COVID-19 emergency;
- Use the funds in accordance with all applicable provisions of subdivision (d) of Control Section 11.90 of the Budget Act of 2020;
- Report on expenditures and summarize regional collaboration and non-duplication of efforts within the region by September 1, 2020, and return any funds that are unspent by October 30, 2020 (unless extended by the Department of Finance based on reported expenditures to date), and repay the State for any cost disallowed after Federal review; and
- Retain records to support reported COVID-19 eligible expenditures and participate in audits as outlined by the Federal government and State.

The combined funds total \$21.9 million and the Realignment backfill funding is estimated to leverage an additional \$11.3 million. As part of the balancing strategies identified for safety net programs in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, these funding allocations total \$33.2 million and may be allocated as follows:

- COVID-19 Emergency Response - \$12.8 million
 - County department programs and services, community support, business revitalization, and economic development
- Safety Net Programs - \$20.4 million
 - Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) – Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitalization, Institutions for Mental Disease Services, Mental Health Treatment and State Hospitalization, Drug Medi-Cal and Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment, Mental Health Managed Care
 - Community Services Agency (CSA) – Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Foster Care, Child Welfare Services, Adoptions Assistance, In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services
 - Health Services Agency – Public Health, Clinics and Ancillary, California Children’s Services

Certification to and compliance with Federal guidance and State Public Health Orders are necessary to support County safety net programs during Fiscal Year 2020-2021, essential to the County's response to COVID-19.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of the recommended actions supports the Board of Supervisors' priorities *Supporting Strong and Safe Neighborhoods, Supporting Community Health, and Delivering Efficient Public Services and Community Infrastructure* by confirming authorities and funding plans for local COVID-19 emergency response aligned with the service needs and public policy direction deemed necessary to best support the community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff will continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as any actions deemed necessary within the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, to best respond to the local impacts of the pandemic emergency.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jody Hayes, Chief Executive Officer (209) 525-6333

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Schools Reopening Recommendations
2. In-Person-Elementary-Waiver-Process
3. Schools FAQ
4. Guidance-Daycamps
5. Guidance-Childcare
6. Correspondence



SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



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Governor

COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning
Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year
July 17, 2020

Overview

California schools have been closed for in-person instruction since mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. School closures to in-person instruction were part of a broader set of recommendations intended to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. CDPH developed the following framework to support school communities as they decide when and how to implement in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. New evidence and data about COVID-19 transmission, including variations by age, and the effectiveness of disease control and mitigation strategies continues to emerge regularly. Recommendations regarding in-person school reopening and closure should be based on the available evidence as well state and local disease trends.

The CA [School Sector Specific Guidelines](#), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC](#) have published additional guidance on school re-entry.

In-Person Re-Opening Criteria

Schools and school districts may reopen for in-person instruction at any time if they are located in a local health jurisdiction (LHJ) that has not been on the county¹ monitoring list within the prior 14 days.

If the LHJ has been on the monitoring list within the last 14 days, the school must conduct distance learning only, until their LHJ has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days.²

¹ School districts in LHJs that are cities are considered to be included as part of the county if the county is on the monitoring list.

² A waiver of this criteria may be granted by the local health officer for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction. A waiver may only be granted if one is requested by the superintendent (or equivalent for charter or private schools), in consultation with labor, parent and community organizations. Local health officers must review local community epidemiological data, consider other public health interventions, and consult with CDPH when considering a waiver request.





SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



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Guidance Once Re-Opened to In-Person Instruction

How should schools think about testing?

Once schools are re-opened to at least some in-person instruction, it is recommended that surveillance testing be implemented based on the local disease trends. If epidemiological data indicates concern for increasing community transmission, schools should increase testing of staff to detect potential cases as lab testing capacity allows.

Who should be tested and how often?

School staff are essential workers, and staff includes teachers, para-professionals, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, or any other school employee that may have contact with students or other staff. School districts and schools shall test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.

What if a school or school district reopens to in-person instruction, but the county is later placed on the county monitoring list?

Schools should begin testing staff, or increase frequency of staff testing but are not required to close.





SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



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What measures should be taken when a student, teacher or staff member has symptoms, is a contact of someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19?

	Student or Staff with:	Action	Communication
1.	COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing) Symptom Screening: Per CA School Sector Specific Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home • Recommend testing (If positive, see #3, if negative, see #4) • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action needed
2.	Close contact (+) with a confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home • Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure • Recommend testing (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school community notification of a known contact
3.	Confirmed COVID-19 case infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the local public health department • Isolate case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date • Identify contacts (+), quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort (++)) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious • Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) • Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time • School remains open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School community notification of a known case
4.	Tests negative after symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve • School/classroom remain open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing





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State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



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(†) A contact is defined as a person who is <6 feet from a case for >15 minutes. In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.

(††) A cohort is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

Guidance on School Closure

What are the criteria for closing a school?

Individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school.

The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it reopen?

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

What are the criteria for closing a school district?





SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



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A superintendent should close a school district if 25% or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, and in consultation with the local public health department.

If a school district is closed, when may it reopen?

Districts may typically reopen after 14 days, in consultation with the local public health department.

State Resources for Case, Contact & Outbreak Investigations

California is committed to supporting local health departments with resources and other technical assistance regarding school case, contact, and outbreak investigations.





State of California—Health and Human Services
Agency
**California Department of Public
Health**



August 3, 2020

TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Elementary Education Waiver Process

Overview

California schools have been closed for in-person instruction since mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. School closures to in-person instruction were part of a broader set of recommendations intended to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) developed the *COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework* (PDF) to support school communities as they decide when and how to implement in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year.

This framework permitted schools and school districts to reopen for in-person instruction at any time if they are located in a local health jurisdiction (LHJ) that has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days. If the LHJ has been on the monitoring list within the last 14 days, the school must conduct distance learning only, until their LHJ has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days.

The framework authorized local health officers (LHO) to grant a waiver of this criteria, in order for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction under specified conditions. Applicants must satisfy all waiver requirements in order to be granted a waiver. Waivers should be granted or denied pursuant to the process outlined below.

Waiver Process

- **CDPH recommends that schools within jurisdictions with 14-day case rates more than two times the threshold to be on the County Monitoring List (>200 cases/100,000 population) should not be considered for a waiver to re-open in-person instruction.**
- Closed elementary schools in counties on the monitoring list within the prior 14 days may not open for in-person instruction until they have received approval of a waiver submitted to the LHO.
- This elementary school waiver is applicable only for grades TK-6, even if the grade configuration at the school includes additional grades.
- A district superintendent, private school principal/head of school, or executive director of a charter school (hereinafter applicant) can apply for a waiver from the LHO to open an elementary school for in-person instruction.
- Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted to the LHO at least 14 days prior to the desired reopening date.
- Prior to applying for the waiver, the applicant (or his/her staff) must (1) consult with labor, parent, and community organizations, and (2) publish elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). Examples of community organizations include school-based non-profit organizations and local organizations that support student enrichment, recreation, after-school programs, health services, early childhood services or provide family support.
- As described in the *CDPH/CalOSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs* (PDF), elementary school reopening plans must address several topics related to health and safety, in a manner consistent with guidance from CDPH and the local health department. Those topics include:
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Small, stable, cohorting
 - Entrance, egress, and movement within the school
 - Face coverings and other essential protective gear
 - Health screenings for students and staff
 - Healthy hygiene practices
 - Identification and tracing of contacts
 - Physical distancing
 - Staff training and family education
 - Testing of students and staff
 - Triggers for switching to distance learning
 - Communication plans
- When applying for the waiver, the applicant must submit to the LHO a waiver application form, to be provided by the LHO. The application must include evidence of (1) consultation with labor, parent, and community organizations and

- (2) publication of the elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent).
- The applicant must sign an attestation confirming the names and dates that the organizations were consulted. If school staff are not represented by a labor organization, then the applicant must describe the process by which it consulted with school staff.
 - The applicant must confirm publication of the elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent).
- If applying on behalf of a school district, the applicant should submit a consolidated application and publish a plan for elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, the applicant should submit an application and publish a plan for each school.
 - Upon receipt of a waiver application, the LHO will review and consider the application, supporting materials, and the following:
 - Available scientific evidence regarding COVID-related risks in schools serving elementary-age students, along with the health-related risks for children who are not provided in-person instruction.
 - State law directing public schools to "offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible." (Ed. Code § 43504).
 - Whether elementary in-person instruction can be provided in small, stable cohorts.
 - Local health guidance, safety plans, availability of appropriate PPE, and availability of public health and school resources for COVID-19 investigation and response.
 - Current new case rate, testing % positivity trends, and the number and degree of indicators above thresholds to be on the County Monitoring List.
 - Local hospitalization trends and hospital capacity.
 - Any other local conditions or data contributing to inclusion on the County Monitoring List.
 - Availability of testing resources within the community and via employee health plans.
 - The extent to which the applicant has consulted with staff, labor organizations, community, and parent organizations.
 - Following review, the LHO will consult with CDPH regarding the determination whether to grant or deny the waiver application. Consultation with CDPH is accomplished by submitting a notice pursuant to CDPH instructions.
 - CDPH will acknowledge receipt of the notice and follow up if there are any questions or concerns. CDPH will provide technical assistance as requested.
 - If the LHO has not received a further response within three business days of submission, the waiver application may be approved or denied consistent with CDPH instructions.
 - LHOs may conditionally grant an application with limits on the number of elementary schools allowed to re-open or allow re-opening in phases to monitor for any impact on the community.
 - Closed elementary schools in counties on the monitoring list within the prior 14 days may not open for in-person instruction until they have received approval of a waiver submitted to the LHO.

In-Person-Elementary-Waiver-Process
California Department of Public Health
PO Box, 997377, MS 0500, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
Department Website (cdph.ca.gov)



Page Last Updated : August 4, 2020



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State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human
Services Agency
**California Department of
Public Health**



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

August 3, 2020

TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: California Department of Public Health Schools Guidance FAQs

AFL 17-__

General

What schools guidance has CDPH issued?

All CDPH and Cal/OSHA guidance can be found on the [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Schools-FAQ.aspx) Industry Guidance to Reduce Risk webpage. These include:

- Guidance on Schools and School-Based Programs (PDF)
- COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning: Framework for K-12 Schools in California (PDF)

What is the legal authority for enforcing the CDPH schools guidance?

The Governor has ordered, in multiple executive orders (PDF), that all California residents heed the guidance and directives of the state public health officer. Government Code section 8665 provides that any person who violates or who refuses or willfully neglects to obey an Executive Order shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be punishable by a fine.

Which schools are subject to CDPH's guidance?

The guidance applies to all public and private schools operating in California. This is a public health directive and the Governor has ordered, in multiple executive orders (PDF), that all California residents heed the guidance and directives of the state public health officer.

Is there a statewide standard on whether or not to open or close schools for in-person instruction?

Education Code section 43504, enacted as part of the 2020-21 Budget, specifies that schools should "offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible."

The Framework for K-12 Schools in California (PDF) outlines standards for when schools should open and close for in-person instruction. Within those standards, local public health and school officials should collaborate to make decisions tailored to the circumstances and needs of the community.

If the local health jurisdiction has been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days, the school must conduct distance learning only, until their local health jurisdiction has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days. The framework authorized local health officers to grant a waiver of this criteria, in order for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction under specified conditions. Further details about the waiver process are available in the *COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Elementary Education Waiver Process* document.

What if the school is in a local health jurisdiction that is not the county?

School districts in local health jurisdictions that are cities are considered to be included as part of the county if the county is on the monitoring list.

Will teachers, support staff, and administrators be able to return to work physically without students on site while counties are on the monitoring list?

Yes, provided that adults on site engage in physical distancing and wear face coverings. School administrators should also consider precautions outlined in the guidance on office workspaces (PDF).

Do local health officers have to approve modes of instructional learning employed by schools or school districts?

No. Schools are not required to seek or receive approval from a state or local public health officer prior to adopting particular instructional models. However, schools and school districts should work closely with local public health officers to ensure that in-person instruction is conducted in a safe manner consistent with state and local public health guidance.

How should conflicting or inconsistent guidance between federal, state, and local authorities be addressed?

Governmental and non-governmental entities at all levels have issued guidance relating to the safe reopening of schools for in-person instruction. Under the operative executive orders (PDF) and 2020-21 Budget Act, schools must comply with orders and guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health and relevant local public health departments. Schools may comply with guidance from other federal, state, local, and non-governmental sources, to the extent those guidelines are consistent with state and local public health directives.

Testing and Screening

Who should be tested and how often?

As explained in the Framework for K-12 Schools in California, school staff should be tested, including teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, or any other school employee that may have contact with students or other staff. School districts and schools should ensure that staff are tested periodically by their

primary care provider or by referring teachers to a community testing site, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. Examples of recommended frequency include all staff being tested over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate which staff members are tested over time.

Who will pay for the testing of school employees and students?

School employees and students who need testing would either go to their health care provider or a state-operated or other community testing site. The Department of Managed Health Care has filed an emergency regulation to require health plans to pay for COVID-19 testing for all essential workers, including school staff. In addition, tests are available at community testing sites throughout the state.

Does the CDPH guidance encourage an active screening of students, staff, and other individuals entering campus?

Since the original June 5th guidance, CDPH has recommended daily visual wellness and symptoms checks prior to individuals entering campus. In order to facilitate those checks, the California Office of Emergency Services has distributed multiple no-touch thermometers for each school throughout the state to local county offices of education. These checks can happen in a variety of ways, including: As the individuals enters the building or during morning homeroom. Students can be asked about their symptoms or can complete a short checklist of symptoms and hand it in. Follow-up to those checklists should occur whenever symptoms of COVID-19 are identified.

Positivity, Notification of Positive Cases, and Quarantine

Who will be notified when a person at the school site tests positive or initiates self-quarantine due to confirmed or suspected exposure?

Schools should maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality, as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records and other privacy laws. Additional guidance can be found in the March 2020 Student Privacy Policy FERPA & Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) FAQs (PDF) from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, local public health departments will notify the school administration if a case and contact investigation reveals exposure at the school site.

What is the definition of "close contact"? Is there a consistent statewide definition?

Close contact is defined as contact within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes. The CDPH is following the Centers for Disease Control guidance on close contact.

Masks, Face Coverings and Face Shields

The American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend masks or face coverings for students under middle school age. Why does CDPH have a different recommendation?

CDPH recommends face masks (or face shields for very young children) at age 2 or older, so that those who cannot manage masks can nonetheless be protected. CDPH guidance requires all children in 3rd grade or later to wear masks. Increasing evidence suggests wearing masks or face coverings can significantly decrease COVID-19 disease transmission. Other countries' experiences (e.g., China, Singapore) suggests that virtually all students can be taught to handle face coverings at that age.

Schools should review the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (PDF) and any applicable local health department guidance and incorporate face covering use for students and workers into their COVID-19 prevention plan.

What if an individual cannot wear a face covering?

The face covering guidance recognizes that there are some people who cannot wear a face covering for a number of different reasons. People are exempted from the requirement if they are under age 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that would make impede them from properly wearing or handling a mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired.

Schools should develop protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions. The California Office of Emergency Services has distributed appropriate face coverings for each school throughout the state to local county offices of education.

What if a student arrives at school without a face covering, and refuses to wear one provided by the LEA?

If a student refuses, the student must be excluded from on-campus instruction, unless they are exempt, until they are willing to wear a face covering. Students excluded on this basis should be offered other educational opportunities through distance learning. Disposable paper masks are thinner and may be less effective, but may still be used as a face covering to meet the requirement.

What is the guidance on face coverings and physical distancing on buses?

Face coverings are required on buses. The guidance acknowledges that a full 6 feet of physical distancing may not be practicable on buses, therefore face coverings are essential. Physical distancing should be maximized to the extent practicable.

Elementary School Waiver Process

What grade levels does the waiver apply to?

Waivers for in-person instruction may be requested for grades TK-6.

Can private schools file for a waiver?

The CDPH guidance provides that both public and private schools in counties on the County Monitoring List may request a waiver to conduct in-person instruction in elementary schools for grades TK-6. The private school-equivalent of a superintendent (in most cases, the head of school) may request a waiver from the local health

officer to conduct in-person elementary school instruction, in consultation with labor (as applicable), parent, and community organizations. Local health officers, in turn, should review local community epidemiological data, consider other public health interventions, and consult with CDPH when considering a waiver request.

Why does the waiver only apply to elementary schools and not middle or high schools?

Based on the current best available scientific evidence, COVID-related risks in schools serving elementary-age students (grades TK-6) are lower than and different from the risks to staff and to students in schools serving older students. In particular, there appears to be lower risk of child-to-child or child-to-adult transmission in children under age 12, and the risk of infection and serious illness in elementary school children is particularly low.

What community organizations would schools have to consult with before considering a waiver?

Examples of community organizations include school-based non-profit organizations and local organizations that support student enrichment, recreation, after-school programs, health services, early childhood services or provide family support.

Applicability

Does this guidance allow for sports activities?

The guidance does not permit team competition, but does allow for individual or team physical conditioning and training and physical education where physical distancing can be maintained and ideally outdoors. Indoor physical conditioning and training is allowed only in counties where gyms and fitness centers are allowed to operate indoors. Please see the CDPH Youth Sports Guidance (PDF) for further details.

Does this guidance allow for singing or playing instruments?

No. Activities where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets—such as singing, yelling, chanting, blowing wind instruments—are not permitted at this time.

Does this guidance apply to childcare programs?

This guidance applies to K-12. Please see separate childcare guidance.

Do these new guidelines apply to preschool?

Unless there is a local public health order stating otherwise, child care programs can remain open or re-open. There will be some variation for preschool programs that are based on a school campus: if the school campus is closed, then the local school district will decide if the childcare or preschool program can open

Closure Criteria

How should schools calculate the 5% benchmark for closing schools?

The benchmark will generally include the denominator of both students and staff, which should be tracked separately. The CDPH guidance provides that each school site should designate a liaison – the school nurse, if applicable – to help coordinate monitoring and communications to local health officials, as well as the school community. The liaison should monitor and report positive cases, and track whether the school approaches the 5% threshold during a 14-day period.

If a school has opened because its county was not (or is no longer) on the monitoring list, will schools be required to close if the county reenters the monitoring list?

No, the school will not be required to close. Closure requirements are outlined by the CDPH criteria laid out in the COVID-19 and Reopening Framework for K-12 Schools in California (PDF) document.

Once a school starts in distance learning, is it required to remain that way for the entire quarter, semester?

No. Education Code section 43504 specifies that schools should "offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible." However, in-person instruction should be conducted only if the conditions are safe for both students and staff. If a school starts in distance learning, school and public health officials should collaborate to prepare to reopen for in-person instruction as soon as practicable.

Other Exemptions

If a school is closed for in-person instruction, is it permissible for a small set of students—such as students with disabilities and other students with special needs—to receive in-person instruction on campus?

More detailed guidance on conditions under which permissible in-person instruction and services for small sets of students, such as those provided pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP), is forthcoming.

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COVID-19 INTERIM GUIDANCE: Day Camps

July **29**, 2020

covid19.ca.gov



OVERVIEW

The following guidance is intended to help day camps formulate and implement plans for safe re-opening.

These recommendations depend on community monitoring to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Communities with adequate surveillance and lower incidence and spread of COVID-19 may put in place the practices described below as part of a phased reopening. All decisions about following these recommendations should be made in collaboration with local health officials and other authorities, and should depend on the levels of COVID-19 community transmission and the capacities of the local public health and healthcare systems, among other relevant factors.

Implementation of these guidelines should be tailored for each setting. Implementation requires training and support for staff and adequate consideration of camper and family needs.

The guidance is not intended to revoke or repeal any employee rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained, and is not exhaustive, as it does not include county health orders, nor is it a substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA.¹ Stay current on changes to public health guidance and state/local orders, as the COVID-19 situation continues. Cal/OSHA has more safety and health guidance on its [Cal/OSHA Guidance on Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus webpage](#).



1. General Measures

- Establish and continue communication with local and State authorities to determine current disease levels and control measures in your community. For example:
 - Review and refer to, if applicable, the relevant county variance documentation. Documentation can be found [here](#).
 - Consult with your county health officer, or designated staff, who are best positioned to monitor and provide advice on local conditions. A directory can be found [here](#).
 - Regularly review updated guidance from state agencies, including the [California Department of Public Health](#).
- Ensure external community organizations that use the facilities also follow this guidance.
- Develop a plan for the possibility of repeated closures when persons associated with the facility or in the community become ill with COVID-19.
- Establish a written, worksite-specific COVID-19 prevention plan at every facility, perform a comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas and work tasks, and designate a person at each school to implement the plan.
 - Identify contact information for the local health department where the school is located for communicating information about COVID-19 outbreaks among students or staff.
 - Incorporate the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings, into the Work Site Specific Plan that includes a policy for handling exemptions.
 - Train and communicate with workers and worker representatives on the plan. Make the written plan available and accessible to workers and worker representatives.
 - Regularly evaluate the workplace for compliance with the plan and document and correct deficiencies identified.
 - Investigate any COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update the plan as needed to prevent further cases.

- Implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with CDPH guidelines.
 - Identify individuals who have been in close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) of an infected person and take steps to isolate COVID-19 positive person(s) and close contacts. See Section 10 for more detail.
 - Adhere to these guidelines. Failure to do so could result in workplace illnesses that may cause classrooms or the entire school to be temporarily closed or limited.
- The more people a camper or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in youth camp settings as follows:
 - Lowest Risk: Small groups of campers stay together all day, each day. Campers remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized. All campers are from the same local geographic area (e.g., town, city or county).
 - Highest Risk: Campers mix between groups and do not remain spaced apart. All campers are not from the local geographic area (e.g., town, city or county).



• Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Educate staff, campers and their families about when they should stay home and when they can return to camp. Actively encourage staff and campers who are sick or have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and campers who can safely use hand sanitizer. Employers **must** provide and ensure staff use face coverings and all required protective equipment.
- Teach and reinforce [washing hands](#), avoiding [contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth](#), and [covering coughs and sneezes](#) among campers and staff.
 - Teach campers to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow.
 - Campers and staff should wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing;

after classes where they handle shared items, such as outside recreation, art, or shop; and before and after using the restroom.

- Campers and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application.
- Staff should model and practice handwashing. For example, for younger campers, use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
- Campers and staff should use fragrance-free hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry. Note: frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers.
- Children under age 9 should use hand sanitizer under adult supervision. Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222.
- Ethyl alcohol-based hand sanitizers are preferred and should be used when there is the potential of unsupervised use by children.
 - Isopropyl hand sanitizers are more toxic when ingested or absorbed in skin.
 - Do not use hand sanitizers that may contain [methanol](#) which can be hazardous when ingested or absorbed.
- Consider portable handwashing stations throughout a site to minimize movement and congregations in bathrooms to the extent practicable.
- Consider routines enabling camp staff and campers to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.
- Teach and reinforce use of face coverings.
- Face coverings must be used in accordance with CDPH guidelines unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines. Physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.
 - All camp staff must use face coverings unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection. In limited situations (i.e. communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield can be used instead of a face covering as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face covering when the face shield is not necessary.
 - Children aged 2 years and older should wear face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines, especially

when indoors or outdoors when a six-foot physical distance from others cannot be maintained.

- Face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old. A face covering should not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing, anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated, or anyone who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- A face covering should be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student's name and date) until it needs to be put on again.
- Camp staff and campers should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to [wash their hands](#) frequently.
- Information should be provided to all camp staff and campers on [proper use, removal and washing of face coverings](#).



3. Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation

- Consider suspending or modifying use of site resources necessitating sharing or touching items. For example, consider suspending use of drinking fountains and instead encourage the use of reusable water bottles.
- Staff should [clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces at camp and on all transportation vehicles, such as buses or vans, at least daily, and, as practicable, frequently throughout the day by trained custodial staff.
- Frequently touched surfaces in the camp include, but are not limited to:
 - Door handles
 - Light switches
 - Sink handles
 - Bathroom surfaces
 - Tables
- Limit use of shared playground equipment in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces.

- Limit sharing of objects and equipment, such as toys, games and art supplies, to the extent practicable. When sharing is allowed, clean and disinfect between uses.
- When choosing disinfecting products, use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved list "N"](#) and follow product instructions.
 - To [reduce the risk of asthma](#) and other health effects related to disinfecting, programs should select disinfectant products on list N with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid) as recommended by the US EPA Design for Environment program.
 - Avoid products that contain peroxyacetic (peracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds, which can cause asthma.
 - Follow label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times. Provide employees training on the [chemical hazards](#), proper ventilation, [manufacturer's directions](#), and on Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use, and as required by the Healthy Schools Act, as applicable.
 - Custodial staff and other employees who clean and disinfect the facility site must be equipped with proper protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product instructions. All **products must be kept out of children's reach and stored** in a space with restricted access.
 - Establish a cleaning and disinfecting schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and keep products away from campers.
- Ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows where practicable. When cleaning, air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present. If using air conditioning, use the setting that brings in outside air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.
 - If opening windows poses a safety or health risk (e.g., by allowing pollen in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to persons using the

facility, consider alternatives. For example, maximize central air filtration for HVAC systems (targeted filter rating of at least MERV 13).

- Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in classrooms, offices and other spaces.
- Take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that camp staff and campers remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g., guides for creating "one-way routes" in hallways).
- Follow CDC's considerations for [Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#).



4. Implementing Distancing

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Limit the number of persons in the camp to the number appropriate for maintaining physical distancing.
- If transport vehicles (e.g., buses) are used by the camp, drivers should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff (e.g., hand hygiene, face coverings, and physical distancing).
- Minimize contact between camp staff, campers and families at the beginning and end of the day.
- Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
- Open windows and maximize space between campers and the driver on transport vehicles where possible.
- Consider using privacy boards or clear screens.
- Ensure transport vehicles are equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one.

RECREATIONAL SPACE

- Campers should remain in the same space and in groups as small and consistent as practicable. Keep the same campers and staff with each group and include campers from the same family in the same group, to the greatest extent practicable.
- Maximize space (minimum 6-foot separation) between seating, desks, and bedding. Consider ways to establish separation of campers through other means, for example, six feet between seats, partitions between seats, markings on floors to promote distancing, arranging seating in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
- Consider redesigning activities for smaller groups and rearranging furniture and play spaces to maintain separation.
- Staff should develop instructions for maximizing spacing and ways to minimize movement in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are easy for children to understand and are developmentally appropriate.
- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.
- Restrict communal activities where practicable. If this is not practicable, stagger use, properly space occupants, keep groups as small and consistent and disinfect in between uses.
- Limit gatherings, events and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain physical distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- Use alternative spaces as needed, including regular use of outdoor space, weather permitting. For example, consider ways to maximize outside space, and the use of cafeterias and other spaces for use to permit physical distancing.
- Minimize congregate movement as much as practicable.

MEALS

- Have campers bring their own meals as feasible, and practice physical distancing when eating or within their smaller group, instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria. Ensure the [safety of children with food allergies](#).
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils and plates). If disposable items are not feasible, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils and ensure the safety of children with food allergies.
- Plan for physical distancing during employee lunch and breaks by staggering times, providing additional break space, or other ways for staff to physical distance. Hold meetings virtually, particularly where physical distancing is a challenge, if possible.



5. Limit Sharing

- Keep each camper's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies or areas. Ensure belongings are taken home each day to be cleaned and disinfected.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc.) to the extent practicable or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, clothing, toys, books and other games or learning aids as much as practicable. Where sharing occurs, clean and disinfect between uses.



6. Train All Staff and Families

- Train all camp staff and families in the following safety actions:
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
 - [Proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings.](#)
 - Screening practices
 - COVID-19 specific [exclusion criteria](#)
- Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure distancing is maintained.
- Designate a staff person (e.g., camp nurse or healthcare provider) to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All camp staff and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.



7. Check for Signs and Symptoms

- Train staff, and educate campers and their families about when they should stay home and when they can return to camp. Actively encourage staff and campers who are sick or who have recently had [close contact](#) with a person with COVID-19 to stay home.
- Implement screening procedures for all staff and campers before they enter the facility.
 - Conduct visual wellness checks of all campers upon arrival and take **campers' temperatures at the beginning** of each day with a no-touch thermometer. If a thermometer requiring a touch-method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.) is the only type available, it should only be used when a fever is strongly suspected. Only the person being screened or someone from their household should use a thermometer requiring a touch-method. Thermometers must be properly cleaned and disinfected after each use, and protective sleeves should be used.
 - Ask all individuals about [COVID-19 symptoms](#) within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
 - Make available and encourage use of handwashing stations or hand sanitizer.
 - Document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
 - Exclude any child, parent, caregiver or staff showing symptoms of COVID-19. Staff should discuss with parent/caregiver and refer to the **child's health history form and/or emergency card to identify if the child has a history of allergies, which would not be a reason to exclude.**
- Monitor staff and campers throughout the day for signs of illness; send home campers and staff with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough or other [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Send persons to the appropriate medical facility rather than their home when necessary.



8. Plan for When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick

- Work with camp staff, nurses and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any campers or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a face covering and be required to wait in an isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to home or a healthcare facility, as appropriate, when an individual is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - New loss of taste or smell
- For serious injury or illness, call 9-1-1 without delay. Seek medical attention if COVID-19 symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on [CDC's webpage](#).

- Notify local health officials, staff, and all families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
- Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. To reduce risk of exposure, wait 24 hours before you [clean and disinfect](#). If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as practicable. Ensure a [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation recommended for cleaning. Keep cleaning and disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members and campers not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue [home isolation](#), including 3 days with no fever, symptoms have improved and 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- For areas with a large geographic distribution, consider restricting attendance to campers who live in the local geographic area and ask campers to avoid movement between camps when they are from a high transmission area.
- Implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#).
- Investigate the COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases.
- Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases. See the CDPH guidelines, [Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace](#), which are incorporated into this guidance and contain detailed recommendations for establishing a plan to identify cases, communicate with employees and other exposed persons, and conducting and assisting with contact tracing.



9. Maintain Healthy Operations

- Monitor staff absenteeism and have a roster of trained back-up staff where available.
- Monitor the types of illnesses and symptoms among your camp staff and campers to help isolate them promptly.
- Designate a staff liaison or liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know about who they are and how to contact them. The liaison should be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner.

- Maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality.



10. Considerations for Partial or Total Closures

- Check State and local orders and health department notices daily about transmission in the area or closures and adjust operations accordingly.
- When a camper or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the camp, implement the following steps:
 - In consultation with the local public health department, the appropriate camp official may consider if closure is warranted and length of time based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
 - Given standard guidance for isolation at home for at least 14 days after close contact, the facility or office where the patient was based will typically need to close temporarily as campers or staff isolate.
 - Additional close contacts at camp should also isolate at home.
 - Additional areas of the camp facility visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
 - Implement communication plans for camp closure to include outreach to campers, parents, staff and the community.
 - Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.





COVID-19 UPDATE GUIDANCE: Child Care Programs and Providers

July 17, 2020

covid19.ca.gov



OVERVIEW

As stay-at-home orders are lifted for multiple industries to promote California's economic recovery, the need for child care and other supports for working families will increase. Every child care program must have a plan in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of children, providers, and families. As programs begin to reopen and other programs transition from emergency child care for essential workers to enhanced regular operations, all providers must apply new and updated policies and requirements and must update their emergency preparedness plan.

Social distancing with young children is a challenging effort. However, the recommendations set forth aim to keep children and providers safe and healthy, while ensuring children are in a nurturing and responsive environment. Parents may also be concerned about the safety of returning children back to care. It is important to maintain frequent communication with families about the policies and practices implemented in programs to keep everyone safe. This ongoing communication will aid in supporting young children with this new transition and social and physical distancing practice.

The state recognizes this health crisis is a fluid situation and is coordinating joint efforts with state and local agencies to provide support, as well as current information and guidance that is responsive to questions and suggestions from providers, families, and stakeholders. Child care providers should continue to monitor updated guidelines and information posted at <https://covid19.ca.gov>.

These guidelines and considerations are based on the best available public health data at this time, and the practical realities of managing a child care program; as new data and practices emerge, the guidance will be updated.

The state has provided funding and materials to support child care programs to access cleaning supplies and essential protective gear, such as masks. Please contact your [local child care resource and referral agency](#) to learn more about what resources are currently available.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) worked in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop this guidance.

Essential Protective Equipment and Supplies

Items	Child Care Workforce	Children
Face Coverings*	YES	<p>Never place face coverings on babies or children under 2 because of danger of suffocation</p> <p>Children aged 2 years and older should wear face coverings, especially when indoors or when a six-foot physical distance from others cannot be maintained.</p>
Gloves	YES, for tasks such as serving food, handling trash, or using cleaning and disinfectant products	NO
<p>Hand Sanitizer Should contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol (preferred) or at least 70% isopropyl alcohol (a neurotoxin and eye irritant).</p> <p>WARNING Do not use any products that contain methanol</p>	<p>YES, OPTIONAL</p> <p>Note that frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers</p>	<p>May be used under adult supervision only and must be kept out of children's reach. Call Poison Control if consumed: 800-222-1222</p> <p>Note that frequent handwashing is more effective than use of hand sanitizers. Sanitizer must be rubbed into children's hands until completely dry.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer is not recommended for children under 24 months.</p>
Disinfectant Cleaning Products	<p>YES</p> <p>Provide training and required protective equipment per manufacturer's recommendations. Must be kept out of children's reach.</p>	NO

*Masks or face shields may also be worn. Face coverings are strongly encouraged for young children between two years old and second grade, if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort. Note that local guidance may apply. Please consult recommendations from the local or county health department.

The Healthy Schools Act requires that anyone using disinfectants at child care centers complete annual California Department of Pesticide Regulation-approved training. Online training can be found by going to <https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>. This does not apply to family child care homes.



Planning

- Have plans in place to protect and support staff, children, and their family members who are at higher risk for severe illness.
- Establish plans for sharing information and guidelines with parents and caregivers in their preferred language.
- Train all staff and communicate with families on the following:
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines
 - [Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings](#)
 - Personal hygiene
 - Screening practices
 - COVID-19 specific exclusion criteria.
- Implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with CDPH guidelines.
 - Investigate the COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases.
 - Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases. See the CDPH guidelines, *Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace*, which are incorporated into this guidance and contain detailed recommendations for establishing a plan to identify cases, communicate with employees and other exposed persons, and conducting and assisting with contact tracing.



Cleaning

- Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows. When cleaning, air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present. If using air conditioning, use the setting that brings in fresh air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.
- Implement procedures to frequently [clean and disinfect](#) all high-touch surfaces, such as sink knobs, toilet handles, tables, door handles. (Some programs have one designated staff responsible for routinely cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting the site.)
- Designate a container for toys that need to be cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected before being introduced back into the classroom environment.
- Have multiple toys and manipulatives accessible that are easy to clean and disinfect throughout the day or provide individually labeled bins with **toys and belongings for each child**. Toys that may be put in a child's mouth should be cleaned and sanitized. Ensure toys that are difficult to clean (e.g. soft toys) are either removed from the classroom or carefully monitored for use by individual children only.
- When choosing cleaning products, use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved list "N"](#) and follow product instructions.
 - To reduce the risk of [asthma related to disinfecting](#), programs should aim to select disinfectant products on the N list with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid) as recommended by the US EPA Design for Environment program.
 - Avoid products that mix these ingredients with peroxyacetic (paracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds, which can cause asthma.
 - Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times. Provide employees training on [the chemical hazards](#), manufacturer's directions, proper ventilation, on Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use and as required by the Healthy Schools Act training (for child care centers only).
 - Workers using cleaners or disinfectants must wear gloves, eye protection, and other protective equipment as required by the product instructions.

- All products must be kept out of children's reach.



Hygiene

- Implement and enforce strict [handwashing guidelines](#) for all staff and children. Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly. It may be helpful to sing a 20-second song while children wash.
- Use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
- Teach children to avoid [contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth](#), and use tissue to wipe their nose and to [cough/sneeze](#) inside their elbow. Model and practice handwashing before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, after playing outside, and after using the restroom.
- Discontinue brushing teeth during class.
- All personal items should be labeled and kept in a separate bag to ensure personal items are separate from others. Personal toys and blankets should either be sent home with the family each day or washed daily by the provider.
- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. Keep each child's bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.



Arrival Procedures

If a parent/caregiver is entering the classroom, ask them to wash their own hands and assist in washing the hands of their children before dropping off, prior to coming for pick up, and as soon as they get home.

- Ask parents/caregivers to meet at the facility entryway for pick-up and drop-off of children whenever possible and to be as brief as possible.
- If parents/caregiver must enter, ask them to enter and exit the room one person at a time to allow for social and physical distancing. Consider asking them to wear face coverings.
- Ask parents/caregivers to bring their own pens when signing children in and out. When that is not possible, collect pens immediately after a single use, deposit them in the cleaning area, and provide a sanitized pen.

- Install hand sanitizers, out of the reach of children, near all entry doors and other high traffic areas.
- Take steps to reduce contact between children and adults, including **other children's parents during pick-up/drop-off**, classroom visits, volunteers.
- If possible, the same parent/caregiver should drop off and pick up the child every day, avoid designating those at high risk.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times.
- Consider designating a staff member from each class to escort in or out of facility (if parent/caregiver are comfortable with this option) and signing their child in and out for arrival.



Health Screening

- Providers must implement screening procedures for all staff and children before they enter the facility. Ask all individuals about [COVID-19](#) symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. Exclude anyone who has an affirmative response on any of these points.
- Document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Conduct visual wellness checks of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned.
- **Take children's temperature each morning with a no-touch thermometer.** If a thermometer requiring a touch-method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.) is the only type available, it should only be used when a fever is suspected. Thermometers must be properly cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Monitor staff and children throughout the day for signs of illness; send home children with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms after isolating from the general room population and notify parents.
- Child care programs must exclude any child, parent, caregiver, or staff showing symptoms of COVID-19. Staff should discuss with **parent/caregiver and refer to the child's health history form and/or emergency card** to identify if the child has a history of allergies, which would not be a reason to exclude.

- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick home or to a healthcare facility, as appropriate.
- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.



Coronavirus Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell



Group Size and Staffing

- Children should remain in groups as small as possible. Should these guidelines differ from local health ordinances, follow the stricter guidance.
- It is important to keep the same children and teacher or staff with each group and include children from the same family in the same group, to the greatest extent possible.



Classroom Space / Physical Distancing

- Arrange developmentally appropriate activities for smaller group activities and rearrange furniture and play spaces to maintain 6 feet of separation, when possible.
- For napping, place cots, cribs, and mats 6 feet apart, with heads in opposite directions.
- Use opportunities to reduce time spend indoors by bringing children outside, weather permitting while maintaining physical distancing.
- Offer more opportunities for individual play.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- Stagger indoor and outdoor play and adjust schedules to reduce the number of children in the same area.
- Ensure all outdoor play equipment is cleaned and disinfected between use by different groups of children.
- Develop spacing instructions in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are developmentally appropriate and easy for children to understand.



Meal Times

- Utilize more tables to spread children out or use name cards to ensure adequate spacing of children.
- Practice proper handwashing before and after eating. Use paper goods and disposable plastic utensils when possible, following CDC and CDPH COVID-19 food handling guidelines.

- Do not allow children or staff to share or touch each other's food.
- Immediately clean and disinfect trays and tables after meals. Avoid family- or cafeteria-style meals, ask staff to handle utensils, and keep food covered to avoid contamination.
- Ensure meals are provided in individual portions and are delivered by staff wearing gloves.
- Implement outdoor meal times if space and weather allow.



Resources

- California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing, Child Care Page: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-licensing>
- California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA): <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Childcare-Programs-Guidance.pdf>
- California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- [California Department of Pesticide Regulation Health Schools Act information: https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/](https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>



Correspondence received
by the Board of Supervisors
regarding Schools

From: Kent Faulkner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: School opening

Regarding your statement that schools should open in the face of the pandemic and that the Governor's order should not be enforced: with all due respect, sir, you are an idiot.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: B W Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: School reopening

Mr. Withrow,

I can't imagine where you got your data for childhood cases and ability to spread the virus. There is even a new study out recently that shows certain masks (neck gaiters) are worse than not wearing a mask. As it turns out some schools that are training for upcoming sports prefer neck gaiters. Thus, making their chances of getting covid-19 more likely than not wearing a mask at all.

There are a lot of things we do not know about coronavirus. So pushing to put lots of students together in the midst of a pandemic is socially irresponsible.

Bruce Kelly
Patterson, CA

From: John Schaefer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Opening schools

Opening schools now won't work. I know kids and science. Our problems stem from opening too soon and The lack of competent testing.

Sent from my iPad

From: STEPHANIE WATKINS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: What is wrong with you?

First, tell me how this: Terry Withrow has lived in the Modesto area most of his life. He attended St. Stanislaus School and Central Catholic High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting from California State University, Stanislaus in 1982: qualifies you to try and make ANY sort of decisions based on science or medicine?

AH, so you are a Catholic trumper who thinks you know everything because orange leader says so? How about pop some cloriquine then? You want to further damage our community by sending the poor kids to school? Seems to me if you were SO CONCERNED about these kids education or them getting food, maybe your ass would be out in the community passing out food boxes? I don't believe I've seen you! A lot of the children in my own neighborhood have bad family lives, but you all could give 10 shits less about them. My school is the low one on the totem pole here in good old Modesto. You care more about funding the schools in Village One, and repaving their 8 year old streets, while we have full gutters and shit roads on the other side of Oakdale Rd.

Sending our children to school at this juncture could be a death sentence to some. It's super nice that you are willing to risk us, knowing that most of Modesto is brown and poor. Screw you Terry. You should all resign, you are all worthless, heartless, brainless asshole, garbage humans. Modesto SUCKS!

From: Norma Nevitt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Schools opening??

I'm sending this email to let you know I totally disagree with you on schools reopening. This is a dangerous stance to take with the public. Are you sending your kids back to a public school?

Teachers, staff, kids, parents, and grandparents are all at risk of being exposed. Have you seen what's happened in Georgia after they reopened schools? What or who are you getting your information from?

The governor is trying to get this under control and you aren't helping. You can't open anything until you control the virus!! This has been proven in other places over and over!

And here we are with Covid 19 spiking in the Central Valley.

Your job is to do what's best for all the people of Stanislaus county. And that includes kids.

Schools have opened online now.

Everyone is becoming accustomed to this method. And people working TOGETHER will make this work. Don't undermine what has been the best option in this horrible pandemic. Support your school districts and your constituents by helping to solve these problems not dividing people into different camps. FOLLOW the DATA.

And if you can't do that then you shouldn't be a county supervisor.

Norma Nevitt

Sent from my iPhone

From: Angela Palazuelos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Disappointed....

I read in the Modesto Bee where you feel children should return to the class, despite the fact that SARS-Cov-2 is running rampant in the county. Today we have 7 available ICU beds. Your concern is that low income children are missing free lunches and being seen by teachers. I agree it is a concern, but schools are providing a lunch for pick up and teachers are very good at looking for nuances even thru a computer screen. But let's add many of these children live in multi-generational homes, and should they become exposed, they will in turn exposed grandparents and parents. A close relative is a teacher, at a low income school. They recently returned with teachers teaching from the classroom. They had a day where students could pick up materials and computers, after getting a temperature screening and answering health questions including if they have symptoms or does anyone they have been in contact have symptoms. The meetings were held where everyone remained socially distanced. However, one mom told my family member she only had a couple minutes. When asked if she was meeting another teacher, she was informed no, the father was home ill having tested positive and she needed to get home to give him his medication. Then a little later in the day, they met with a child and dad. The dad apologized for the mom not coming, she was at the doctor's office being tested, but he felt the doctor was just over reacting as it was probably just allergies that was causing the loss of her sense of smell. Both of these children would be in the classroom.

Please look at what has happened in Georgia. Schools opened for 1 week, now shut down because over 1,000 students and staff are in quarantine because parents sent children to school with the virus.

I am disappointed in your lack of protection towards both our children and our teachers and staff. Your tribal badge is showing and while it should be showing protection of your community, instead it is showing protection of your party. While you are not my supervisor, I will make sure family that is in your district is aware of how you are failing to protect the community and county.

I hope you take this to heart.

Angela Palz

From: Dawn Cunningham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:53 PM
To: demartini@stancounty.com; Thomas Berryhill; Kristin Olsen; Terrance Withrow; Vito Chiesa
Subject: Opening our schools

PLEASE STOP WITH THE STUPIDITY OF OPENING OUR SCHOOLS! Join your colleague Chiesa in his SMART approach to the circumstances in our county.

Dawn Cunningham

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Caroline Backus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: School Closures

Mr. Withrow:

I would like to express my concern over the schools being closed. If we are looking at scientific evidence, if we are listening to pediatricians, WHY are we not opening our schools. We can open them responsibly and with caution.

The affect it is having on our children is most unfortunate. You are a leader in our community, and as such, I would hope you would stand up to the over-reach of our Governor.

Please consider having our schools to re-open after our first quarter.

Thank you for your time.

Caroline Backus
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Scott McKay [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:28 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Schools

Mr. Withrow,

Perhaps you should be going back to school along with the children you want to send back to school. If you would commit to doing that for at least a semester perhaps more parents would be more likely to send their own children back to school.

Thanks for your time,

Scott McKay

[REDACTED]
Modesto - 95350

From: Frank D <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: BOS Deliberation on Schools

Good Morning Supervisor,

I appreciate your independent and thoughtful deliberations about children and schools. While I think Terry's heart is pure and intent is sincere, I believe he is making some dangerous assumptions and miscalculations.

1) North Paulding High School in Georgia has 2500 students plus additional staff. Within two days, they had 35 positive tests. At that rate, our 110,000 students (plus staff) would have 1540 test positive in two days, only it would take 19-21 days for our County to get test results (currently).

2) Imagine 1540 kids and staff continuing to populate schools, homes, stores, etc. for up to three weeks without notice. Even if you cut that figure in half, imagine the onslaught on testing demand after reports that 8 school site in the county have multiple cases.

3) I don't know the multiplier effect of what 500 positive cases in 48 hours becomes over three weeks of classroom instruction, but it could be several thousands in the population Terry is most concerned about.

4) Schools will have no choice but to close campuses and return to distance learning, putting us right back to current situation MINUS the millions you spoke of.

5) Some percentage of these thousands would require hospital care in the coming month. How many beds will we have available?

I know all my figures are speculation, and Terry probably thinks only the most remote, rural districts and smaller, private schools would opt to return to campus, so the numbers would be far smaller. But once the State takes that money back, we are all screwed. And it will cause havoc for larger districts providing services to the underprivileged students Terry is worried about that don't have tutors or family resources. Maybe you and Terry should talk to Modesto City Schools Superintendent Noguchi before prescribing what is best for their most at risk students.

It's analogous to what happened after Memorial Day. What happened in April and May did not prepare us for late June through today. Infections will spike in schools at first, and then into the community, demand for tests by parents and educators will sky rocket, results and tracing will lag, schools and economic activity will be impacted and hospitals will continue to slave tirelessly straight into October. Minus the help from Newsom.

If you got this far, thank you for hearing me out. I just needed to put thoughts to words and share with someone willing to give them consideration. Senator Galgiani and MCS School Board Member Amy Neumann have expressed an interest in supporting your expressed concerns and position if you were to seek cosignatories on a commentary.

Again, thank you for your generous time and pragmatic reasoning on this emotional dilemma.

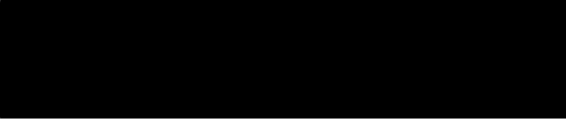
Best Regards,

Frank Damrell

--

Frank Damrell

Candidate for Stanislaus County Supervisor, District 4



From: kdye13 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Schools opening

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

I am disappointed and shocked that you actually downplayed the death of children and suggested our county should reject science and safety and reopen schools no matter what. The original casual attitude about the state mandates is why we are in this mess to begin with. People weren't encouraged to wear masks, law enforcement publically announced they would look the other way if businesses weren't complying and the focus was on opening up our economy no matter what. So now we are on the watch list, the number of people sick and dying is too many and our health workers are under incredible stress.

I am pleading with you to be a part of the solution and not make the problem worse. It's time to protect and help the people of this county, not put them in danger.
Kristine Dyer

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Tab E, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

From: Nathan Sill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:45 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Getting kids back to school

Mr. Withrow,

I just wanted to say thank you for fighting to get our children back to school. Keep fighting. Our kids need to be in school and play sports. Their mental health is extremely important along with their education. The decisions to keep our schools closed is insane. The county needs to return the money to the state and become a sanctuary county against the unlawful Governors orders.

Sincerely,

Nathan Sill
Hughson, CA

From: Caroline Backus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; Scott Kuykendall
Subject: School Closures

Hello-

As a parent of a high school student, I wish to voice my concern over the school closures. I am noticing that my son has become more withdrawn..when asked how he is doing and if he wishes school would re-open, his response to me was, "of course I want it to re-open, but what can we do about it?" Many of his friends feel the same way. How many other children are feeling this way? Just yesterday, there was a house fire here in Turlock. The 8 year old child helped save her siblings. It sounded like they were home alone. How many more dangerous situations will there be where children are left at home because the parents HAVE to work?

The children who depend on school for their meals and children who live in bad situations at home rely on you to speak for them!

I would like to thank Mr. Withrow for being a leader and feeling empathy for our children. It is most unfortunate that our governor has dangled a carrot of over 20 million dollars for our county and that this is what is making the decision, instead of what is in the best interest of our children. If we are looking at science and listening to the pediatricians (which we should be doing if we are being vigilant), the schools should re-open. New York had far worse cases than we have had in Stanislaus County, and they are re-opening!

Please stand up like the leaders that you are and that we have elected, and do what is best for our children! The consequences of school closures will last many years.

Thank you for your time.

Caroline Backus

From: sandy bakus [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Please Open our Schools

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to you today both as a Stanislaus County teacher and a parent. I'm asking for schools to reopen carefully and with safety protocols in place, but nevertheless to open.

First, no matter how rigorous the governor says our education should be, it is not. It is a watered-down version of what the students should be learning in the classroom. It is impossible for the teachers who were given minimal planning time to have mastered distance learning and all the apps and programs that accompany it. My son who is a freshman logged on to first period yesterday (a class that should be an hour and a half hours long) and logged off after 15 minutes stating the teacher finished early. That is unacceptable. This is one student, one instance, on the 4th day of school. How many more students are experiencing frustrated teachers who do not feel well equipped to teach in this manner?

Secondly, as a teacher, I have a large population of students who are from broken homes, who are homeless, who have one parent in jail while the other is part of a local gang, etc.

Those students are suffering right now beyond what we can even fathom. Their safety, their haven is school. The damages they are enduring, the education they are losing, the meals that they are missing, the sexual, physical, mental abuse they are living with daily will damage them permanently to the core.

The benefits of returning to school FAR outweigh the risk of dying from Covid. Still there will be teachers and students who will not feel comfortable returning to school. They can opt for distance learning.

A safe plan to return to school: temperature checks at the door, masks on when you enter class, remove mask while seated, if you stand to sharpen pencil or leave to use the restroom, slip on your mask. Custodians will disinfect each classroom daily.

Honestly, I believe Covid made its way through schools back in December when a large percentage of my students were out for 2 weeks at a time, stating upon return they had a bad flu. My own son missed school for 2 weeks and so did I. We were not disinfecting our classrooms back then the way we would be disinfecting them now nor were we taking the safety measures that we will now take. We were unaware of Covid, and ALL students and staff who were sick, returned healthy and ready to learn.

If Costco, Walmart, Lowe's, and all the other major retailers are open and busy at all hours of the day, schools should be too. SCHOOL IS THE MOST ESSENTIAL.

I beg you to allow each school district the opportunity to make the decision to open their schools and their classrooms.

Thank you so much for your time and for your commitment to serving our county.

Sincerely,
Sandy Bakus

From: Hotmail <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Opening schools

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider opening the schools. I have 3 kids at home and all 3 are having a hard time. This is effecting them academically, socially and emotionally. It is hard to see through a screen, can't see the stories they read, chrome books are getting disconnected, can't hear the teacher at times, children are getting frustrated. This a disadvantage to the children in every way possible. Please open the schools up ASAP.

Thank you,
Janin

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jessica munguia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Reopening schools

Hello, I am a parent of two girls that attend walnut elementary. I understand the board is doing there best at social distance learning. I can only speak for my own children. However, it has definitely been a huge challenge for them. Meltdowns to not being able to focus for a long period of time on the computer due to internet issues. There has been at least 45 min of glitches on each of my kids chrome books every day, which leads to not being able to get the proper education that they deserve. We are hoping with the absolute safest precautions for our kids and staff that the school reopen so the kids are able to enjoy learning again. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Regina Rodriguez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Mother of 4- please help open our schools

Terry,

Thank you for speaking for us parents the value of opening our children's schools. This virus is causing more mental, emotional stress on our children's well being. I believe the virus is real, so is the flu! This virus cannot take down the future American generation.

I have a 1st grader and kindergartner attending Magnolia Elementary in Oakdale. For being a rural small town community, I see the effects on our children. The smiles are gone, their motivation to learn vanishing quickly and the struggles of a normal social engagement with children in their grade level is greatly affecting them. I have seen children thrive and even be competitive with in person education. Now they are isolated, unsure of their value and potential. No matter how positive their teachers are, this is NOT normal. Me and my husband were born and raised in Southern California, we moved our family here to the Central Valley for a better life, education for our children and a community that supports and uplifts each other. I pray God gives you strength and courage to continue the fight for all our children.

Thank you,
Regina Rodriguez

Ps: I have many more families who stand behind this, let me know how we can help get our children back on track.

From: Neumann, Amy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Cc: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Noguchi, Sara
Subject: Our Schools

Supervisor Withrow:

Thank you for your service to our community. It is a difficult time to be an elected leader and I appreciate your passion for the citizens of Stanislaus County. I wanted to address some of the concerns you raised at Tuesday's Board meeting regarding opening schools. I write to you only as one Modesto City School District Board member and not on behalf of the Board.

As you know, Modesto City Schools is the largest school district in Stanislaus County, serving almost 30,000 students. Our district is committed to providing quality distance learning to our students. Working with our teachers and classified staff, we are reaching out to each student with daily instruction using district-provided computers. We are working to bridge the digital gap and make sure all of our students have internet access. To date, more than 90% of our students are accessing valuable teacher instruction, music lessons, and interactive learning. While none of us believe this is the ideal way for students to learn, there is learning going on and there is value to the connections being made. I am also a parent of a Modesto City School student and I can tell you from the instruction, student engagement, and class discussions I am observing, learning is happening.

At the Board meeting, you expressed concern about students needing to get their breakfasts and lunches. Feeding our students has never stopped being a priority at Modesto City Schools. From March 19, 2020, the very next day after schools closed for the 2019/2020 school year, to May 29, 2020, we served almost 600,000 meals to students. Our dedicated food service staff continued to serve meals over the summer from June 1, 2020, to August 7, 2020, amounting to 372,582 meals. Since school began on August 10, 2020, we served 27,342 meals. Because our district has such a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, these meals are free to any student. Our nutritious meals are distributed throughout the district in walkable locations to reach almost all of our students. We even adjusted our students' online learning schedule so they have an hour to pick up their lunch for the day, breakfast for the next day, and a small snack. Our staff is busy making sure these students are safely making their way to campus and getting back home to continue their school day.

You made your position clear that you want to re-open schools in our community. While I appreciate your deference to local school boards to make the decisions to open, any decision regarding opening our schools needs to be made in accordance with clear guidelines from public health officials. With our infection rate well-above the state average and our ICU hospital capacity actualized, we cannot open schools. I urge you and the Board to consider enforcement actions to help lower our infection rate. We all need to do our part to help stop the spread of the virus, so we can re-open schools under safer conditions than we currently have.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Amy Elliott Neumann
[REDACTED]

From: Brian Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Board meeting

Hello Sir, I thought I would just reach out and say thank you. I listen to you speak the other day at one of the board meetings. You were speaking about children and the need for them to attend school. I listened how you spoke about all the other factors involved in whether we should or shouldn't. You see I am a Detective for the Sheriffs Office here in Stanislaus and we have discussed in our circles of all the things the general public doesn't hear or see or even want to hear or see. What might be happening out in the world that is being hidden by lock downs and school closures.

In these hard times it takes a lot of courage to speak out for what is right without offending others. I think you did just that. I have been with the county for about 20 years and I am proud of the leadership within the county. I feel confident you and your peers will attempt to make the right decisions for the people of this county.

I right to you only to let you know we support you. Keep up the good work that you do. Thanks again.

Detective Brian Wilson
Stanislaus Sheriff Office
250 E Hackett Rd
Modesto Ca 95358
[REDACTED]

From: Hillary Simonson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Thomas Berryhill
Subject: Schools

Good evening, I'm writing to you to reach out regarding the status of schools and our children. I watched the board meeting from Tuesday night and I am so grateful that we have you and the other elected board members being the voice for our county. I don't really know what can be done, realistically to get our kids back in school, but as a parent of a 2nd grader and pre-k child, I am begging that we fix this. When we talk about essential businesses, we often refer to places like a grocery store, or Home Depot, etc. Our children, are by far, the MOST ESSENTIAL business in our world. They don't have a voice, they aren't able to speak up and say, hey this isn't right. They are getting the short end of the stick on EVERYTHING ..I know the guidelines Newsom sent out to allow public schools to re-open, but I guess my question to you, is there a way we can push back harder on that, don't allow this to be the standard, so our kids can return to school? I am fortunate to be home with my kids, but not all kids have this luxury. As I sit in and watch the classroom meetings it's very apparent who has an authoritative figure present. This is bigger than education, it's life altering. My heart hurts watching my daughter have school in a room at her house, not actually not being able to talk with her classmates. This is vital in child development, absolutely vital, that they have interaction within their peers, and adults (other than their parents) to learn how to adapt and function appropriate in society.

I guess I am just writing in hopes that if we all stand up to this, and demand more, we can give our kids their childhood back. I appreciate what you and the other board members have done to fight for our kids. It seems so unfair and hypocritical that we can have restaurants, targets, Kohl's, Home Depot, open, but our kids can't go to school. The place that molds them as human beings and shapes who they are. Seeing your teacher and classmates on a screen is not even remotely the same.

Thank you for listening, I hope we can connect soon, and again thank you for all you're doing to help our kids.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ellen Lowe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Schools and COVID

Please stop pushing an agenda of reopening schools. Now is not the time to endanger the lives of students, teachers and school staff. It is because of such irresponsibility that our county is in such a dangerous place. I urge all of the supervisors to listen to doctors and scientists. Would you follow the guidance of another politician when making decisions about medication or your health? Of course not. But now you have the health and lives of hundreds of thousands before you. Please treat them with the care and value they deserve.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: Milk Made Dairy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Schools

Supervisor Vito Chiesa

1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500

Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

I was pleased to hear that you, Supervisor Terry Withrow, has called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open the schools. I urge your support of re-opening the schools.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools shuttered our county is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent. Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) that live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement. In denying in-person school we are essentially condemning most these children to a hopeless future and an additional cost to our County and State in the future.

Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Johanna Fischer



Turlock, CA 95382

--

Johanna Fischer
Milk Made Dairy. Tierra Buena Ranch, GravelStone Ranch, Valley Milk

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From: stayfitstudio [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini
Subject: Re-opening of Stan County Public Schools
Attachments: BOS_letter to reopen schools.docx

Good afternoon,

I have attached a letter, that I hope you will take a few moments to read and consider, in regards to re-opening Stanislaus County schools. I appreciate your service and time.

Sincerely,
Carrie Vilas

Dear Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Carrie Vilas, and I am writing this letter as a parent, health expert and small business owner in Turlock. I'm sure you have received countless letters with regards to in-person education in our county, but I felt it was my duty to be the voice of my children during this pandemic.

A little about me. . . I hold a Public Health degree from CSU Fresno (BS Health Science: Community Health) and a Master of Science Degree in Kinesiology: Exercise Science and Health Promotion from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. I opened The Studio (a health/fitness studio) in Merced in 2004 with my sister, and then opened a second location in 2009 in downtown Turlock. I am married to Rod Vilas, a 5th generation almond farmer, and we have 3 children (Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th grade).

I want to start by acknowledging that I am fully aware of the risks of COVID-19, and the high infection rate in our county; however, I firmly believe that just like in all situations, you must weigh the RISK versus BENEFIT when deciding how to proceed with our children's education.

It is known that children have the lowest risk of infection and pose the lowest risk of spreading COVID among all populations, yet somehow, they are the group being most affected by this pandemic.

I am also aware that we have teachers who fall within the "high-risk" group for contracting COVID-19; however, education is "essential" just like farming, first responders, and healthcare workers, thus teachers should be required to do their job as usual (with appropriate safety guidelines and modifications), just as all other "essential workers" are doing. If a high-risk teacher chooses not to teach in-person, he/she can be placed in a distant learning teaching position for those children who also opt not to attend.

I think we can agree that in-person learning is ideal. I think we can also agree that COVID-19 is not going anywhere. We cannot continue to punish our children, those least affected by this virus, until we find a vaccine for this virus. We MUST adapt and create schooling environments that allow our teachers and students to get back to the classroom as safely as possible. Yes, there will be risk, but I STRONGLY believe the BENEFITS outweigh the risks!

There are so many risks associated with children NOT being in the classroom. Depression, sexual abuse, mental and physical abuse, suicide and anxiety, just to name a few. I believe we will lose more children by NOT having them in school than we would due to COVID if we re-open our schools.

In our household, I am fortunate enough to be home with our children. I do have to say that it's had a negative impact on my own small business because I'm not able to work my usual hours, and I've lost clients and instructors due to their children being

home. This is the price I've had to pay in order to do what's best for our children, but in my world, children are EVERYTHING and they are our future!

It is EXTREMELY difficult to homeschool 3 children in 3 grade levels who all possess different behaviors and learning abilities, and this is coming from a parent who has all the resources and a comfortable learning environment at home. Homeschooling has put undue stress on our household and on our children. Our children spend their days glued to a screen watching video lessons and zooming with their teachers, and I try to navigate teaching all 3 at the same time. I fear the long-term repercussions this learning environment will have on them.

Our children attend Gratton Elementary School in Denair. There are only 150 children total in our school between grades K-8. The average class sizes are approximately 16 children per class. If any school in our county could conquer distant learning, our small school can!

It is frustrating seeing "Distant Learning Camps" pop up, that will have multiple children in the same building, yet seeing our own school being forced to remain closed due to the risk of COVID. If it is too risky for our children to be in a classroom with the same 15 children each day, then how is it safe for these day camps to function? I think we all know that our children would be MUCH safer with the same cohort of students each day in their own classroom than they would in a day camp exposed to many more children and adults.

I am also watching other private schools, such as Turlock Christian and Stoneridge Christian in Merced, who are dedicated to making in-person education work for their students. They are getting creative with smaller class sizes, outdoor education, etc. so children can be back with their peers and in the classroom. I know some of these schools are even using the "day camp" verbiage to jump through the hoops needed to re-open. I think our local public schools need to take this approach. Allow children and teachers to do in-person learning if they feel safe, and those who do not can opt to stay home.

We can look to the schools that are opening with new safety guidelines as a roadmap as to how we can safely open our own schools. I believe with proper guidance from local health experts we can safely re-open our schools now.

If you are not familiar with Dr. Sima Asadi, she is a Pediatrician in Merced. She has made it her priority to be the voice and advocate for children, since children are the ONE group being most affected by these decisions and yet they have no voice of their own. She recently spoke to the Merced County Board of Supervisors and was recently interviewed on the IMPACT (an MUHSD Podcast). I would HIGHLY recommend taking the time to listen to her speech and podcast. They are extremely educational, and I believe could help make the difference for our children in getting them back in the classroom. Click [HERE](#) for her BOS speech and [HERE](#) for her recent podcast episode.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope you will **STRONGLY** consider getting our students **BACK IN SCHOOL**.

Sincerely,

Carrie Vilas, MS



From: Melanie Mendes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Reopening Schools

Dear Mr. Withrow,

First of all, I saw video of your comments regarding getting our kids back into the classroom and agree whole heartedly. Keeping the schools closed will come at a steep price to our children and our communities for years to come.

As a California citizen, a registered voter, and the parent of 3 school-aged children, I am writing to plead with you to continue to fight to permit our schools to reopen for in-person education of our children.

As a parent, I should retain the right to direct my own child's education. Also, as a parent, I know that no one cares more about my child's education and their religious upbringing and training that I do. Limiting my child's education to sitting in front of a computer for lessons without the human contact of loving and dedicated teachers does not give them the education and religious training I want for them or that they deserve.

Very truly yours,

Melanie Mendes

From: Kristie Cooper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Re-opening our schools

Dear Supervisor Withrow

I have heard that you have called for a special session to discuss re-opening of schools in our area. I appreciate you standing up for families and children in this situation! I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

As a parent of two children, I have seen firsthand the effect that Covid-19 has had on kids. And, no, I am not talking about children getting sick with Covid-19. I am talking about kids not being engaged in activities outside of our household, kids not getting to see other kids, kids having some of the things they love to do taken away and not replaced. My girls desperately want to go back to school. As a parent, it is my responsibility to protect my children and choose what is right for them.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken they will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. What if doctors, policemen, grocery store workers, farmers, delivery drivers, postal workers, and all other "essential workers" decided that the risk of Covid-19 was too great for them and so they decided not to go to their jobs. Mind you, all of the occupations I just listed would not be getting a paycheck if they decided to stay home. But, that is exactly what we are allowing our teachers to do. If they are at higher risk, those teachers could supervise the distance learning for the families that are not ready for their children to be back at school in person. However, those teachers should not get to decide what is safe for me or my family. Also, some of those same teachers that aren't wanting in person learning, are being allowed to bring their children to school to be supervised while distant learning. I do not have those same options. Neither do the doctors, farmers, nurses, grocery store workers, and all the other essential workers that I am so grateful for. There is a huge burden being placed unnecessarily on these families.

To be completely honest, while I am all for re-opening schools and having learning in person, I know for a fact that my children and my family will be ok. I know this because I will do everything in my power and within my resources to ensure it. However, not every child has the luxury of being part of a loving home with parents that will do whatever it takes for them to succeed. And for those children my heart breaks! By denying in person school you are denying some children the only opportunity for love they get, you are denying them a safe place to learn and grow, you are denying them their future. This generation of people will have a major divide between the haves and the have nots, and it is incredibly disappointing. I believe Stanislaus county can open their schools safely and make a difference in children lives.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Kristie Cooper

From: Mike and Kristi Gemperle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Open our Schools Please

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

Thank you for all the work that you are doing! These are hard times, but I think we are making them harder than they need to be. I am in full support of opening up our schools. There will be more harm than good coming from keeping the schools closed. I think about the mental state of the kids in particular. We all need social interaction to thrive. If we can add instruction or insight to give people tools on how to support their immunity that is the best defense we can give them.

Please open our schools and all business.

Sincerely,

Kristi Gemperle

From: Tamara Fraser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:29 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Re open our schools

Dear Mr. Withrow,

We are writing to encourage you to support the re opening of our schools in Stanislaus County for in person learning. We are the grand parents of four children ranging from 4th grade to a freshmen in high school.

We feel it is imperative to the future of all students to return attending school in person. The virtual learning was a temporary solution this last spring but it is not a good long term solution. Children need the social interaction. For too many children it is the only good part of their day.

We are not too worried about our grandchildren's education, as they all have loving, supportive parents that will keep them on track, but we do worry about them loosing out on the social skills and interactions they will be missing out on. What happens to this generation of children when their only exposure to an education is on line? We fear too many children will loose out on an education and where does that leave their future?

Please for the sake of all children of all ages support re opening in person learning Thank you Keith and Tamie Frase

From: Vance Y [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:44 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Re-Opening of Schools

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

As a parent of two school-aged children, I have seen firsthand the damage caused by distance learning. My own children are suffering emotionally, socially and academically. Other students I have talked with are suffering even more because of unhealthy home environments that have worsened. These students are not getting the support they need to succeed in their education and their emotional & physical needs are being neglected even more than before.

When it comes right down to it, the damage that many kids and families are dealing with because of no in-person school is far worse than the damage from COVID. Even the CDC has recommended that schools reopen because there is very little scientific and medical evidence to suggest that children transmit COVID to others and there is a lot of evidence regarding the limited impact it has on them. What is evident and obvious is the increase in depression, feelings of loneliness, suicide attempts, abuse at home and other things during the time that students are not able to attend school.

In addition to these things, my family and most families I know do not have a parent who is able to stay home and help their children with their distance learning. My wife and I have had to hire a tutor at great expense and can hopefully make ends meet until school resumes. Others don't have this option and just have to leave their young children at home hoping that they will do their schoolwork. Still others don't have the resources needed for distance learning and their children are falling farther and farther behind. Very few children will be able to stay on track educationally and learn all that they should be learning during this time if we continue to force schools to teach in such an unsuccessful manner.

With those things in mind, I am grateful to hear that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. Please consider the well-being of our students and families and do what you can to reopen schools. Let each school board make the decision of what is best for their students and decided when they can re-open their campuses in a manner that balances COVID exposure and the other needs of the students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Vance Yarbrough

From: Lacy Elliott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:08 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Special meeting August 18

Have you requested a special meeting to be scheduled for August 18th regarding reopening of schools? Our you allowed to call a meeting on the same day and time as a School board meeting? Turlock Unified School District board meeting is at the same time and date. I was under the impression this could not happen as parents would have to choose which meeting to attend (in this case due to COVID19 watch online).

Thank you for any information you may be able to provide

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; berryhill1@stancounty.com; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: School Reopening

I saw Terry Withrow's suggestion about reopening schools.

As an educator in Stanislaus County, I beg you not to reopen schools. The number of children that have tested for positive for Covid-19 is low because we have been out of school. Our numbers in this county are skyrocketing (we had single day positivity rate of 29.07%) and you are going to possibly risk our lives. If you send us back, I guarantee you will see an increase in cases. We can't even manage a lice outbreak in a classroom and you want us to manage a deadly virus.

Additionally, by sending us back you not only risk student lives, but you risk everyone's life in our schools (teachers, nurses, bus drivers, custodial staff, admin, secretaries). Age is not only a factor in Covid 10 deaths, but underlying health conditions are as well. Do you have data on the number of students and staff that have underlying health issues? What about pregnant staff? Are you willing to risk them and their unborn child's life?

You need to use data regarding reopening schools; not your feelings about what is happening with some of the county's population. How traumatic would it be for you to send us back to schools and students have to deal with the death of their friends or favorite staff members due to Covid?

Until you can guarantee our safety, we cannot return to school. You send us back into school, you will have blood on your hands. Can you sleep well knowing that?

Nancy

From: sandy stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Reopening Schools

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I live in Oakdale and teach at one of the elementary schools. I'm writing to you about the growing push to reopen schools. I know one of your colleagues on the board is advocating for reopening. In contemplating this event, I hope you will have plans to put in place for potential worst-case scenarios. For example, if a teacher/staff member/child tests positive will it be expected that school will continue as normal for students (and other staff) who've been potentially exposed? Will staff and students have to quarantine? If so, is the teacher now supposed to teach virtually?

If teacher is quarantining and/or sick, will substitutes be available (especially now)?
Or, will teachers be expected to take on the sick teacher's students (which would mean one teacher would have between 40-50 students in upper grades) who have already been exposed.

Of course, these are just (a few) what-if, but plausible scenarios.

There's nothing I want more than to be back in the classroom with my students, but one of the more important factors right now is to create stability and consistency in our children's lives both academically and emotionally.

Reopening schools has the potential to create the opposite! I don't believe it's worth the risk. However, if the board does decide to go through with reopening, I hope it has solid, practical plans in place to address potential scenarios. I hope there's not an attitude of "Well, let's roll the dice and see what happens."

To be honest, that kind of attitude is partly why we are in this current position.

Thank you for your time and for your representation.

Sincerely,
Sandy McGinnis

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jennifer Yang [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Letter to County Supervisor
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor Template.docx

Sent from my iPad

Supervisor Kristin Olsen
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child desperately wants to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

I am an employee with Stanislaus county Community Service Agency. We are now having nearly one fourth of employees have asked for Leave of Absence to be at home with their children due to the distance learning. The people needed help at this pandemic time would suffer because we don't have enough employees to provide the services for them.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Jennifer Yang

Parent to a student at Turlock Christian School

From: Mike Allison Riggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Schools

Hello Ms.Olsen

I have a licensed family daycare here in Stanislaus county. I have to Kindergartens that have no idea what school is just what we have told them. They open there Chrome Book listen for 30 min and then close it and say I'm done they don't understand the importance. I think schools need to open at least for maybe K-2nd, these kids need it. If schools open just for certain grades then there should be plenty of room for social distancing. Please relay this message to the board of supervisors.

Sincerely
Allison Riggs
Riggs Family Daycare
[REDACTED]

From: Laura Merafuentes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: School Reopening

Good afternoon,

This is written to you in regards to reopening schools.

As a human being, American citizen and adult, I feel that my rights guaranteed in the Constitution allow me to make my own decisions. I have freedoms that are currently being violated.

As a parent, I should be able to decide for myself and my family what I deem appropriate for my son's education and health care. If I decide I want my son to attend in person schooling then I should be able to send him. If I decide I do not want him to wear a mask all day, he should not have to. There is no reason why someone else's fear should force me or my son to have to stay home or wear a mask. If someone is afraid - let them stay home. If they want to wear a mask - let them. No-one should be forced to do either. The death rate from COVID does not require these restrictions.

As a middle school teacher I know that children need socialization. They need to be face to face with their teachers to develop relationships and trust, so that they can learn and grow as students and human beings. They need to be challenged by each other in class. They need to be up and moving around, not sitting behind a computer in a room by themselves all day. There needs to be discussion and debate in order to enhance learning and understanding of concepts. Online learning does not work for most and it will create further gaps in learning, which is the complete wrong direction for our youth.

Schools need to be reopened and allow for choice. Let students and parents choose if they want to continue distance learning via packets, ect. Let parents and students and teachers decide if they feel they need or want to wear a mask.

Choice! Freedom. Rights. We have these and should continue to.

Thanks,
Laura

From: Arlene Park [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Board of Supervisors Meeting, Aug 18, 2020

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I have watched Supervisor Terry Withrow's statement from the Aug 11, 2020, Board of Supervisors Meeting about reopening schools. I am pleased that Supervisor Terry Withrow has called for a special session to discuss that need. I urge your support in favor of reopening schools now.

Governor Newsom should not have the power to decide what we in Stanislaus County do in our schools. It seems as though he is holding our kids hostage; money for COVID-19 relief should NOT come at the cost of our students falling further behind, and I for one would gladly return this money (tax money, which means it already belongs to you and me, by the way) in favor of getting our kids back in school.

I am a grandparent who is seeing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My grandchild desperately wants to be back at school with teachers and friends; he is exhibiting signs of frustration from being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Reopening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

It is mind-boggling to me that liquor stores are considered essential, but it seems that schools are not! Teachers ARE essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken they will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distance learning for the children of families that *choose* not to return to on-campus learning.

The Distance Learning model only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half are being raised by a single parent. Single parents can rarely afford to have their children tutored until they can go back to school, so their children continue to fall behind.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open, too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on-campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions about when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,
Arlene Park

From: Esperanza Gutierrez-Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Terry Withrow video

Hello,

I am writing regarding a video from Terry Withrow during a board meeting suggesting schools in Stanislaus County reopen.

As an educator and mother of a student in Stanislaus County, I strongly urge you not to reopen schools. There were many things stated by Mr. Withrow that are of concern. There was mention of schools opening up in New York, but their Covid-19 number of cases is a lot lower than the numbers in CA . There have been a few schools throughout the nation who have opened with students on campus only to have to close back up a few days later due to staff and students being infected. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/03/us/school-closing-coronavirus.html> This sort of action is a lot more disruptive in a student's education and mental health than what is currently taking place with distance learning. Yes, school looks a lot different right now for all of us, but in the long run we will have less people impacted by the virus which has already killed many. The number of children that have tested positive for Covid-19 is not as high currently because our schools were closed, and currently still closed in many areas. By opening schools, you would be putting many lives at risk. There is much concern with regards to student's mental health and safety while distant learning, but what sort of impact will we have on students when staff and family start being impacted by the virus at a more rapid rate. Many have died and will continue to die from this virus.

Unlike a doctor, police officer or fire fighter who entered their profession knowing there was a chance their life could be at-risk, that is not the case for educators. The extra safety and precautions that come with those aforementioned jobs will not happen in schools. We've seen it already in cases like Georgia and Illinois where enforcing masks (which have shown positive results) cannot be done. Currently working from my school site I see the many challenges that come with enforcing mask with even adults. Imagine enforcing a mask mandate to upwards of thousands of students especially when families at home are not following the recommended safety guidelines.

Please consider the safety of all involved! Any amount of deaths of school children or staff that could be prevented should be prevented and it's heartless to suggest or think otherwise.

Esperanza

From: Neil Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Withrow video

Hello,

I'm writing concerning the special county board supervisor's meeting scheduled for next week to discuss school reopening. I'd like to state from the onset of this letter that I am opposed. I am both an educator (born with a condition that places me in the high risk category) and a parent, I know first hand the dangers this will pose. Let me begin by describing my elementary classroom prior to the covid shutdown, which I am positive is not atypical of the hundreds of elementary classrooms around Stanislaus Counties.

My room is packed to maximum capacity. Separating desks 1-2 feet between students, let alone the suggested 6ft is impossible. Throughout the day students routinely sneeze and cough without covering their mouths, oftentimes leaving used tissues on the floor for anyone to be exposed to. Masks can be mandated but not enforced, especially when the "beliefs" at home contradict the recommendations by the vast majority of the medical profession. Teachers work closely with children many times taking sneezes and coughs directly to the face (this happened to me the day before the school closing last year.) I for one would not want to expose my child to this until the county's numbers get under control.

In reference to Mr. Withrow's video when he mentions the number of covid deaths of children in regards to them being low. I find his comment appalling. Any death of a child is horrible, but it is even more horrible when the cause of death is almost 100% preventable. Exposure to covid-19 is preventable and death is not the only risk associated with this virus. New effects are discovered weekly and some of these effects cause permanent damage to "recovered" individuals.

Distance Learning is inconvenient, but it will not last forever. I am working harder than ever to teach in this new digital environment but I'm willing to do it until it is safe to go back in the classroom, and that time is not now.

Numbers and arguments can be thrown around in a variety of ways. False comparisons (like Mr. Withrow's New York numbers comparison) can be used in an attempt to influence beliefs, but this is irresponsible and dangerous. It boils down to this, if any preventable death of children or adults is accepted as part of daily life, then something is wrong with the daily life we as a society have put in place.

Thank You,
Neil Jackson

From: Ag Pilots do it Low & Slow! [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Open the schools!

Please reopen the schools. Every parent I've spoken with supports opening up. Let's do this!

Andy Stein

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rachelle Antinetti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: This week

Supervisor Olsen-

I am writing to support reopening of the inside use of salons and restaurants in Stanislaus County this week. With excessive heat temperatures, it's not safe for them to be operating outside and these businesses are suffering. It's having an impact on all of our communities.

Additionally, I support the opening of schools on for on-campus learning. I know some teachers and families are concerned and they should have online options available, as needed.

Thank you for all of your time and effort. I know many of these decisions can't be made at the county supervisor level. Anything you and your board can do in getting the businesses fully opened and the schools with students in classrooms would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Rachelle Antinetti

From: LouAnn Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:04 PM
To: Thomas Berryhill
Subject: Schools

Dear Tom, as a retired teacher, mom and grandmother I beg you to please open our schools. Thank you,
LouAnn Young

Sent from my iPhone

From: Brent England [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:11 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: reopening of schools
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor.docx

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,
Rev. Brent England

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I'm happy to hear that Supervisor Terry Withrow has called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools NOW.

As a parent who has seen firsthand the detrimental effects of children not being in the classroom, including a special needs child who was just learning to thrive in the local school setting, I suggest that children should be back at school as quickly as is reasonably possible.

As far as we can tell, the virus has shown minimal effect on children; the survivability rate for children contracting the virus is 99% - **the seasonal flu is more dangerous, statistically speaking!** Yet by keeping schools closed, our County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children who suffer the potential effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse (whether alcohol, drugs, or physical), and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help "slow the spread" of these health issues, which have been well-documented by multiple news and media outlets in recent months.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. **I myself am an essential worker who has been working consistently during this crisis.** Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distance learning for the children of families who choose not to return to on campus learning at this point.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Approximately half of the 110,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by a single parent, parents who rely on open schools so that they can work and provide for their young ones. Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families don't have the means to invest in childcare, daycare, day-camps, or tutors, and their children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening (not to mention some schools that never even closed in the first place!) and it is my firm and sincere belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open as well. We have to find the balance between present day challenges and future obligations.

Please, allow the individual school boards to make decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brent England, resident of district 1, parent of children attending school in district 2

From: Farm House Exchange <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:04 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Skuykendall@stancoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Reopen Schools

To Whom It May Concern,

My kids desperately need to be back in school. For their future, their education, their physical and mental well being depend on it and you can make all the difference.

My husband and I are both small business owners. I own a small gift store located in Downtown Turlock. I am there 6 days a week, most days starting at 9am and I am lucky to get home by dinner. My husband manages our almond orchard and also has a small metal fabrication business. We have poured our selves both physically and financially into our businesses. This is how we make a living, how we pay our bills and how we provide for our family. While I applaud all that my kids school has done, all the hard work that teachers are putting in to make this work, this new setup simply will not provide the education our children deserve. I am begging you, please do not make me choose between providing my kids with an education or providing for my family. Let our kids return to school.

One of my biggest struggle with parenting has always been the balance of screen time. I have preached and stressed since my kids could talk about the limited use of electronics, how important getting outside, interacting with friends, reading, exploring, anything but screen time is. I'm sure you can imagine their confusion as I am now being forced to put electronics in front of them and asking them to be on them for hours upon hours a day to learn. I have a Kindergartner and a Second Grader. Both need constant help to navigate the computer which means I have accomplished little work. It also means the minute I walk away, the YouTube video that they were suppose to be watching has now been switched to something more entertaining to them. After all, they are kids. Our kids need to be in the classroom, learning with their teacher and their peers.

There are a few students in my child's class that can't get internet at their home. Their parent currently drives them to the school and they sit in their car to get the free WiFi provided. What is going to happen to these parents and students during this upcoming week when it's 110 degrees outside?

This one size fits all approach for educating our children does not work. I understand that there are parents that are not comfortable sending their kids back to school. I understand that some teachers feel the same way. But I also know that there are several teachers who would take kids back in a heartbeat. Give the schools, the teachers and the parents the power to make the best decision for their children.

We cannot wait for COVID to go away or for a vaccine to get our kids back in the classroom, we need immediate action. We have to have realistic expectations of this virus. We can't wait to be off the watchlist for 14 days when we know once flu season hits it will immediately spike numbers once again. That is such an unrealistic goal. We can get our kids back to school in a responsible manner and provide a safe learning environment for them and teachers. Please, give schools the power to reopen safely.

Kindly,
Candace Gonsalves

From: Farm House Exchange [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:04 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Skuykendall@stancoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Reopen Schools

To Whom It May Concern,

My kids desperately need to be back in school. For their future, their education, their physical and mental well being depend on it and you can make all the difference.

My husband and I are both small business owners. I own a small gift store located in Downtown Turlock. I am there 6 days a week, most days starting at 9am and I am lucky to get home by dinner. My husband manages our almond orchard and also has a small metal fabrication business. We have poured our selves both physically and financially into our businesses. This is how we make a living, how we pay our bills and how we provide for our family. While I applaud all that my kids school has done, all the hard work that teachers are putting in to make this work, this new setup simply will not provide the education our children deserve. I am begging you, please do not make me choose between providing my kids with an education or providing for my family. Let our kids return to school.

One of my biggest struggle with parenting has always been the balance of screen time. I have preached and stressed since my kids could talk about the limited use of electronics, how important getting outside, interacting with friends, reading, exploring, anything but screen time is. I'm sure you can imagine their confusion as I am now being forced to put electronics in front of them and asking them to be on them for hours upon hours a day to learn. I have a Kindergartner and a Second Grader. Both need constant help to navigate the computer which means I have accomplished little work. It also means the minute I walk away, the YouTube video that they were suppose to be watching has now been switched to something more entertaining to them. After all, they are kids. Our kids need to be in the classroom, learning with their teacher and their peers.

There are a few students in my child's class that can't get internet at their home. Their parent currently drives them to the school and they sit in their car to get the free WiFi provided. What is going to happen to these parents and students during this upcoming week when it's 110 degrees outside?

This one size fits all approach for educating our children does not work. I understand that there are parents that are not comfortable sending their kids back to school. I understand that some teachers feel the same way. But I also know that there are several teachers who would take kids back in a heartbeat. Give the schools, the teachers and the parents the power to make the best decision for their children.

We cannot wait for COVID to go away or for a vaccine to get our kids back in the classroom, we need immediate action. We have to have realistic expectations of this virus. We can't wait to be off the watchlist for 14 days when we know once flu season hits it will immediately spike numbers once again. That is such an unrealistic goal. We can get our kids back to school in a responsible manner and provide a safe learning environment for them and teachers. Please, give schools the power to reopen safely.

Kindly,
Candace Gonsalves

From: Kathy Hibma [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:37 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Cc: kayleenhibma@gmail.com
Subject: Re Open our schools For Traditional Learning!

August 16,2020

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,

It is my understanding that you have called a special meeting to address the reopening of traditional school classrooms in Stanislaus County and I would urge you to do so. As a resident of Stanislaus County for 43 years, reopening our traditional school system is imperative not only to the well being of students, but the entire family unit. School is ESSENTIAL and should be treated as such. Our children and grandchildren have to be taught and our society has to get back to work. I speak from personal experience as I am helping my seven year old granddaughter try to navigate through distance learning. I have been overwhelmed at the information that is expected to be transferred via the internet: Pictures, videos, personal information just to "prove" that she is doing her assignments. What if these "proofs" are intercepted by those other than the school? Her identity and location will be out there for those intent on harm. You would have to live under a rock to not be anxious about the trafficking that is being revealed in our society. While I know this virus, COVID-19, is real; the survival rate is 99.8% for the entire population. You have a better chance of surviving it than the annual flu. And, while children are virtually immune to COVID-19 virus, they are still suffering the effects from it, emotional distress, suicide rates are skyrocketing, neglect, abuse, lack of normalcy ... the list goes on.

Please for the sake of our children, family units and our entire society. REOPEN TRADITIONAL SCHOOLING NOW!

Sincerely

Kathy Hibma

[REDACTED]
Turlock, CA 95380
[REDACTED]

From: Kathleen Cole <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Lets go back to School!

Good Morning,

I've never sent an email like this before - and I agree we are in uncertain times. Even though we are in uncertain times - I know some of you because I voted for you! I'm asking you to remember the people and families who voted for you. I'm asking you to reopen our schools. Give us Parents a choice, give us back our voices - its our turn to stand and make the decision. It's sad that my healthy 11 year old is being "quarantine" like most kids he's taking it pretty tough. However unlike most kids my kid is an only child. I have had to make the decision to take a Leave of Absence at work to be at home with him. I'm thankful for my Employer's Yes however the family business I work for hasn't stopped working. We work smarter - we wear masks, we take temps at front door, we have hand sanitizing stations, we social distance - we make it work and I'm sure we can make our schools work. All I'm asking is for our County to follow our President's Lead -- Reopen our Schools!

Thank you for your time,

Kathleen Cole
Parent of a 6th Walnut Elementary, Turlock
Go Dynamos!

From: Angela Dayton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Make school essential!

Please send our kids back to school! So many things outweighs the fear of getting sick. This virus has a 99% survival rate. Children have hardly been affected by this virus.

1. Since the kids have been out of school in March, our family has been directly impacted by three teenage suicides. This has been one of the hardest things for our kids to deal with.
 2. Kids with learning disabilities are not getting the help that they desperately need.
 3. What about the families that have parents that have to work and the kids are left at home to do the work themselves. Will they do it? I know a single mom that has to work and leave her 14 year old son to do school on his own everyday. She is very concerned. He will fall way behind. Not all families have the luxury of having a parent stay home.
 4. School is a safe zone for many kids. There is no one around to be a mandatory reporter and protect these kids. I have two daughters at Gregori. One a senior, one a freshman. They both desperately WANT to go to school. They NEED to go to school. My younger daughter did not do well with distance learning at all. She needs in class instruction to make the concepts stick.
- Additionally, kids need sports. This is the only outlet for some kids. Sports keep kids active, healthy and out of trouble. Let the families that want to keep their kids home to learn, stay home and learn, it's a great option for some. But please let the families that want to return, send their kids to school for the instruction they desperately need. School is essential!! Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Dayton (Concerned Mom)

From: Carolyn Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; monteithd@stancounty.com; James DeMartini
Subject: Comments on the Special Meeting, Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Dear Supervisors,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

We are parents who are experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having our child in the classroom. My child desperately wants to be back at school, with teachers and his friends; he is frustrated at being denied attending school in person. He is looking forward to this year as the last school year and end-of-the year activities were abruptly taken away from him without warning.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is our belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is our hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards, and private schools, make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

James and Carolyn Morgan

From: Christina Piersall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Cc: Kristin Olsen; Terrance Withrow; berryhillt@stanislauscounty.com;
demartinij@stanscounty.com
Subject: special session - school openings

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to hear of the request for the special hearing for a discussion about reopening the schools.

I am a parent who has seen the negative effects keeping a child at home does to a child. I have a 9-year-old daughter who learns best sitting in a classroom with her peers and a teacher. If you do not mind, let me take you into a moment in her life.

My daughter is academically advanced. She is starting fourth grade but can do junior high math and reading comprehension. With this information you might ask, "What could she possibly learn from kids her age?" Well, because of her intelligence, she sees things very literal. There is no gray area, it is either black or white.

Being in a classroom allows her to broaden her thinking. By them sharing their ideas, it allows her to think outside of the box she keeps herself in. When COVID – 19 first closed the school, our school switched to distance learning. They did not skip a beat and my daughter was able to keep a schedule.

She was able to do the entire days' worth of work in the matter of 1 ½ hours. When they had their zoom meeting to help the children understand the material, she would get bored, and was not paying much attention. Her teacher tried extremely hard to keep her involved in the classroom learning, but realized, she was done with the work. Even without the teacher teaching the subjects, Kaylee continued to keep her work done and ended the year as strong as she started, academically. Straight A's.

One might think I should be proud, and do not get me wrong. I am. I am proud the school stepped up and kept the kids learning. I am proud she was able to do the work with little to sometimes no instruction. But the emotional and physical tole that distance learning put on her little body, scares me to think it is coming back.

Not being sick, we had days of random bouts of vomiting. Other days would be hives. Some days she would have a headache so severe, she would go back to bed.

I understand the risk I am taking by having her go back to school. My father, who normally is my babysitter, is an at-risk person. I know I must make accommodations for childcare when school reopens, but I must do what is best for everyone in my family. But shouldn't that be my choice?

The science tells us the children are not carriers of the COVID-19 virus and it has also shown to have little to no effect on them.

I also understand the risks we are asking of our school staff and the teachers. I believe the teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be

afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

Thank you for taking the time reading this letter, It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Christina Piersall

From: Shelly Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Skuykendall@stancoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Please Help Us

To Whom It May Concern,

Our child desperately need to be back in school. For her future, her education, her physical and mental well being depend on it! We need your help!

Our family owns and operates a local brewery & we have 2 locations now. We are small and still new and the business requires us there daily handling multiple aspects of the business. We also are local farmers. Since March we have been trying to balance saving our business while trying to teach and keep our daughters mental well being in tact. She does not have little siblings at home she needs to be with her peers learning, playing, living! While we appreciate all that my daughters school have done, all the hard work that teachers are putting in to make this work, this new setup simply will not provide the education our children deserve. We beg of you, please help us, let our children return to school.

Currently I'm constantly having to stay with my child to learn and to attempt to navigate the google classroom, videos, worksheets. This is so hard when we have a business to run and farming to tend to. Of course our child's education and well being come first, so we are doing g our best but it's so hard! While she is learning it's not the same and I know these kids will suffer if they do not return to school. The spring was basically a loss the last few months. I feel that many children are hurting falling behind and deserve to have normalcy again!

We realize this one size fits all approach for educating our children does not work. I understand that there are a few parents that are not comfortable sending their kids back to school. I understand that some teachers that feel the same. However I also know that there are many teachers who would take kids back righr now. Please please please give the schools, the teachers and the parents the power to make the best decision for their children.

We cannot wait for COVID to go away or for a vaccine to get our children back in the classroom. We truly need immediate action. We must have realistic expectations of this virus. We cannot wait to be off the watchlist for 14 days when we know when flu season hits it will likely spike numbers once again. It just doesn't make sense. We can get our kids back to school in safely by providing a safe learning environment for them and their teachers. Please, give schools the power to reopen safely! We beg of you!

Sincerely,
Tom & Shelly Lucas

From: Kim Dein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: August 18 Special Session In -Person Learning
Attachments: Kristin Olsen Letter.pdf

Please accept this letter as it relates to the special session concerning in-person learning.

Sincerely,
Kim Dein

Supervisor Kristin Olsen
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

August 16, 2020

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session August 18, 2020 to discuss the need to re-open schools. My request is for you to support re-opening schools now. We must keep in mind the students are everyone's top priority making sure their needs are being met.

As a parent, I am experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My children desperately want to be back at school with teachers and their friends. They are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. When told the 2020-2021 school would start as distant learning, they were devastated.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have minimal effect on children. The survivability rate of a child contracting the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing every day children will suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse and a rising possibility of suicide. 20% of reported child abuse cases are detected by teachers when in the classroom. These children are suffering alone and would benefit tremendously if back in the classroom. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are one of many essential workers in Stanislaus County. Essential employees following proper safety measures will minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19. Students in the high-risk category should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learn.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent. The end of the 2020 school year was hard enough let alone starting another school year following the same format.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive. Not every family has the privilege to have an adult at home to monitor the daily rigor to help educate their children. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my desire that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts and realize how important it is to have on campus learning. Let individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students. Please, consider the needs of the students as the highest priority.

Sincerely,



From: Carmen Alahverdi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Re-open our schools

Supervisor Kristen Olsen
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent of 2 children who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Carmen Alahverdi

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dawna Rebiero [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Please OPEN OUR SCHOOLS NOW

Good morning to all,

First, I'd like to thank you all for your hard work during these trying times. I'd like to say thank you also, directly to Supervisor Terry Withrow for speaking up and advocating for the children of Stanislaus County. I will reiterate what he said, our children need to get back into school IMMEDIATELY.

School is a safe place for our children. It is a place for them to be seen and heard. This is where reporting on abuse and neglect happens. This is where they eat! This is where hearing and vision issues are discovered. This is where they get basic necessities that are not provided to them at home...ie. Toothbrushes, shoes, socks, toothpaste and so much more.

Suicide calls are up 300-900% how can that be ignored?! And, our absolutely most vulnerable little ones who cannot call are not included in that. They cannot go out and protest. They cannot grab a phone and call/text for help. Heck, many of them are probably left home alone with nothing!

As far as teachers, we all know this is union politics at work. Most teachers are under the age of "high risk" and even more are under the age of 45. Our children should be our NUMBER 1 concern! If teachers don't want to go to school, they can work from home.

Children, if they get infected, recover quickly. Why are those numbers not being reported? Why do we not get to see the severity rate and recovery rate of school aged children?

There are ways to make in-person schooling happen. I am part of our school's reopening plan and it is solid and takes extensive measures to insure the safety of faculty and students alike. In the very least, open up WAIVERS so our Private schools can open.

It is completely irresponsible to only look at COVID numbers and not everything else that is MUCH MUCH worse that is happening TO our children. They are our future! They are our responsibility and right now, they are being IGNORED because of politics.

Please, I beg, RE-OPEN OUR SCHOOLS!

Deeply concerned,
Dawna Rebiero

From: Mayra Soto [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Terrance Withrow

My name is Mayra Rios mother of 3 children! Two of them currently students, please I request OPEN OR SCHOOLS NOW. We need our children back in school. Schools are more essential than TARGET!!!

From: Edward Tobias [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Reopen our schools

Dear Stanislaus County Supervisors,

Please reopen our schools. Our kids and grandkids need to be back in school. They have been impacted enough. This can be done safely. If you care about our kids, it can be done!!

Thank you for your consideration!!

Ed Tobias

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vita McSherry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill;
Dmartinij@stancounty.com
Subject: Please open the schools!!!

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Our children need to be in school! They are having hardships at home with the virtual learning and they miss their friends and activities. I'm the grandmother of 7 and I'm seeing the issues first hand. My grandchildren are lucky to have parents that can be home to supervise and help, but not all families are that lucky. I'm really worried about the long term affects that this situation is having on our children. I'm sure we can open safely and keep our children well.

Sincerely,
Vita Gardner McSherry

Sent from my iPad

From: Edward Tobias [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; Demartini@StanCounty.com
Subject: Reopen our Schools

Dear Stanislaus County Supervisors,

Please reopen our Schools. Our Children and Grandchildren have been impacted enough. Schools can be reopened safely. This can be done.

Thank you for your consideration!

Ed Tobiad

Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Re-opening Schools

I am a grandmother of 3 children in the Hughson Unified School District. Please consider opening our schools for in person learning. This is for their academics and mental and social well being. Dr. Scott Atlas of the Hoover Institute has reminded us that Math skills drop by 50% and reading skills by 30% with this distance learning. This could greatly harm my grandson's chances for admission to college. California schools are already struggling. We can't make it worse. The risk of the virus is statistically very low for school age children.

From: Ashlee Alves [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Thomas Berryhill; Vito Chiesa; James DeMartini; JVaishampayayn@schsa.org; Skuykendall@Stancoe.org
Subject: Re-Open Schools

Good afternoon,

My name is Ashlee Alves, I am a mother of two boys both whom attend Turlock Schools (Turlock JR. High and Julien Elementary). I am a stay at home mother and my husband is a successful business owner not only in Stanislaus County but Sacramento, Madera and Merced as well. We have, like others been affected in many ways since COVID-19 came to light. We've canceled family trips, temporarily closed our business, missed important and memorable time with grandparents, waited with fear for those who tested positive to recover and even battled with the ever changing information provided by our Countries Officials.

It is not uncommon to hear from people that they are "tired of the lies" when it comes to COVID-19, regardless of the facts we can all agree that our officials have lost our trust as they've provided misinformation in relation to this virus. I understand COVID-19 can be deadly, I also understand it can be as harmless as having "allergy" like symptoms, and that there is no way to know exactly how it will hit any one individual.

What I also understand is that we will NEVER completely eradicate this virus much like we've not eradicated any other virus that has hit the human race. We cannot mandate a vaccine under our countries Constitution (nor should we try) and we will never be 100% safe from Viruses or even violence in our schools.

When speaking with fellow parents and friends who are educators there is one common understanding, our kids need to be back in school. I cannot understand why our schools have been closed when the numbers and statistical data do not support this radical decision. Diabetes, Influenza, Heart Disease and so many other health problems cause more deaths in one year than COVID has. H1N1 was equally as deadly; however schools did not close...when school shootings reached their highest levels no schools were closed. I understand some people are afraid and that is their right; however one persons fear should not be my child's cross to bear. We need to OPEN our schools and allow parents to decide if they want their children to go back. This is the most simple and obvious answer. Allow everyone the freedom of choice (our basic human right) and I implore you to please consider my request to re-open the schools in Stanislaus County; if we do not I'm terrified of the long term affects it will have on our children.

Regards,
Ashlee Alves

Sent from my iPhone

From: Stephanie Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: PLEASE REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS
Attachments: SKM_C454e20081711260.pdf

Please accept this letter from my point of view as well as others. I have to work my husband also works and our children need to be in school. We have even enrolled them in a private school that costs a lot of money and should not be included with public school rules as there are a lot less students being taught. Thank you for you time 😊

Stephanie Davidson – Parts Sales
Garton Tractor, Inc. - Turlock

[REDACTED]
Website: [Garton Tractor](#) | [Kubota & New Holland Dealers](#)



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Please notify the sender, by electronic mail or telephone, or any unintended recipients and delete the original message without making any copies.

From: Allison Jolliff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Please reopen schools

I am writing to you all today on behalf of our daughters, Blythe and Vivienne, ages 5 and 7. They would benefit greatly from going to school in-person.

We believe that their education will suffer this year if it continues to be over the computer (though through no fault of the teachers - they are amazing!).

We also believe that the survival rate of this virus backs up our desire to see education resume in-person as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering our opinion, and continuing to work hard on our behalf.

Sincerely,
Allison Jolliff

From: Linda Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Re opening Schools

I am the grandmother of 3 Hughson Unified School District students. Please reopen our schools for those who want in person learning. My grandchildrens academic and mental wellbeing is being harmed. Dr. Scott Atlas has reminded us that Math skills drop by 50% and reading skills by 30% with distance learning. California schools are already struggling. Please don't let them drop any further. The risk to school age children is very low.

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Stephanie A Davidson
parent to Ava Davidson Age 9
and Ayden Davidson Age 5

From: Tony Alahverdi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:42 PM
To: James DeMartini
Subject: Re-open our schools

Supervisor Jim De Martini
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor De Martini,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent of 2 children who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

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In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Tony I. Alahverdi
REALTOR® / Broker / CCIM / CSUS Alumni



CAL BRE#01399959 LIC #02036996



www.TAGRealtyCo.com
516 E. Main St. Turlock CA 95380

MY REVIEWS: https://www.zillow.com/reviews/write/?s=X1-ZU102v47rzai2vd_5jgqr

From: Leticia Espino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Vito Chiesa

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,
Leticia Perez Espino

From: [REDACTED] Debbie Bertucci
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: Juline School of Dance

Hi Terry,

I just want to say Thank you. I listened to your FB post of the board meeting and appreciate all you are doing.

It is so disheartening to know that when the policy officer shut us down, they weren't able to tell us exactly why the other dance studios could remain open except for the comment, "well no one complained about the others being opened".

We have tons of students who have now opted to take gymnastics or dance elsewhere because those places can do live classes.

Hoping and Praying we can open soon.

Thanks again,
Debbie

From: Julie Jergenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Turlock Unified School District

Dear Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing this email to fervently request that you consider and discuss, with your fellow board members, the reopening of Stanislaus County Schools for in person instruction at your upcoming board meeting.

My husband and I are full-time working parents of a Kindergarten student at Turlock Unified School District. It is no secret that families throughout Stanislaus County are struggling with school closures. I cannot speak for all families, but I do know for a fact that I am of the majority who has lost sleep over how I will continue to succeed at work while monitoring my child's distance learning so that she will also succeed, where will my child get her social interaction and how will she develop her social skills, particularly with other children, will my child be mentally and educationally challenged and stimulated enough, what about her physical fitness and overall physical health, the list goes on. Many parents are even wondering how they will manage getting their child fed. My heart aches for the families who do not have family members they can recruit to help with this very trying time. My heart aches for the children who are missing meals. My heart aches for the children who are being subjected to abuse because they have no escape and no one watching out for them or advocating for them. My heart aches for the financial burden that is being placed on parents who work outside the home who now have to pay for caretaking for their school aged children. My heart aches...and yours should too.

I acknowledge COVID-19 is a real virus. I acknowledge there are Stanislaus County Residents who are fearful. I also acknowledge these individuals do not know the facts or that the risk COVID-19 poses to healthy children and adults is negligible. Family friend and internationally acclaimed OBGYN of 50+ years, Dr. Daniel McCauley of Turlock, stated that not one person without a pre-existing major health condition has perished due to COVID-19. I trust his firsthand report.

As you discuss and consider the reopening of Stanislaus County schools, I beg you to consider the irreparable consequences that children and families will suffer if you choose not to reopen schools immediately. I ask you to consider opening the schools for educational purposes, for social, mental and physical health of both children and their guardians, and for Stanislaus County residents who are depleting their savings in order to fund childcare and distance learning supervision. I pray that this will weigh heavy on your hearts and minds as you consider what decision is going to be in the best interest of our children.

Sincerely,

Julie Jergenson

From: Mary Soares [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini;
Skuykendall@stancoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Opening our schools is vital

Good afternoon,

My name is Mary Soares and I am just a concerned parent. My daughter, Danika, attends Chatom Elementary, as a kindergartner. It is crucial that we open up our schools on a modified schedule. I'm a stay at home mom with a 4 year old and one year old triplets. I have a teaching credential and this should be easy for me, but unfortunately it is not. With the triplets, I can hardly get anything done with Danika and help teach her. I wish I could do it all, but I just can't. I hope and pray that our schools can open up, so that she could get the help she needs, so she doesn't fall behind.

Thank you for your time,

Mary Soares

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lesley Wilkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: School closures

Hello, my name is Lesley Wilkins and I am a mother to a soon to be kindergartner here in Modesto. I writing to you to share my frustration and concern about the closure of schools and cancelation of in classroom teaching. Myself, other parents and teachers feel very slighted, dismissed and not taken into account when making the decision to not offer parent choice, by not having the option to send our kids back into the classroom. Because of this decision, parents are having to quit their jobs in order to stay home with their child while they distance learn or are having to spend extra money in order to homeschool. Children are missing one of the most important aspects of school, social interaction amongst their peers. This is vital to their mental well being and should never be put to the waste side. Along with this, are the vital programs that special needs children are not getting the benefit of in ANY WAY. This is detrimental to their progress and will affect them long after school returns to normal. BUT THIS IS ALL OK. THIS IS ALL OK TO THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHO ARE SCARED. THEIR IRRATIONAL FEAR IS CONTROLLING THOUSANDS OF OTHERS DAILY LIVES. However, Myself and other parents and teachers are not afraid. We want and NEED to have the option to open the schools and allow for in the classroom teaching. Catering to one group is WRONG. The science and data does not warrant this arbitrary decision. If you need proof I have it.

From: JEREMY REIVITT [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: School Reopening Opinion
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor - School Reopening - Jeremy Reivitt Input.docx

Hello,

I am a resident in Stanislaus County with two children currently attending middle and high school. Attached is my plea to you, Supervisor Chiesa, to move toward virtual schools until the case rate in Stanislaus County decreases dramatically.

Thank you for your consideration.
Jeremy Reivitt

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I just learned that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support to not move forward with opening schools for face-to-face learning.

I am a parent who currently has multiple children in local schools in Stanislaus County. Although my children want to be back at school due to some challenges with being cooped up at home, we believe that their safety comes first and their education can be taken care of virtually as it was at the end of the previous school year.

Although the COVID-19 virus has shown to have a more limited effect on children, too many leaders only point to the survivability rate for children. What is not taken into consideration is the communicability to friends and family members who may be at higher risk. As we all know, during the school year, there is always a greater likelihood that any sickness that is brought to the school, not only is passed on to fellow students, but then taken home to family members. And with COVID-19 case rates continuing to increase in California and Stanislaus County, I am concerned for the wellbeing of my children and other children where schools will be open.

I do recognize that there are other factors that the shelter-in-place precautions have led to, including increase in domestic violence, hunger, etc... I have not been able to find actual data (%) for this, but there is more clear data on the communicability and case rates for COVID currently.

I believe that the schools had enough time to make virtual learning possible for their students and should have been ready to implement this by the start of this year.

I want to encourage you to push for virtual learning until there is a major shift (downturn) in COVID-19 cases in California and Stanislaus County.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Reivitt


Turlock, CA 95382

From: Mike Fisher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Letter to Supervisor Chiesa regarding schools
Attachments: Letter to Supervisor Chiesa.pdf

Dear Mr. Chiesa,

I am attaching a letter regarding the opening of schools in our county and urge you to support this. I also hope this isn't ignored and you take the time to read and digest my take on this. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Fisher
Denair resident and concerned parent

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

On August 13th, I saw a video with Supervisor Terry Withrow posted on social media calling for a special session to discuss re-opening our schools and giving choice to local district leader, boards, and private schools to do so. I urge your support in favor of re-opening public and private schools now.

Although, I am not a parent who is experiencing child care issues due to being a first responder, I am seeing in my own children the negative effects of them not being in school. My two sons (12, 17) and daughter (4) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. My 12-year-old has nearly lost his desire for sports and is regressing a lot in this area. As myself and my wife still work every day, and have a young child, my son spends a lot of time at home with his older brothers and grandparents. My oldest son, 19, is awaiting to attend his first year of college which has also been postponed. As I am sure with you, was a huge milestone and crucial point in your life. It is for my son and all the other college students in the same situation as well.

The COVID-19 virus has seemingly shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is more than 99%. A recent article on CNN Health (8-11-20) stated that "severe symptoms are rare among children" and that nineteen states have reported NO child deaths, none! In states that do "track the details, 0% to 0.5% of all child Covid-19 cases resulted in death." And of the small number of deaths across this country in children, it is likely those who died had underlying issues, either known or not known. Your colleague also pointed out the low mortality rates in people under 55, which goes to the concern of staff. They are reporting the median age for deaths are 78 years old. We also know a significant percentage of the total deaths have been in nursing facilities, whether in NY or here in our county. These are the ones we can protect and get our kids and younger people back to work and school.

In keeping the schools closed, the County (and state, and many other areas of this country) is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues. This also is true of businesses and people out of work.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken, I feel they will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

It is also important to note the differences amongst private and public schools. Private schools have a different set of circumstances over a large public school. My older sons' school, Turlock Christian JH/HS, has less than 200 students, whereas Turlock HS is closer to 2,500 according to their site. Turlock Christian and other smaller schools would have much better success in the plans they have to keep students and staff as safe as possible due to the smaller numbers of students compared to a large HS or JH. Turlock Christian, a private school, should also not be threatened by local leaders (which has occurred, but I will not name names) of fines if they try to open. They, and others, should be given the

chance as a school, the freedom to decide amongst administration, their board members, and staff what choice they make in opening school or continuing distant learning. There are many families looking to private schools because the public ones are not opening, and many have enrolled in Turlock Christian recently and others I would assume due to this situation. People want and need their kids back in school. It can be done safely. If these measures continue and schools are kept closed, some of these wonderful private schools that have a huge success rate of their students and offer alternatives and wonderful environments may not survive. Is that what the county wants? Do they want to see institutions that provide alternatives and great learning environments shut down, along with all the other small businesses in our community that are also suffering? The fallout from these decisions is likely worse than the virus itself. This is not a legacy you want.

I want to add that my wife and I have been at work since the start of this shutdown or an initial "slowing the spread" that has now morphed into something else. Our freedoms are being stripped away one by one. I work in an environment just as much or even more prone to being infected, as well as my colleagues, and we have seen very little in infection rates. Most of which did not occur for several months, until the recent uptick in cases here in June when oddly enough, a mask mandate was placed upon this state by our Governor, and followed by county leaders, pushed in the media, etc. That is another discussion for another time, but it is something to think about.


The virus is here, and it is not necessarily going anywhere for a while. We must learn to live with it and not keep our kids out of important areas of learning and growth, mentally, physically, and socially. We have to figure out a way to get our economy going again, or there will be nothing to come back to once it is gone. Livelihoods are being ruined, families destroyed financially, and further declines in mental health, increased violence and unrest, etc.

The Distance Learning model being implemented does not work for so many families and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. According to your colleague, there are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent. I am not sure of these numbers, but they seem to make a lot of sense and I assume his numbers are correct.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement. It is also important to point out that many of these parents do not have the education, means to teach their children or understand the material to help them in their "distance learning."

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too. It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,
Mike Fisher (Denair resident)



8/17/20

From: Charissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Jody Hayes; James DeMartini; Thomas Berryhill; vaishampayanj@stancounty.com; kuykendalls@stancounty.com; pollarda@stancounty.com; rosek@stancounty.com; sandersm@stancounty.com; spinak@stancounty.com
Subject: Distance Learning

Dear Stanislaus County Leadership,

Distance learning has been more than hard for my high schoolers. In fact, it has been hard for every aged student that I've talked to about it. The kids experience frustration and often anxiety because the internet is, in true form, unreliable, yet the kids are being asked to be reliable; to be responsible for information they never heard because the teacher was glitchy or the system pushed them out of the class over and over. They're deflated and feel defeated by expectations by the end of the day.

I know the teachers can't say "your grade won't be affected" like they did in the spring, so the kids are absorbing the burden. It's easy for us as adults to make light of the technical difficulties and so I tell my kids that the teachers aren't going to hold it against them, but these high schoolers who want to do well don't have the maturity to know how to handle these issues without being caught up in an emotional breakdown of a faulty internet.

Distance "learning" just isn't good for these kids and it's not right to test them in this and use them as guinea pigs, hoping that they'll turn out alright. High school is hard enough as is for teens learning to be adults. We are now asking them to bear the burden of adults who they've been told they *might* get sick. It's false. It's a blatant lie. The risk to youth is nil and the health of strangers is not these kids' problem. Let's show them how much we respect how they've handled the coronavirus shutdown and weight of the world up until this point and take them off the hook and put them back in school.

For the kids,
Charissa Poling
Mom to Oakdale High Junior and Freshman
[REDACTED]

From: Christina Perales [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Schools need to open

Hello local elected officials, I am writing to you in hope that you will consider re-opening the schools in the county. As a single working mom in the corporate world, I have found that I may have to reduce my hours in order to properly help educate my 7 year old second grader as she is in the Dual Immersion program at Denair Elementary Charter Academy. This has come very apparent as school has restarted and is not as organized nor as smooth as I would have expected. A reduction in work hours for me means less pay and not being able to pay regular monthly bills. I know some that are already in this situation and cannot pay bills. (Especially if they are in the personal services profession too, but that's an argument for another day).

As a non-Spanish speaking household enrolled in the Dual Immersion program, I feel like my daughter has already suffered in her education since schools closed last spring. I enrolled her in this program as I have seen how knowing a second language helps children learn and understand different cultures and opens more opportunities when she is older and ready for a career. I cannot just put her in front of the computer to learn, she needs my assistance as Spanish is not her primary language nor is mine however I studied it for a few years and can get by. I have seen others moms already take a reduction in work hours, some even taking a personal leave if allowed by their employer (as this is not medical, and not covered) as they are single moms with multiple children. I know of a school assistant who took these days off as she needed to be home to help her children and therefore one less person in the school office to answer phone calls and help parents out as well. This is the reality that you are all placing on all of us parents.

We love our children and would do anything for them and that is why we are complying however this is not needed given the real numbers of the virus and how children's immune systems work. These years are the core building blocks for someone my daughter's age yet they are being taken away right before our eyes. They are being deprived of the interaction they need as kids and the extracurricular activities that help them grow and learn what interests them and drives their passions. I feel there are more pre-cautions that schools can take in order to open safely than were previously in place pre-pandemic. Does it need to be extreme? NO. Should they wear masks? HELL NO. Those will be germ breeding cloths. Extra hand-washing protocols and educating on simple sanitary procedures will go a long way. Parents not sending their kids to school sick will also help.

I wanted to keep this short, so I did not go into detail on a lot of these items. I would hope that you take into consideration that this has been blown out of proportion. Do I know people that had COVID? Yes a couple. But I knew more than that had the flu in the past and nothing like this was done. This is devastating our kids, our households, our society, please help us get back to a sense of normalcy for kids by opening the schools.

Chrissy Drumonde Perales

From: Darren Rodrigues [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Please Consider Re-opening Schools

Hello Kristin,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My son (senior) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; he is exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. Here is his picture below:



The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99% + (fifty times less likely than season flu). Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students



Darren Rodrigues
Business Technology Consultant | CCDA

Solving Complex Business Problems with Technology

From: Tiffany Ruezga [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Cc: Sergio Ruezga
Subject: Re: Re-Opening Schools in Stanislaus County
Attachments: Letter to Vito Chiesa.pdf

Please see attached letter.

God bless you,

Sergio & Tiffany Ruezga

--

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

My husband and I are pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now, for those who choose to return.

We are the parents of a single child (in Junior High), who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child desperately wants, and continually asks to be back at school, with teachers and his friends; he is exhibiting signs of loneliness and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is our hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

God bless you,

Sergio and Tiffany Ruezga

Handwritten signature of Tiffany Ruezga in black ink, with the date 8/17/2020 written to the right of the signature.

From: Susan Stromen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; JWasishampayan@schsa.org;
skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Open schools

As a concerned Stanislaus county resident I would like to have our children attend school in person at the campus! They need interaction with their peers as well as education. Teachers can make it safe and enjoyable. Make this work!
Blessings Susan Stromen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Returning to school
Attachments: Return to school.pdf

Please read attached letter.

Thank you

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Josh Huot

From: Maria Gioletti [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini
Cc: Cherise Olvera; Steve Lewis; scruz@chatom.k12ca.us; Justin Gioletti; Skuykendall@StanCoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Parent Comment Re: Re-opening of County Schools

Good Afternoon Members of the Board of Supervisors:

My name is Maria Fatima Gioletti. My husband, Justin, and I are parents of a high school student in the Turlock Unified School District ("TUSD") and of two children in the rural Chatom Unified School District ("CUSD").

We are writing to lodge our support for permitting the re-opening of our County schools, while still offering distance learning opportunities for those families who choose to keep their children at home. We believe that resuming in-class instruction, while simultaneously recording and transmitting that instruction remotely to students at home, is in the best interests of our children academically, socially, and emotionally.

We will not repeat here the arguments already lodged by many other opponents of school closures relating to the disparate impact such closures have had on the more socially and economically-disadvantaged families in our communities. We will focus this comment on what we believe is the feasibility of re-opening schools safely.

Since teachers should be required to be teaching for the entirety of each school day, we think it would be beneficial to enable students to choose to "sit-in" on that instruction with the proper precautions in place to prevent and/or minimize the spread of Covid-19.

We consider teachers and school staff to be no less "essential" than employees in other industries who have been deemed "essential" during this crisis, e.g., workers in the agricultural, medical, veterinary, food service, retail industries, etc. Accordingly, we believe that the same precautions being utilized to protect people working in other essential industries can and should be utilized to protect teachers, staff, and students in the in-class learning environment. For example, requiring face-coverings, distancing students and staff members, supplying plexiglass or other dividers between students at work stations, disinfecting surfaces regularly, utilizing air filters, holding classes outdoors to the greatest extent possible, staggering attendance, etc. By "staggering attendance," we mean allowing only a certain number of students in class (either on a first-come, first served basis, or by taking-turns); having certain grades in class in the morning while others would be in the afternoon or on alternating days of the week; or having morning and afternoon sessions of the same class. This would ensure that only a portion of students and potentially staff members would be on campus at any given time during this pandemic.

We think this would also help students feel safer on campus. When the Shelter-in-Place Order for Stanislaus County took effect in March of this year, TUSD and CUSC gave their families the option to keep their children home or return to school for a three-day phase-in period. We sent our children to school. Because many families kept their children at home, classroom attendance was sparse, and our children reported feeling relatively safe.

We think that allowing students (who chose to) to return to school will also benefit teachers transmitting their lessons remotely, because it will enable teachers to teach in a more natural environment with students in the classroom providing immediate feedback and interaction during instruction time.

Distance-learning has exemplified how there is no substitute for in-class instruction for our children, and we ask that you consider allowing districts to chose to re-open their campus with the proper preventative procedures in place.

We thank you in advance for your consideration with respect to this matter.

Kindest regards,

Justin and Fatima Gioletti

From: Jeremy Comfort [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Please open schools

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My children of various ages desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and with their friends; they are exhibiting signs of discouragement and frustration being denied attending school and in person interaction.

The end of last years school year was devastating for my daughters senior year. What was supposed to be a milestone quickly dissolved in to an unmotivated and anticlimactic class of 2020. One of my sons saw this first hand as he was a freshman. Now with his future of high school being threatened to start the same way, his attitude is not the upbeat and excited person he usually is. I have 6 children, we've participated in home schooling, public schooling, charter schools and private schools. I've never before seen this kind of negative affectivity in so many students and children being robbed of their best opportunities of learning with in-person and at-school with peers and teachers.

Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I am very excited to hear that! I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now. Thank you for reevaluating and thinking what's best for the students.

It's vital for Stanislaus County to reopen for the health of it's future adults. I hope you will see how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Comfort

From: HORMOZ ISSAVI [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Opening school
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor Template.docx

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am requesting and supporting reopening of the school as it is affecting our children education significantly.

Thank you,
Hormoz Issavi

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

From: Dan Starn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Reopening school
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor Template.docx

Please open public schools in Stanislaus County. This whole scene seems to be drifting beyond strictly medical considerations only. I feel my son is getting cheated out of the education we are paying for and this will affect his future in a negative way the longer this goes on. Turlock Christian School will do a good job in keeping things safe for the kids on campus. Thanks for reading this and I pray for wisdom and clarity on this issue for those voting. Sincerely, Dan Starn

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

From: Tonia Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: INFORMATION ON REOPENING OUR SCHOOLS

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

Both my sons, ages 14 and 12, desperately want to be back at school. They miss interacting with teachers and their friends. My 12 year old has severe depression due to the Distance Learning model. He can't sleep and barely eats. This has changed him. He used to be hilarious, making everyone laugh with his energy and joy. Watching how this has affected him is very telling since he's my introvert. My 14 year old is the social butterfly and he has also starting to exhibit signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. He "started" high school this year and is so worried that this will affect his long term goal of becoming a veterinarian. Students can't do experiments, chemistry, dissections, etc. with "Distance Learning". So yes, I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom.

Doctor Mark Woolhouse, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and epidemiologist from Scotland, said the following: "There has not been one documented case of COVID being transferred from a student to a teacher in the world." (1) He is basing this information off of the handful of European countries reopening, some since April.

Not only does the COVID-19 virus show to have little to no effect on children, they aren't going to be spreading it! I know this is a concern for teachers and for children bringing it home to vulnerable family members. Dr. Woolhouse also explained, "I think that is important that all of us realize that our kids are not really the ones who are driving the infection. It is being driven by older individuals." (1)

The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99.9998%. (2) Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Robert Redfield. "We're seeing, sadly, far greater suicides now than we are deaths from COVID," and "Far greater deaths from drug overdose that are above the excess that we had as background than we are seeing the deaths from COVID." (3)

I firmly believe that teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on-campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive; they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school for those who want to go back; we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening, and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

Please take the time to review the above facts, see just how important it is to have on-campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Tonia Barrett

(1) <https://heavy.com/news/2020/07/robert-bob-hamilton-c/>

(2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mub4X6sJz88>

(3) <https://www.christianpost.com/news/more-youth-are-dying-of-suicide-overdose-than-covid-19-during-pandemic-cdc-director.html>

From: Dalila Armendariz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:20 PM
To: withrow@stancounty.com; Kristin Olsen; Thomas Berryhill; Vito Chiesa; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuyendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Return to school

Hello Stanislaus county Board of supervisors,

As a mother of a special needs child, I wanted to share my concerned for the mental health of our children. Thankfully my child is not severely autistic and I am able to help him as best as I can but even though he is pretty high functioning he needs help by those trained in that field to do so. I think those children with good environments will pull through somehow, someday but there are way too many children with less than ideal environments that need the support of trained professionals. I have 3 children on Distant Learning and they miss their peers, the structure and interactions of their friends. Please do whatever possible to re-open our schools. My children are ready. This feeling is the same among most of my mom friends as well.
Thank you for you time.

-Dalila Armendariz

From: Rick Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:59 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Open Schools Please

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child desperately wants to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on-campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by the parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

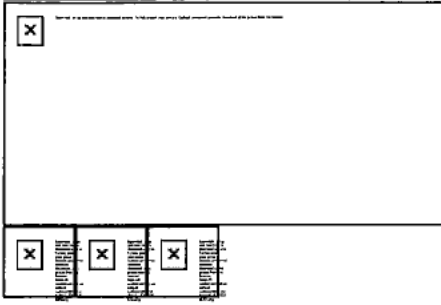
In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on-campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Rick Ryan
Chaplain/ Director of Operations
[REDACTED]

Turlock Christian Schools (Infant- 12th Grade)
www.turlockchristian.com



From: Anne Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:54 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: From a Parent, requesting for Stanislaus Schools to open

Good evening,

I have never stepped up or reached out to anyone beyond family for help. But the last few months have pushed me, as a parent to do whatever I can to stand up for my children, and for all children. I currently have a 5th grader and 7th grader.

I know teachers are trying their best, but this Distance Learning isn't school, it's not a replacement for school. It's quite the opposite. My children have been on a downward spiral since March. They went from being active, happy kids, to depressed, lazy, angry, addicted to electronics/tv and no drive at all.

They miss their friends, they miss their teachers, they miss Life! They were excited about school starting, but after the first day my daughter said, "I am not excited about school anymore" and I just felt sick and feel sick to my stomach daily. My son had a science class, he is in 7th grade. The teacher showed how when two chemicals came together they glow, from a glow stick and he told me this while laying on the couch after another "break" with no emotion, no excitement, no life. From the depths of my soul, this is wrong. My daughter refused to do a writing assignment, just a letter and we argued and she cried and we wasted 1 hour to write this letter. This wouldn't happen in school, she would have just done the letter. But I am not a teacher, I am her mom. We all know kids listen to their teachers and strive to succeed in school.

And on the other side of the screen, you have Teachers. Trying to get any kind of class culture through a screen. Trying to gain trust through a screen. Trying to get kids to enjoy school while sitting in front of a screen and absorbing blue light that will cause headaches. This is not ideal. This is so impersonal. It is so unloving. It is out of control. It is invasive. Sometimes it's better not to know too much. Families need privacy.

The Governor is making students stare at a screen when in reality, parents want them away from devices. My kids just want off of the school screens, to get right back on their devices after class. I don't let them, but its quite a fight every single day. It's draining us as a family. My kids log on, and then off so quick.. I ask, "Why are you taking so many breaks?"..but right now that is just how it's set up. They have already lost 2.5 months last school year, and now this. I want to scream in anger but I can't, I have never felt so powerless in all my life.

I understand there is a meeting tomorrow about reopening schools. At times I feel like reaching out and sending a letter is completely useless, but I have to try. I have to do something, because this is slowly destroying our children. Open safely and do what needs to be done. If we can go grocery stores, the bank, Target, eat outside at restaurants, then kids should be able to go to school. Something needs to happen!! If parents are too scared to send them, then give them the option to do it from home, the same with Teachers! But for those of us that want to return give us that option, please. I am praying to God that this can work out for us all.

With sincerest regards,

Anne Marie Wright

From: Jameen Mendes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:07 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini
Subject: Re-opening of County Schools

Good Afternoon Members of the Board of Supervisors:

My name is Jameen Mendes. My husband and I are parents to three children Chatom Unified School District.

We are writing to show our support in re-opening of our County schools. We feel the threat this virus has vs. the threat of keeping our children home, is far less. The emotional and financial impact this has made on the children and parents surpasses the impact the virus could have. The rate of suicide has gone through the roof. This needs to stop. We need to be able to provide a safe environment for our children.

Why can we send a toddler to preschool or school aged children to "camp" does the virus not live there?

My husband and I run two businesses, our young children are at HOME ALONE. This is not safe! They are stressed because they have problems with the computer or forget to do an assignment. They're frustrated because they are left to teach themselves how to solve a problem or work through a lesson alone. They are scared because they're home by themselves.

This needs to stop, we can not live like this!

Thank you, Jameen Mendes

From: Melanie Salcedo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:43 PM
To: Terrance Withrow
Cc: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Re open our schools

Hello,

I am the mother to four boys currently not in school right now. I have a Sophomore, 7th grader and twins in 2nd grade. To say it has been a struggle is an understatement. My boys attend school in the Turlock and Chatom districts and after only three days of distant learning of the new school year, I could tell this was going to be rougher than it was in March. You see my youngest is the sweetest boy you could meet. He loves Godzilla and telling you all about him, but when suddenly he is talking about doing harm to himself and his twin brother, there is a HUGE problem. His twin is in an ED class and was becoming very successful and mainstreaming into general education was about to happen right before schools were shut down the first time. Since being out of school he has regressed back to the way he was in the beginning of his year as a first grader. Kids like him need daily structure and routine, social interaction to learn proper behavior in the classroom, consequences for his actions. You he's an intelligent little boy and I can have structure in my home, but my home is not a classroom and I am not his teacher.

I have recently watched all of my kids on the computer since school has started again. No one is excited, there is no interaction from the kids with their teachers, no life. The one question I am asked constantly is if I am done yet. They feel like it is a chore. And if you do mention that they need to get ready for school their response is if they get to actually go today.

I don't doubt there is a virus. I have family in the medical field and I do know people that have gotten sick. But I believe the mental health of our kids and us as parents is more important right now. Our kids are not the only ones doing distant learning we as parents are right there everyday helping them get online, trying to fix connection problems, running from kid to kid. So I ask how can we be good parents if our mental health is being effected too.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please re open our schools.

Thank you,
Melanie Salcedo

From: Tony Alahverdi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:13 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Re-open our schools

Supervisor Kristen Olsen
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent of 2 children who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

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In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Tony I. Alahverdi

REALTOR® / Broker / CCIM / CSUS Alumni



CAL BRE#01399959 LIC #02036996

MY REVIEWS: https://www.zillow.com/reviews/write/?s=X1-ZU102v47rjai2vd_5jgqr



www.TAGRealtyCo.com

516 E. Main St. Turlock CA 95380

From: Brian Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:23 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Stand with opening Salons, schools and churches

Hi Kristen: Supervisor Tom Patti of San Joaquin was on channel 13 news getting a hair cut in Stockton at Pomp in Lincoln Village. Pastor John MacArthur is holding services, this Friday he did get a temporary ok to limited seating, but has a big battle a head of him.

If there is anything you can do to join the battle for freedom against the action of Gov. Newsome please do so.

The CDC has the total death count of all diseases by year and in 2017 at this time there were more deaths than is this hyped pandemic. The average age of death is 78. Kids are not in danger, lets push reopening of schools. Masks are more harmful than protective, science has spoken, let's get rid of them.

What happened to you? Where's the fight? What do you have to lose now that you are not going to run? Take the example of the two men who are standing against tyranny. Please, Brian Nelson

From: L W [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:05 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Regarding school reopening

Good morning,

I have two children under the age of 7 who are awaiting the distance learning option but there is a push from the head director of the school to get the kids back on campus. I understand the importance of that however I do not want to risk my children's safety or that of their family by doing so at this time. I personally know several people in our area who have lost their life due to covid and have seen others suffer with the symptoms and I believe by keeping the children home until this passes (as other countries and states have)...that is what's best and safest for them. I also understand the struggle most families including myself are experiencing with finding ways to educate at home, however I value their lives and the lives of the rest of my family so much. Their safety of being at home outweighs the benefits of them being on campus or Having our previous home/work schedule. Please consider keeping the home distance learning in order to keep our children, our families, and our county safe. I wonder if the family's who want their kids on campus have personally experienced someone in their close circle dying or becoming ill from covid. Knowing how real and how close that can be definitely puts things into perspective for me. Thank you for your time.

Lacey

From: Marc Etchebarne [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:09 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini
Subject: Distance Learning

To whom it may concern,

It is clear just after one week, that Modesto City Schools' attempt at implementing a functional distance learning program is failing. For all of the supposed planning that went into this endeavor, there are some significant holes that frankly, make it a giant waste of time.

Modesto City Schools gave strict scheduling guidelines to teachers to structure their academic day. I'm mainly concerned with the K-5 schedule, where kindergartners are expected to have the same learning schedule as 5th graders, which is absurd. Five and six year olds are not capable of the same "time on task" as nine and ten year olds. In an attempt at streamlining a system, they have stifled valuable learning time. I find a 45 minute break in the middle of the morning and an hour and a half lunch break excessive and a waste of quality instructional time. It is extremely difficult to retask my first grader after such long intermissions. The schedule provides approximately 120 minutes of "in class" instruction. About a third of that time is troubleshooting technological issues and logging into applications. Another third of the time is filled with the teacher asking, on repeat, for students to mute their devices. If the teacher is in the middle of a lesson and a student decides to speak, nobody is able to hear the teacher and the concentration of the little ones is interrupted. That leaves less than 40 minutes of instructional time, with most little ones not able to concentrate on the given task.

Modesto City Schools designates Wednesdays for small group time. Parents have to wait until Tuesday night to get the block of time their child has with his/her teacher. Again, even in a small group, if one person has their mic unmuted we cannot hear the teacher or the designated speaker. I sat through my daughter's 15 minute time slot on Wednesday and watched as she and four other children attempted to share something special to them, but nobody could hear anything anybody said. The poor teacher had great intentions, but unfortunately it didn't work out.

I realize there are growing pains to be had and adjustments to be made but frankly, even after a week; I see zero improvement. I do not blame teachers, I do not blame principals, I blame no one except the elected officials who allowed this to occur. The distance learning format was thrown together last-minute and it shows. The education system should be utterly embarrassed at their efforts and the product they rolled out. We won't even go into the irreversible consequence of essentially killing private-school education, that is a topic unto itself...

My family is blessed that I have a full-time job in Agriculture and my wife has the ability to stay home with our children. We have the ability to stick this though and supplement where we see fit. Sadly, this is a reality for a VERY small percentage of county residents. This scheduling is NOT feasible with families who depend on multiple incomes.

I do not know the politics that we are up against. Is it Unions? Mayors? Governors? Will budgets be lost? These are the answers that we, the public, are not savvy to. We ask that you explain your reasoning behind keeping kids at home and parents under continued stress. If there is no ability to bring kids back to the classroom, something needs to change with the online format sooner rather than later.

Many thanks for your time and efforts,

Marc Etchebarne



From: Dana McGarry [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: K-12 Reopening

Mr. Chiesa,

I do not support the full reopening of Stanislaus County public K-12 schools during a pandemic. I do not have a plethora of scientific studies to back up my statement, but have watched as school districts across the country open then immediately close their schools. These reactionary measures are not protecting the students, the staff, the faculty, or the families of students. How many deaths do we need in Stanislaus County before people take COVID-19 seriously?

Any Board of Supervisor who firmly believes schools should be open should also put their money where their mouth is and go work for a week in a public school. Bonus points if they are also anti-maskers - go without a mask.

Mr. Chiesa, I live in District 2 (Turlock) and work for a nonprofit that serves the entire county. People are struggling enough without putting their families at further risk by sending their children to school.

Dana McGarry

From: Tonia Barrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: THANK YOU!!! -- REOPENING SCHOOLS

Dear Supervisor Withrow,

Thank you very much for taking a stand and calling this meeting! I HATE that this has become so political: with Governor Newsom's gift of 20 million dollars to our county to stay closed and the LA Teachers Union claiming they won't open until the police are de-funded & all charter schools close. Do you think that is the reason schools aren't reopening? Or is there something else that they aren't telling us. I know about 5G & how it is being installed... could that be the reason? We want the truth. If it's just simply political then continue reading for support of you calling this meeting!

Both my sons, ages 14 and 12, desperately want to be back at school. They miss interacting with teachers and their friends. My 12 year old has severe depression due to the Distance Learning model. He can't sleep and barely eats. This has changed him. He used to be hilarious, making everyone laugh with his energy and joy. Watching how this has affected him is very telling since he's my introvert. My 14 year old is the social butterfly and he has also starting to exhibit signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. He "started" high school this year and is so worried that this will affect his long term goal of becoming a veterinarian. Students can't do experiments, chemistry, dissections, etc. with "Distance Learning". So yes, I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom.

Doctor Mark Woolhouse, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and epidemiologist from Scotland, said the following: "There has not been one documented case of COVID being transferred from a student to a teacher in the world." (1) He is basing this information off of the handful of European countries reopening, some since April.

Not only does the COVID-19 virus show to have little to no effect on children, they aren't going to be spreading it! I know this is a concern for teachers and for children bringing it home to vulnerable family members. Dr. Woolhouse also explained, "I think that is important that all of us realize that our kids are not really the ones who are driving the infection. It is being driven by older individuals." (1)

The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99.9998%. (2) Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Robert Redfield. "We're seeing, sadly, far greater suicides now than we are deaths from COVID," and "Far greater deaths from drug overdose that are above the excess that we had as background than we are seeing the deaths from COVID." (3)

I firmly believe that teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on-campus learning.

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In denying in-person school for those who want to go back; we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening, and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

Please take the time to review the above facts, see just how important it is to have on-campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

Tonia Barrett

(1) <https://heavy.com/news/2020/07/robert-bob-hamilton-c/>

(2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mub4X6sJz88>

(3) <https://www.christianpost.com/news/more-youth-are-dying-of-suicide-overdose-than-covid-19-during-pandemic-cdc-director.html>

From: Tonia Barrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: PLEASE REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS

Dear Supervisor Olsen,

Both my sons, ages 14 and 12, desperately want to be back at school. They miss interacting with teachers and their friends. My 12 year old has severe depression due to the Distance Learning model. He can't sleep and barely eats. This has changed him. He used to be hilarious, making everyone laugh with his energy and joy. Watching how this has affected him is very telling since he's my introvert. My 14 year old is the social butterfly and he has also starting to exhibit signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person. He "started" high school this year and is so worried that this will affect his long term goal of becoming a veterinarian. Students can't do experiments, chemistry, dissections, etc. with "Distance Learning". So yes, I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom.

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(2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mub4X6sJz88>

(3) <https://www.christianpost.com/news/more-youth-are-dying-of-suicide-overdose-than-covid-19-during-pandemic-cdc-director.html>

Tonia

Independent Stampin' Up! Creative Designer

classes: <http://www.meetup.com/Turlock-Stampers/>

From: Monique Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: School Open
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor Chiesa.docx

Please consider letting each school district open as they see fit.

Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a parent who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom. My child(ren) desperately want to be back at school, with teachers and their friends; they are exhibiting signs of depression and frustration being denied attending school in person.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. I too am a teacher and like many working parents I cannot adequately service the students I am responsible for and my own children at the same time. I have signed a contract with my district and do not have the option to opt out of working due to my personal situation. At this point, finding a viable childcare option is difficult and mostly likely inadequate. At school, they are taught by credentialed teachers not just supervised by an adult. This is my biggest struggle, how do I manage the education of the students I am responsible for and my own children's education and make it a quality experience for all.

As a teacher I have experienced the fact that the Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Distance learning requires a dedicated, educated adult to be on the other end making sure the student is engaged and understands what the expectations are. Many students do not have that other person. Access to adequate technology is a whole other problem that many students on the low end of the economic spectrum will also run into. How will I as their teacher make this all work for them?

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Monique Reid
Stanislaus County Resident
Hilmar High School Ag Teacher

From: Allison Jeffery <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Vito Chiesa
Cc: Kristin Olsen; Thomas Berryhill; Terrance Withrow; James DeMartini
Subject: COVID and Public Health Commentary

Good Morning Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and parent who has two children in public school to ask you to please consider respectfully supporting your Public Health Officer and the continued recommendation to have students in Distance Learning at this time.

Stanislaus County and our school districts should not be attempting to waive student safety and staff safety for the benefit of less community noise regarding COVID. Nationally, we have seen the reintroduction to school earlier than recommended being met with student and staff quarantines and illness.

As a county we have continued to have a mix message regarding the validity of concern regarding this pandemic. That mix message has come at the jeopardy of small businesses that are continuously shut down, hospitals at and above max capacity, and the youth in our community.

A united one to two month push to wear masks, enforce restrictions, and improve public health is much more appropriate than any election agenda to push schools back open.

Children learn from everywhere and from everyone. They can and will learn remotely until it is safe to put them back in classrooms. You should be uniting your resources to insure positive outcomes for them.

We all know the children most at risk are the ones most like to be forced back into classrooms with COVID just like they were with head lice, stomach bugs, and flus for the past few years.

Flu season is coming, allergy/harvest season is upon us, and historically we have very high asthma rates and hospital utilization already during these seasons. Labor day will more than likely create yet another surge.

In addition, the school that our students will be "returning" to will not look like traditional school. School will be institutionalized past the point of even a juvenile hall (no touching, spaced lines, dividers, partitions, taped outlines, sanitation, shields, masks).

Institutionalized settings are not going to socialize children or provide them with better social emotional happiness. Children need to feel safe and I don't think that being treated like you are in a jail or a hospital instead of a school is going to create a better habitat for learning.

Both scientifically and ethically this is not a choice that can be made easily but airing on the side of caution is the more responsible move.

Unfortunately, the TUSD open house for junior high and the TUSD school board meetings are also tonight so I can't speak at open comment at TUSD board or at your meeting, thank you for hearing my concerned input virtually during these uncertain times.

Allison Jeffery
Turlock Resident

From: Denise Byrd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: Special Meeting 8/18/2020

Dear Members of the Board and Dr. Vaishampayan,

I am writing in regard to the special meeting taking place 8/18/2020, discussing the impact of our school closures. I have been a Registered Nurse for 22 years and have worked as a School Nurse for 9 years. I've also been a parent for 26. In my professional and personal opinion, the effects of students being home for this prolonged period are far greater than the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 and well students should have the option to return to school, with parents making the ultimate decision.

As a School Nurse, I've seen first-hand the students whose only refuge is school. Not only is this often where they receive their only nutritious meal, and sometimes only meals, but going to school is the only opportunity they have to be in a safe, supportive environment. Furthermore, it is the only opportunity they have for an outside person to observe signs of their need for help. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children's Bureau, "more than half (67.3 percent) of all child abuse cases and reports made to CPS agencies come from professionals who came in contact with the child, including teachers, lawyers, police officers, and social workers." Without that contact, the abuse is unable to be identified.

Furthermore, students in lower socioeconomic groups already suffer academic achievement gaps. Realistically, those gaps will grow exponentially with lack of access to in-person schooling. I also believe these students are put at higher risk, as their parents aren't able to stay home from work and still provide the basics for their family. I know of several families who are leaving their children home alone. The older students not only have to try to figure out distance learning for themselves, but for their younger siblings, as well. This is unacceptable.

I know the schools, as well as our local officials, have been put in a tough position. I know everyone is working hard, often around the clock, and ultimately wants what's best for everyone. However, I feel that we are missing the mark as we zero in on COVID at a microscopic level and ignore the whole picture. **Our students need to be in school** and, maybe even more importantly, get back to their extracurricular activities. I know for my youngest daughter, who is 16 and a junior, she has struggled greatly. In addition to school, she is a competitive dancer. She and her team are world ranked. They are accustomed to training 6-7 days per week. The mental strain she has gone through from not being able to do that for 5 and a half months is tremendous. Physically, she's been unable to train at the necessary level to stay in peak condition. Socially, she hasn't seen her second family for 5 ½ months (because we obey laws and orders, even when we don't agree with them). Psychologically, she and her teammates and coaches watched all of their hard work washed down the drain, as

they had trained and prepared for months and had just started the competition portion of the season. Many of the dancers were seniors, so they don't get to come back and have that opportunity to make it up. They had already received paid bids to attend this year's Dance Worlds in Florida, but it was canceled. To make matters worse, they're now watching their competitors from other areas be able to train (and go to school) and they are feeling defeated. My daughter has two more years of schooling, but many students and their families missed out on once in a lifetime experiences – graduations, weddings, even funerals. Our society has suffered for it and I fear it has done damage that will take years to heal.

Finally, when you look at other states and countries who weren't as stringent with their lockdowns, masks, and schools, their numbers are about the same as (and some even better than) ours. We were asked to stop our lives until there was a better grasp on the virus and to not overwhelm our health systems. We've done that. Now, we need to get back to life and start rebuilding mentally, physically, and spiritually.

I urge you to sit back and look at the whole picture. I think, if you do, you will find that these extensive measures are unnecessary. Most things can reopen safely for those who are not compromised. Those who are can stay home and protect themselves and should be cared for and supported. The rest of us need to get back to life!

Thank you for your time and all your hard work!

Sincerely,

Denise Byrd BSN RN PHN

From: Tara Huff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Jennifer Pimentel
Subject: Getting Kids Back Into the Classroom

Dear Terry,

I want to first thank you for advocating for the children in Stanislaus County and for calling a special meeting. I want to do more, but am at a loss as to how I can help. As a mother of an 11 year old, I am deeply concerned for the physical and mental well being of the children in Stanislaus County and our entire State.

These children need us. All of the children, not just the those children who are already underprivileged - but they may need us more! The children who really do not understand what is going on. As you stated last week the mental and physical abuse cases are rising but less being reported because they are not in school, but there is also the mental impact this whole situation is having on kids who are not abused but can not comprehend what is happening. As an adult it is hard for me to comprehend. Everything is so arbitrary. We can take kids shopping in a grocery store with 100's of people but not go to church or school. I have seen first hand some of our son's friends, now suffer anxiety. These kids never had these issues before and some have it worse than others. It concerns me what the lack of school and social interaction, is going to do to these kids. I am concerned that it may cause irreversible damage to these innocent children.

Can we not find a way around these guidelines to allow for in person day camps, where kids can be in small groups at school (aligned with CA Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>)? In these small groups can they now do distance learning with whatever device they may have?

I have been trying to research the number of students and staff among our school districts but it is a difficult number to nail down. It would appear from the Stanislaus County Education website that we had 110,405 students enrolled last year in K-12th Grade. Finding how many teachers there are, only dates back to 2014, and is from a different website but the numbers indicate, we have a combined number of Teachers, Supervisors/Coordinators, Teachers Assistants, Administrators and Support staff of over 5,000. There must be more in 2020. In that case, is it impossible to believe that this number combined with the number of substitutes available that we can not figure a way to safely allow these kids a place to do distance learning safely and adhere to the guidelines above?

Wouldn't that be less expensive than paying for childcare for teachers with kids under 12? Which by the way, I know plenty of 12 year olds and older that shouldn't be left at

home all day alone. This seemed like just one of the many arbitrary lines drawn by government.

Can we not allow specific teachers within each school/grade to tackle the majority of the on line portion of distance learning while the other teachers, teachers assistants, coordinators, substitutes and support staff tackle small groups and help the on line leaders? What about the sub noon duty jobs - can they help?

I know this wouldn't be easy but perhaps it would save the county having to pay back any of the funding Governor Newsome has given the County. Use some of that funding to make this happen? #forthekidsake

Please let me know if there is anything I can do.

Thank You and God Bless You!
Good Luck Tonight!!!!

Tara



From: Meghan Mendes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Open our schools

Dear Kristen,

I have heard that Supervisor Withrow has called for a special session to discuss re-opening of schools in our area. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

As a parent of two children, I have seen firsthand the effect that Covid-19 has had on kids. And, no, I am not talking about children getting sick with Covid-19. I am talking about kids not being engaged in activities outside of our household, kids not getting to see other kids, kids having some of the things they love to do taken away and not replaced. My boys desperately want to go back to school. As a parent, it is my responsibility to protect my children and choose what is right for them.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken they will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. What if doctors, policemen, grocery store workers, farmers, delivery drivers, postal workers, and all other "essential workers" decided that the risk of Covid-19 was too great for them and so they decided not to go to their jobs. Mind you, all of the occupations I just listed would not be getting a paycheck if they decided to stay home. But, that is exactly what we are allowing our teachers to do. If they are at higher risk, those teachers could supervise the distance learning for the families that are not ready for their children to be back at school in person. However, those teachers should not get to decide what is safe for me or my family. Also, some of those same teachers that aren't wanting in person learning, are being allowed to bring their children to school to be supervised while distant learning. I do not have those same options. Neither do the doctors, farmers, nurses, grocery store workers, and all the other essential workers that I am so grateful for. There is a huge burden being placed unnecessarily on these families.

To be completely honest, while I am all for re-opening schools and having learning in person, I know for a fact that my children and my family will be ok. I know this because I will do everything in my power and within my resources to ensure it. However, not every child has the luxury of being part of a loving home with parents that will do whatever it takes for them to succeed. And for those children my heart breaks! By denying in person school you are denying some children the only opportunity for love they get, you are denying them a safe place to learn and grow, you are denying them their future. This generation of people will have a major divide between the haves and the have nots, and it is incredibly disappointing. I believe Stanislaus county can open their schools safely and make a difference in children lives.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students.

Sincerely,

From: Kristi Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Open schools ASAP!

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent of three children in the Stanislaus County public education system. I am experiencing first-hand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom—depression and frustration not to mention the loss of valuable learning... which is what "school" is all about, right? No chrome book can replace in-person learning! My children desperately want to return to school. At least give us a CHOICE as parents to do what is best for our own families.

The Distance Learning model DOES NOT WORK. It furthers the gap between the haves and have-nots. There are struggling families, approximately 30,000 children in Stanislaus County, who are living at or below the poverty line. These children are DEPENDENT on in-person school with in-person instruction for any chance of advancement. In denying in-person school we are condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our county and state in the future.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survival rate of this disease is 99.96% which means the mortality rate is 0.04%. We are DESTROYING our children's lives for 0.04%! Are we going to shut down the schools for every flu season that comes along until the end of time? Classrooms around the world have opened up successfully and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all THE FACTS and see how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is best to have the OPTION of returning to class.

Thank you for your time,

Kristi Barrett

From: Deziree Fredriks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; jvaishampayan@stancounty.com;
olsek@stancounty.com; skuykendall@stancoe.com; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow
Subject: Reopening school

I am writing this to you as a parent and a teacher. I hope you will consider giving families the choice to go back to brick and mortar school. After one week of distance learning I have witness the toll is taking on my own child as well my students and their families. The stress of distance learning which ranges from Connectivity issues to lack of technology savvy. I have also seen what it is doing to my special ed students. Most of these student depend on hands on learning and with distance learning that is just not possible. It is also not healthy for kids to be in front of a screen for this long. They need adult and peer interactions. It is vital for our future for our children to return to school as soon as possible. Our child are our future and if we don't do what's best for them we will pay the price.
Thank you for your time,
Dez Fredriks

From: Shelby McManus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:31 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Olsenk@stancount.com; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: Reopening schools

Good evening Board,

I'm emailing you as a parent AND as a teacher in the county regarding keeping our schools closed. First of all, I acknowledge the fact that COVID is present and real, however I don't agree with keeping our schools closed because of it.

As a parent I am struggling with two young elementary students who are yearning to be back in school. When I asked them why they'd rather be in school both quickly responded "so that we aren't looking at a screen all day", and "to see my friends and be able to run around school with them." I'm concerned as a parent with my youngest- 1st grade who will be learning the fundamentals to reading and has to do that on a screen- where attention is low and the true one on one time that can be given in the classroom just really isn't an option. I worry about their mental health as a parent and teacher, in them not being able to interact and learn those social, healthy communication skills that come with being on a school campus with friends which are important to living in society.

As a teacher of 18years and teaching live for two weeks already, I've seen the impact. I've had students non engaged, missing to log in, dealing with technology/WiFi that sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. I see them rubbing their eyes, not understanding instructions or what to do- but if we were in the classroom, I'd be side by side guiding them and giving redirections one on one so that they succeed. In the spring with distance learning I went from a 95% participation rate the first week to almost a 10% by the end of school. That should say something to you. They were simply "over it." Kids need to be in school for the value of their education and families need to get back to work and not stress or worry about their kids being home alone, (and there are some that are), or how they're going to help them with work when they themselves don't understand.

So I ask you to seriously look at the science of the numbers, be realistic at how many kids are dealing with COVID in this county, give school districts individually and then families from there the choice to go back. Talk to kids in the community and I bet can probably guarantee that most want to be back in school- it's what's best for KIDS and EDUCATION!

Respectfully,
Shelby Anderson

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Stephen Backus [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; skuykendall@stancoe.org; Julie Vaishampayan
Subject: School Closures

Hello-

I would like to voice my concern over the school closures. I am extremely concerned for the children who are at home with no supervision. They are being trusted to do their homework and listen to their teachers online. For many of these children, school is a refuge, a way to get regular meals. Students are isolated and getting depressed. School closures will do more damage to our children, than Covid. I can't even imagine the damage this is causing for our special needs children.

I understand we are on the Governor's Watchlist. Turlock just had another 16 fatalities all at Brandel Manor. WHY are we counting these deaths at senior citizen homes against the children? Are we not listening to what the scientists and pediatricians are recommending? Is science no longer the evidence we turn to to make sound judgements? CDC states, "that the available evidence provides reason to believe that in-person schooling is in the best interest of students, particularly in the context of appropriate mitigation measures similar to those implemented at essential workplaces." So we are not going to listen to the CDC nor the many pediatricians who have come out favorably for the children to go back to school. WE ARE FAILING OUR CHILDREN! Dr. Fauci stated, "The default position with K-12 schools should be to reopen them".

Inequity amplified; according to the Wall Street Journal, between 20%-24% of students lacked a reliable internet connection in California.

Only 1 out of 20 children who test positive for Covid-19 required noncritical hospital care.

We are relying on you all to be the leaders we elected and leaders we NEED! Please stand up for our children! There will be teachers and students who will wish to stay home and learn/teach from there, let them! But, for the rest of us, let us get back to NORMAL! With proper safety protocols in place, I believe we can do this for the sake of our children.

Thank you for your time-

Stephen Backus

From: Joshthatone vlogger [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Subject: School Closures

Hello-

My name is Josh Backus and I am a senior at Turlock High School. I wanted to ask you all to please open our schools. My friends and I would like to go back to school. I have been trying to keep up with the news to see how Covid is affecting students. I don't see any evidence showing students contracting this disease. If they do, it's a very small number with mild symptoms.

Our classes so far have been about 25 minutes instructional time and 30 minutes independent time. My school day ends faster. My mom wonders if we are learning much.

Please help my friends and I to get back to school in a safe way.

Thank you-
Josh Backus

From: Derik Bakker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Vito Chiesa
Subject: Please open the schools!
Attachments: Letter to County Supervisor - Derik Bakker.docx

Thank you for your consideration!

Derik Bakker

[REDACTED]
Modesto CA 95354
[REDACTED]



Supervisor Vito Chiesa
1010 Tenth Street Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Supervisor Chiesa,

I am pleased to learn that Supervisor Terry Withrow called for a special session to discuss the need to re-open schools. I urge your support in favor of re-opening schools now.

I am a Turlock resident who is experiencing firsthand the negative effects of not having children in the classroom.

The COVID-19 virus has shown to have little to no effect on children. The survivability rate if a child were to contract the virus is 99%. Yet, in keeping the schools closed, the County is guaranteeing that every day there will be children that suffer the effects of depression, neglect, hunger, abuse, and a rising possibility of suicide. Re-opening schools can help reverse the exponential rise of these health issues.

Teachers are essential workers and just like the rest of the essential worker population in Stanislaus County, with proper safety measures taken will be at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other essential worker. Those who are high-risk should be afforded extra precautions and the ability to do distant learning for the children of families that choose not to return to on campus learning.

The Distance Learning model does not work and only furthers the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There are more than 110,000 children in Stanislaus County. More than half (approximately 55,000) are being raised by a single parent.

Nearly 30,000 children in Stanislaus County are being raised by parent(s) who live at or below the poverty line. These families struggle to just survive, they do not have the means to invest in childcare, day-camps, or tutors. These children are dependent on in-person school with in-person teaching for any chance of advancement.

In denying in-person school we are, in essence, condemning many children to a less promising future and likely adding an additional cost to our County and State in the future. Classrooms around the world have successfully begun opening and it is my belief that schools in Stanislaus County can successfully open too.

It is my hope that you will look at all the facts, see just how important it is to have on campus learning, and let the individual school boards make the decisions on when is the best time to re-open campuses for their students

Sincerely,

Derik Bakker

██████████ Turlock CA

From: Chuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Terrance Withrow; James DeMartini
Subject: Fwd: Reopening Schools

>
>

>> Dear Supervisor Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, and DeMartini,
>>

>> It is my understanding that this Tuesday, August 25, the supervisors will be meeting to discuss reopening "in person schools" in Stanislaus County.

>>
>> I would like to have "in person schools" safely reopened, but now is not the time to do so.
>>

>> Stanislaus County is currently on the State Covid19 watch list because of the number of infections and deaths. In May, "Good To Go" reopening guidelines were announced, but you along with the other supervisors publicly stated they would not be enforced. There were approximately 500 infections in May - in August we have over 10000 infections. In my opinion, lack of enforcement was a major contributor to the dramatic increase in infections.

>>
>> Supervisor Withrow has stated that he wants the Board of Supervisors to publicly state they will not enforce state guidelines that require schools to open "online learning" only - no "in person" school opening. Schools that open "in person" will not be cited for non-compliance.

>>
>> In my opinion, Supervisor Withrow's recommendation to not enforce state guidelines regarding school openings will increase Covid19 infections and deaths. I urge you to comply and enforce state Covid19 guidelines.

>
> To date in Stanislaus County there have been 15 shootings, 3 homicides and 223 Covid19 deaths.

>>
>> Failure to enforce Covid19 state guidelines will lead me to vote against your reelection.

>>
>> Chuck Sheaffer

[REDACTED]
>> Modesto 95355

>>
>>
>> Sent from my iPad

From: Angela Palazuelos [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Kristin Olsen
Subject: Schools returning

With regards to the waivers, if they should ever get there, can the school district require parents to sign away the ability to sue the county should their child become ill, die, or bring it home to their family and causes death? We need to prevent the county from lawsuits such as these, since the county will be approving something going against the state recommendations. I don't want my property taxes going up over excess lawsuits from people who don't have insurance to cover their hospitalizations.

Also, will teachers be covered by workman's compensation for time off for quarantines and time off and hospitalization when they contract it? Considering at 1 school I know of when they passed out school packs prior to the start of distance learning, 3 families who were "in quarantine" came because they thought it would be ok. These same parents will send their ill child to school.

I think these are the things some of your constituents want to know. I know most just want to know "When can I get my child out of my house?" But I am seriously concerned over the legal and financial cost this will cost us.

Angela P.

From: Marc Etchebarne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Vito Chiesa
Subject: Fwd: Waiver

The stall tactics are quite apparent, please add this to your correspondence for tonight's meeting.

Many thanks for your efforts.

Respectfully,

Marc Etchebarne

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Helsley, Kendra <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 9:31 AM
Subject: RE: Waiver
To: Ashley Peters Etchebarne <[REDACTED]>, Marc Etchebarne <[REDACTED]>

Thank you for reaching out. Dr. Noguchi shared this with all staff yesterday afternoon:

This morning, I received a brief statement from our Stanislaus County Public Health Officer with a trendline chart showing a downward trajectory in COVID cases. The message noted that, based on current data trends, there may be an opportunity for Districts to submit a reopening plan/waiver for TK-6 schools in the coming weeks. You may also see news coverage on this topic, as well as posts on social media by County officials. However, at this time, I have many questions and concerns on the accuracy of the data, and I want to make an informed decision before moving forward.

Back in June, Executive Cabinet started working on a reopening plan, and currently, we are trying to work with Public Health to better understand and verify the data. It is a very detailed approval process to submit a TK-6 reopening waiver, and I want to reassure all of you that we will continue to keep you updated on the next steps as we work with our union leadership and local community to obtain feedback.

Dr. Noguchi, like all of us, is eager to get students-especially our youngest learners-back into classrooms as soon as it is safe to do so. A great deal of preliminary work and planning has already gone toward preparing to do just that. I am confident you will have an update as to MCS' plans in the very near future.

Thank you for reaching out.

Kendra L. Helsley

Principal

Enslin Elementary

[REDACTED]

Modesto, CA 95354

[REDACTED]

"Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future." -Walt

Disney

From: Ashley Peters Etchebarne [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:00 AM

To: Helsley, Kendra [REDACTED]; Marc Etchebarne [REDACTED]

Subject: Waiver

***** This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please be cautious before clicking links or opening attachments. *****

Good morning!

Yesterday county supervisor, Kristin Olsen issued a statement that County Public Health is about a week away from being able to approve waivers for k-6 schools to open (she posted it on her Facebook). I know many private schools have prepared and submitted these waivers and I was just curious if Ensen (MCS) has as well? If so, will there be a hybrid at home/ in person plan? Just curious because I haven't heard anything from the public sector. I hope you have a great Friday! 😊

Ashley Etchebarne
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: Anony Mous [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 8:21 AM
To: COBSupport
Subject: Kids in Schools...

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.

Well, here are a few that show what the "new normal" will look like in some American schools:









edgemont_elementary



33 likes

edgemont_elementary Kids are ready to learn with their new power shields—ready to be super hero learners (with masks and shields).



Meanwhile, studies are now finding that Americans are so ignorant of the truth about the virus that they think it is more deadly than it is by orders of magnitude.

So I can't say I'm surprised when Americans consent to ludicrous changes like the ones in these pictures.

Oh, and the other day the AP -- remember that impartial, mainstream purveyor of news? -- wrote what was supposed to be a news article about Dr. Scott Atlas of Stanford being brought on as an adviser to the White House on the virus, but instead (and I know you're shocked) it was an attack piece.

According to the article, Atlas "falsely claimed" that children were at "near zero risk" from COVID.

They are at near zero risk from COVID! How else can "near zero" be defined, for heaven's sake?

But what a tragedy for kids. At minimum, no mask for outdoor recreation!

Meanwhile, those who made it famous on the media during this moment in time get a free pass while all your law abiding citizens grow more restless after losing loved ones and being restrained. Where is the sense in that. Take control of your jurisdiction.







From: Danielle Luna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Terrance Withrow; Kristin Olsen; Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; James DeMartini; Julie Vaishampayan; skuykendall@stancoe.org
Cc: [REDACTED]; David Luna
Subject: School Reopening

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express the frustration of many parents that have been forced to become teachers to their children.

My son is in 2nd grade, he is Autistic and has ADHD. He has been on the Sisk Elementary campus since he started the county's Special Education program and starting in 2nd grade he is in mainstream. Me, his father and all teachers and paras have worked HARD to get David to where he is today and the regression into old habits and struggles has begun to make most things difficult again. He is a hands on learning type of kid. He NEEDS his peers around to continue moving forward.

I'm not sure how it is expected that we continue life like normal and provide for our families if we have to commit to being our children's teachers. I am not trained to do what the teachers are trained to do. Most parents aren't. The fact that science is being ignored and that 1 person (Dr.Vaishampayan) gets to call the shots is absurd. I am not saying to force all families back to on campus learning but give us the choice to do what's best for OUR FAMILIES. In my opinion a district wide poll needs to be sent out to see how many students would be coming back IF school campus is opened should be done and create a plan from there. Designate on campus teachers and distance teachers. Tell the parents what we need to do to make this possible.(donate masks, hand sanitizer?).

We MUST get our children back to school. The long term psychological issues are much greater than the risks of CV19 this is a fact.

For many years parents have been told to limit screen time, its hard on the eyes and kids need ACTUAL play time and time with their peers. Now our children are being FORCED to stare at a screen for 6+ hours a day. That is unacceptable.

I understand that this is something that everyone has been doing their best on but the result is not acceptable to my family. Children can't do this set up for very long without falling behind.

Please give us the CHOICE to send our children back to school if that is what we want to do.

-Danielle Luna

-David J. Luna

From: Tim Curley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Terrance Withrow
Subject: FW: Public Comment Regarding 8-25 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda Item 8.1
Attachments: 8.18.20 Valley Children's COVID Briefing.pdf; 7-23-20 Valley Children's COVID Briefing.pdf

Hello, Terry. I wanted to give you the heads up that I submitted the public comment below on behalf of Valley Children's Healthcare regarding tomorrow's agenda item 8.1. Feel free to give me a call at [REDACTED] if you want to discuss. Valley Children's will not be attending the Board meeting.

Thank you.

From: Tim Curley
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:48 AM
To: 'cobsupport@stancounty.com' <cobsupport@stancounty.com>
Cc: 'Raul Mendez' [REDACTED]; Patrice Dietrich [REDACTED]; Jody Hayes [REDACTED]; 'Julie Vaishampayan' [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment Regarding 8-25 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda Item 8.1

By this email, I would like to submit the public comment below, along with the attached two documents, specific to the 8-25 Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors meeting, Agenda item 8.1. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Public Comment

To the Honorable Members of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

On behalf of Valley Children's Healthcare, I am writing to provide comment regarding Agenda Item 8.1 as it appears on the August 25th Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

Valley Children's understands that the current conversation around COVID-19 and children returning to school is not any easy one. Like everyone else, we believe that school-aged children, under "normal circumstances", belong in school where they have access to the best teachers, learning, socialization, nutrition, social and emotional support, and time with adults who care about them. Unfortunately though, these are not "normal circumstances". Until the situation in counties throughout our service area, including in Stanislaus County, stabilizes based on the metrics established by the state, Valley Children's does not believe that students should be returning to the classroom as the associated risks, including the risk to teachers and other school district staff, outweigh the associated benefits.

Valley Children's highly trained team of pediatric physician specialists and other medical providers has been treating children with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Based both on this experience and our team's ongoing and careful review of the research and literature regarding COVID-19 and children, we know the following.

- Children get COVID. Of the nearly 11,000 children Valley Children's has tested thus far for COVID-19, almost one in ten is testing positive.
- Children with underlying health conditions like cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease or respiratory conditions, are at potentially greater risk from the effects of COVID-19.

- Children, particularly older school-aged children, are effective transmitters of COVID-19...to other children and to adults.
- As of August 14, we continue to see an increase in the number children testing positive for COVID-19 throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including in Stanislaus County.

Please see the attached two media briefings from Valley Children's for additional information regarding COVID-19 and children.

I hope that the above information is helpful to your discussion and please do not hesitate to let us know if Valley Children's can provide any additional information or help answer any specific questions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this very important issue.

Tim Curley
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Valley Children's Healthcare
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From: Noguchi, Sara [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 2:57 PM
To: COBSupport
Subject: Public Comment – August 25 meeting – Agenda Item 8.1 (COVID-19 update & report on schools).
Attachments: 20200824 - Public Comment - BOS meeting 8-25-20.pdf

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D
Modesto City Schools
Superintendent
[REDACTED]

Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts

Follow me on my journey on Twitter- @MCSSuptNoguchi

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August 24, 2020

TO: Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

RE: August 25 meeting, Public Comment on Agenda item 8.1: Update Related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and Essential Services in Stanislaus County Including a Report on the Authorities of the Board of Supervisors Related to State of California Public Health Orders for Schools in Response to COVID-19 and Related Matters – Chief Executive Office

Dear Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,

As the Superintendent of Modesto City Schools, I am focused on the health and safety of our students and staff. And while I am very eager to reopen schools to welcome our students for in-person learning, I also want to ensure we are doing so in a safe, responsible manner.

We are trusting our County leadership, and specifically the Public Health experts, with the data and guiding our path forward to overcome the spread of COVID in our community. However, I have serious concerns over the accuracy of the COVID infection data and the lack of processes or planning to address infections in our county. I am specifically referencing concerns with:

- As of August 24, Stanislaus County has a 14.5% positivity rate, and our hospitals are reporting only 10.5% ICU bed availability. (Source: California Dept of Public Health, County data chart).
- With the Labor Day weekend approaching, based on data trends from previous holidays such as Memorial Day and July 4th, experts are anticipating another spike in COVID cases.
- I am concerned with the lack of COVID test availability as well as the delayed turnaround time to receive test results. For quarantine to be an effective measure, test results must be reported back in a timely manner.
- I am also concerned that Stanislaus County Public Health has stated that, once we reopen schools, even if the positive rate increases above 200/100,000, we will not close schools again, unless a school district has 25% of their schools in quarantine. For Modesto City Schools, that would be roughly 7,500 students. How is this safe for our teachers, school staff and our children?
- Why would Stanislaus County consider reopening schools when other counties – that are either off the State's monitoring list or below the 200/100,000 threshold – have stated that they are not currently accepting Opening of Schools Waivers? Examples such as Placer County, which is off the monitoring list but still conducting distance learning; or Sacramento County which has a rate of 158 per 100,000. Per the direction of their respective County Public Health Officers, neither of these counties are even considering reopening waivers at this time. To further illustrate the point, Riverside County is now at 158.7/100,000, and they are just now starting to look at the possibility of having schools submit reopening waivers for consideration.

Given the prominence of your role in our community, I am asking for your support that we should not consider the discussion of reopening schools until we reach the following milestones:

- Stanislaus County reaches a positivity rate below 200/100,000 over a two-week period.
- County Public Health can assure the local community that they have enough contact tracing resources to support the opening of 25 school districts. These districts are entrusted with the health and safety of more than 111,000+ students and 12,000+ staff.
- Stanislaus County has sufficient COVID testing kits readily available for anyone who is showing symptoms, and the test result can be delivered within 24 hours.

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- School districts need to be clearly informed of what the County's plans will be when there are outbreaks in the community or when the positivity rate and hospitalizations increase. Currently, the County has nothing in writing that describes this process. School districts have been told that we will remain open and the County will work with individual schools and Districts on a case-by-case basis. However, there are no metrics or protocols to guide the decision-making.

Personally, I'd like to see Stanislaus County demonstrate the same leadership as what's being done in Sonoma County where they are taking a countywide stance and indicating that distance learning will most likely continue through December. If we did that, come December, school district and County officials can further assess where Stanislaus County is in terms of contact tracing, testing results/availability, and our COVID case count in order to possibly move forward with incorporating some in-person instruction for the second half of the school year. Additionally, by setting a commonly-supported date, it provides more of a framework and foundation for our stakeholders, including, our vast array of parents who need time to plan...for our students who are looking for some stability in a rapidly changing world...and for our teachers who can continue to develop robust distance learning lessons in addition to working toward instructional models for when our students are able to safely return to campus.

I would welcome a conversation with you to discuss this further and how we can work together, along with our Public Health Officials, to ensure the accuracy of the data as we focus on making the public's health and safety our shared priority. Modesto City Schools is the largest school district in Stanislaus County, and I take my responsibility as Superintendent very seriously, just as I know you do the same in your roles as County Supervisors. I am committed to working with City and County leadership, the Public Health experts, the Modesto City Schools Board of Education and our union partners in making an informed decision on reopening schools. However, I feel very strongly that it is imperative that the experts have verified the accuracy of the data and that certain processes and protocols are implemented in order to safeguard the health and well-being of our constituents and, most importantly, the community's youth.

Sincerely,



Sara Noguchi, Ed.D
Superintendent
Modesto City Schools

From: Carole Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Thomas Berryhill
Subject: Opening our schools

Dear Supervisor Berryhill. You are my supervisor and I want to tell u not to open the elementary schools. I am very dismayed that Withrow has openly sponsored this action in the Bee this am. We have not adequately gotten this virus in control ,and to say that we are close to the guidelines and then open is ridiculous. We need to wait a respectful period before even considering this action. Have u read about Georgia who jumped the gun and now have to close with teachers and kids stricken with the virus. We have already in our county shown poor judgment by reopening our businesses way to soon and we now are in a hot spot with spiking numbers and high virus rate. We need to get this virus in control and wait for a period of time before we even consider opening. Our numbers are somewhat close but then to say get a waiver and open next week. Get real. I want out children and teachers to be safe and that means on line learning until we see we have bent the curve and I mean significantly. Children at that young age naturally want to be near each other. To assume they will distance and wash hands and mask in that environment is so unrealistic and our teachers need to feel they can teach and be safe. Donot open the schools until this epidemic is well in hand. Carole Stark

-----Original Message-----

From: Carole Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Terrance Withrow <WITHROWT@stancounty.com>
Subject: Opening schools

Dear Supervisor Withrow. After reading the Bee this am and listening to several friends that have children in MCS, I am very dismayed at your attitude about reopening our schools. There is no question that we all want our children to return to in class learning but it is still too early to go there. We have not hit the threshold yet for reopening according to state guidelines and we have been a hard hit county landing on the watch list for several months. Why are we on the watch list? Because this county reopened too early and we had a spike and became a hot spot. I am very unhappy about that and feel that people do not understand the seriousness of this virus, when they allow this to happen. We need to wait until the numbers stay down significantly for a reasonable time period and that is a lot more than a week. Your judgment is very concerning to me when you state you want this to happen. Our teachers and children need to be safe and this virus needs to be in control before we consider going back to school. No-one questions it is not easy to teach digitally for the elementary students. But keeping them at 6 ft. Distances and masking and washing hands repeatedly is just a bit unrealistic for youngsters whose natural inclination is to be close to each other. Get real and be sensible. I am totally against this plan of yours to go back next week if the numbers go down. That is a big if. This county has already jumped the gun to our peril so don't do it again. California was at the forefront of controlling this virus back in March, and thanks to the governor, who I place significant blame on too, he turned decision making over to the counties and this is where we are. We are now number 1 in the country with cases and deaths. This is really unscionable and a total abdication of responsibility to keep us safe. Do not open the elementary schools or dance studios or any other school that has children activities. Carole Stark [REDACTED] Modesto, CA

From: Caroline Backus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Vito Chiesa; Thomas Berryhill; Julie Vaishampayan; Scott Kuykendall; Kristin Olsen; James DeMartini; Terrance Withrow
Subject: School Closures/Covid 19

Hello-

Please consider opening our schools. This virus has largely affected those who are 60 and older. Our children are adversely affected by the school closures. As they stay home, many of them are becoming more withdrawn, my son being one of them. The health and safety of our children is more at risk by them being left at home unattended, or in an abusive home than them catching Covid. Please consider these numbers:

Swine Flu- Deaths 150,000 to 575,000
80% of virus related deaths occurred in those 65 and older.

Covid-19-Deaths 177,000 thus far
95% of deaths occur in people 60 and over. More than 50% of all deaths were in people 80 years of age and older.

In the case of the Swine Flu, NO SCHOOLS were shut down. WHY are we punishing our children because of Covid?

PLEASE LET THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTANCE LEARNING, DO SO. LET THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO WISH TO GO BACK TO TRADITIONAL LEARNING, DO SO!

Thank you for your time.

Caroline Backus