

July 30, 2020

Dear Summerfield Community,

Yesterday Sonoma County came off the state watchlist. While we could go back on anytime, if the county stays off for 14 days, we can have on-campus learning to begin the year. Waiver procedures have not been published yet. We continue to pursue the goal of safely bringing the highest quality educational experience and to adjust and refine to meet that goal.

Thank you to all who responded to the survey from our last update. A number of comments were made and questions asked. Many questions can be answered by a close reading of our last letter, which, we are aware, had a lot of information. Below are responses to some of your questions:

1. **Outdoors:** We are pursuing outdoor learning because it is much safer than indoors. If off the watchlist we have the option to use indoor spaces when masked and six feet apart. We plan to be outside as much as possible all year. In fall and spring, we will be outside all of the time, with a few possible exceptions, like a lab class in high school. When the weather turns or as conditions change, we will reassess. Outdoors means tents with no sides. We can add sides in winter to have more indoor space. This helps with density and cohort protocols (defined below).
2. **Masks:** We will do what is safe and permitted by the county and state, and we will adjust as the conditions require or allow. As things stand today, we will have students in grades 1-12 in masks while they are in movement. When students are seated at desks that are six feet apart and outside, we will allow them to take masks off if that is deemed safe by the County Health Office. If it is not cleared for safety, we will be in masks all day. ECE has different protocols which they have shared with families.
3. **Blocking and 10 Days Distance:** We are blocking all of our classes to have as few teachers crossing over class-cohorts as possible. We are creating 10 days not together on campus between each block. This allows teachers to change cohorts more safely.
4. **Drop Off and Pick-up:** We will have staggered start and end times, and parents will drop off and pick up from their cars. We will keep the number of people on the campus as low as possible for the safety of all. Early Childhood children will be dropped off by parents at different gates designated by class.
5. **Bathrooms and Handwashing:** We are renting additional porta potties and sinks to have less traffic in all bathrooms. As much as we can, we will dedicate all our facilities to the smallest group size possible. Sanitation protocols will be followed. Bathrooms will be cleaned professionally every day after school.
6. **Cohort Size and Room Use:** A cohort is defined as the number of people who can have class together while being six feet apart. We will use the class as the cohort unit and provide the spaces

needed. Population density of an indoor room is defined in the same way: the number of people who can be in it and six feet apart. (Decreasing density in our rooms is a reason we might use tents with sides in winter.)

We will be publishing the calendar for the year very soon, and we will continue to keep you posted as things change, decisions get made or any issues become more clear. Please contact your teacher, Core Group or the GC, if you have more questions in the meantime.

Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross and Rachel McGarva  
The Governance Council