



From the desk of

Mrs. Laura Bernauer



July 17, 2020

Dear St. Albans Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the evolving landscape for school reopening in California. Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced new guidance for schools, which we wanted to share with you.

In the announcement, he stated:

- California schools may open to in-class learning if located in a county that has not been on the California Covid-19 watchlist for the past 14 days.
- All school staff and students in 3rd grade and above must wear masks. Students in 2nd grade and below are encouraged to wear them.
- Physical distancing is mandatory, as well as daily symptom checks, deep sanitation and quarantine protocols.
- If 5 percent of students in a class test positive, the entire class will quarantine and enter distance learning for 2 weeks.
- If 5 percent of a school, including staff and students, tests positive, the entire school will quarantine and enter distance learning for two weeks.

Based on the current protocols that we've been developing and planning to implement since May, we are prepared to meet each of these recommendations and are well prepared to start the 2020-21 academic year at St. Albans Country Day School.

Currently, we will be monitoring the California Covid-19 watchlist and keeping you informed of changes and their impact. We have a robust and rigorous distance learning plan in place if needed, however, we continue to feel confident that the best path forward for the well being of our students, families and teachers at St. Albans Country Day School is to reopen with in-class instruction this fall.

We have established extensive preparations to create a safe environment for our school community, which includes class cohorts, distanced seating, staggered lunch schedules and recesses, an in-house contact tracing program, mandatory masking for grades 1-8, and extensive cleaning and screening protocols. You will receive more detailed information about each of these areas next week following our Executive Board meeting.

Though school districts across the state and country must create a one-size-fits-all protocol to meet the needs of all schools within their district, we have the advantage of being a small school of only 230 students with more facility space than many others. The precautions we have in place give us the capability to safely re-open campus by reducing contact and interactions through cohorts.

At this time, we will be watching the Covid-19 watchlist and we will keep you informed just as soon as new information becomes available.

Meanwhile, please know that we are working incredibly hard to create the safest, most supportive and engaging learning environment for your children to return to school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laura Bernauer
Head of School