



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
3851 ROSECRANS STREET, MAIL STOP P-578
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-3134
(619) 531-5800 • FAX (619) 542-4186

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

December 22, 2020

TO: San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Trustees:
Maureen Muir, President
Melisse Mossy, Vice President
Kristin Gibson, Clerk
Michael Allman
Katrina Young
SDUHSD Superintendent:
Robert Haley

FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer & Director, Public Health Services

RE: RESPONSE TO REOPENING CONCERNS AT SAN DIEGUITO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT DUE TO COVID-19

I would like to express my appreciation for your efforts demonstrated to prevent and manage COVID-19 within the San Dieguito Union High School District (District). Your commitment to the health and safety of your students, families, and staff has been valuable, as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is my understanding that, on December 15, 2020, your board voted to resume part-time and full-time in-person learning starting in January 2021, for any of your roughly 13,000 students wishing to attend. I want to remind you that to reopen your schools, the District must ensure all schools adhere to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance, associated with school reopening, as well as the County Health Officer Order. CDPH will be issuing additional guidance soon.

Since the Thanksgiving holiday, San Diego County, as well as the state of California, has faced a surge of COVID-19 infections, leading to continued daily record highs in hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy, and deaths. ICU bed capacity has decreased to nearly zero in many public health jurisdictions of the state, as patients seek medical attention at hospitals, which are struggling to manage strains on resources and personnel. With this current spike in cases, assuring you are able to satisfy every aspect of the CDPH guidance and County Order is absolutely

essential. I would be very concerned about returning to your proposed level of in-classroom instruction, unless your staff is able to provide you detailed information explaining how the requirements of the CDPH guidance and County Order will be met.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that we are all in this together with one singular mission – to protect the public’s health by preventing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 infections. I also want to emphasize that your decisive leadership, action, and support have been essential in addressing this situation. Please know that your partnership is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Wilma.Wooten@sdcounty.ca.gov or (619) 666-3455.

Sincerely,


WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer and Director
Public Health Services

Cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Officer
Donald Steuer, County of San Diego, Commander, Incident Command System
Nick Macchione, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency Director