

Ontario-Montclair School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 18, 2020

Dear OMSD students, families, staff and community members:

The first six weeks of the 2020-2021 school year has been a time of collaboration, adjustments and most importantly, a new way of learning and teaching. I want to thank our students, families, certificated personnel, classified support staff, and administrators for their patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate learning under an Online Learning Model.

As a reminder, returning to in-person learning will happen when conditions allow. Although I cannot be definitive on when students and all staff will return to campuses, please be assured that my office and team of district administrators continue to monitor COVID-19 trends in the Ontario-Montclair School District's (OMSD) geographic region. Until that time, OMSD remains committed to collaborating with all stakeholders in order to provide a world-class education to our students, as well as supporting their mental and physical well-being.

Recently, California Governor Gavin Newsom released a new "Blueprint for a Safer Economy". This new metric changes the way the state monitors counties and includes information related to when schools can open for in-person instruction. The blueprint also includes a four-tiered, color-coded system that tracks counties by the number of COVID-19 cases recorded each day and the percentage of positive cases out of the total number of tests administered, both averaged over seven consecutive days.

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
WIDESPREAD Most schools are closed to in-person instruction, unless they meet certain conditions	More than 7 daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Schools can reopen for in-person instruction after they have remained in the red tier for 14 days	4 - 7 daily new cases (per 100k)	5 - 8% positive tests
MODERATE Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	1 - 3.9 daily new cases (per 100k)	2 - 4.9% positive tests
MINIMAL Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance	Less than 1 daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% positive tests

Source: California Department of Public Health (Covid19.CA.GOV)

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"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"

The following are two benchmarks impacting our boundaries as of Friday, September 18, 2020:

1. Positivity percentage must be below 8%
 - San Bernardino County is currently at 6.8% positivity rate – **BENCHMARK MET**
2. New Case rate must be below 7 per 100,000
 - San Bernardino County is at 7.4 cases per 100,000 – **BENCHMARK NOT MET**

Based on the benchmarks, OMSD currently falls under the **Purple-Widespread tier**. In order to exit the purple tier, San Bernardino County must meet both benchmarks in the areas of new cases and positive tests for two consecutive weeks. Should trends and data allow us to move to a less restrictive **Red-Substantial Risk tier**, we would remain there for another two weeks before we could begin to consider in-person instruction.

The decision to move back into in-person instruction will not be made in isolation. OMSD will work collaboratively with all associations to create a timeline for returning students to school. With the safety of our students, staff and community in mind; guidance on this decision will be given from San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the San Bernardino Public Health Department, and with review of the guidelines from the California Department of Education, as well as California Gavin Newsom's office.

Before students return to an in-person model, required safety protocols and resources, along with a manageable instructional system will be in place. **Although we do not have a definitive date for students to return to in-person instruction, be assured that all stakeholders will be given ample notification before a change to in-person instruction takes place.**

Until the time comes when we can again welcome our students, families and all staff back to our wonderful campuses, I urge us all to "stay the course" with online learning and embrace how much we have accomplished and continue this new way of learning and teaching.

I remain in awe of the resiliency, creativity, teamwork, and care shown by students, families, and all OMSD personnel. I am grateful to our OMSD Board of Trustees and community for the tremendous support during these challenging times.

Sincerely,
James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent