



February 16, 2021

Urban Families,

This email offers a recap of the major points I made at our UrbanConnect Zoom session last week rather than any new information. Here are the basic refreshers and updates I provided, for those who were unable to attend:

As you know from previous emails, Urban was approved to open by SFDPH on November 4th, but a week later, the City/County of San Francisco abruptly imposed an "indefinite pause," since superseded by the state's color tier system. This was, and is, confusing to many, as those schools with even a few students on campus during that single week in November have been allowed to continue in a hybrid format. Currently Urban, along with Drew, Bay, University, JCHS and more than a dozen others, are in the same boat – paused by the county on November 10th, and restricted from reopening in hybrid by virtue of our place in the state's "purple tier." I, along with the Heads at these schools, am in nearly daily contact with SFDPH as it considers this issue.

I also reported several hopeful signs for the Bay Area in general and Urban in particular, including the falling case rate (a key metric in assigning tier determination) and the recent data, now corroborated by the CDC, that school-based transmission has been much lower than feared. As a result, SFDPH has committed to shortening the mandatory wait period from 14 to 5 days as soon as San Francisco County is moved to the "red tier." Tier assignments can be tracked by county [here](#); I admit to checking the site compulsively on the hour, even though I know it is usually updated on Tuesdays around mid-day. (As of noon today, we are still in the "purple" tier.)

Because we can't control or predict the timing of when reopening will be permitted, we are preparing multiple scenarios for phasing in students on campus as soon as we are given the green light. In the meantime, we will continue to offer athletic activities and approved team sports, as well as a variety of other opportunities for students to get outside and be with one another.

I know that for many of you these past few weeks have been particularly challenging, and that resilience and optimism are harder and harder to muster, both for students and the people who love them. And while I sorely wish I could offer the comfort of certainty, I do believe – I have to believe – that the vaccine rollout, the decline in new transmissions, and even more hours of sunlight, offer promise for better days ahead for Urban, and for the world beyond our doors.

With appreciation,  
Dan

**Dan Miller**  
Head of School