



# Monterey County Office of Education

*Leadership, Support, and Service to Prepare All Students for Success*

*Dr. Deneen Guss  
County Superintendent of Schools*

July 17, 2020

Monterey County Community,

Today, Governor Newsom announced the California Department of Public Health has released updated Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs and he also set the metrics that all schools (public and private) and county public health officials must use to determine whether to reopen schools to in-person instruction. This guidance addresses the wearing of face coverings, social distancing, increased hygiene practices and cleaning, as well as rules for operating transportation and sports programming. You can find the Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs at the COVID-19 website at [covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov), clicking on the "Industry Guidance" section, and scrolling down to the Schools tab.

The specific metrics schools **must** meet to open to in-person instruction as well as metrics to remain open include:

- **Schools and school districts can reopen only when their county has been off of the monitoring list for 14 days**
- Criteria for Closing a Classroom and/or School: "When at least five percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day-period; OR when the Local Health Officer determines classroom/school closure is warranted for other reasons, including local factors and public health investigation."
- Criteria for Closing a District: "A superintendent should close a school district if 25 percent or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, in consultation with the local public health department."

As you may be aware, Monterey County was placed on the California County Monitoring List on July 2, and remains there as of today, July 17. California Department of Public Health Officials placed Monterey County on the COVID-19 County Data Monitoring Project watch list in response to elevated disease transmission as indicated by Monterey County exceeding the state's 14-day case rate threshold of 100 cases per 100,000 residents and by exceeding the state's threshold for percent change in three-day average COVID-19 hospitalizations.

**Therefore, at this time, because Monterey County is on the California County Monitoring List, all Monterey County schools must resume the 2020-2021 school year in Distance Learning as they are unable to open to in-person instruction.** For more information on your district or charter school's start date and plans for Distance Learning, please contact your district or charter school.

For parents/families who work as essential workers and others who are in need of childcare, please visit [www.montereycountychildcare.org](http://www.montereycountychildcare.org).

We recognize the significant impact school closures have on our entire community, students, families, and staff. The Monterey County Office of Education, our 24 school districts and eight charter schools will continue to work diligently and collaboratively towards a safe reopening of schools to in-person instruction in Monterey County when health conditions allow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deneen Guss  
Monterey County Superintendent of Schools