

December 4, 2020

Dear AUSD Families,

Many of you are already aware that in a press conference yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a new shelter in place order tied to regional intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity. Specifically, going forward, regions where the ICU bed capacity has dropped below 15% will need to obey stricter shelter in place orders.

Although Alameda County's ICU capacity is about 30%, the Alameda County Public Health Department, in partnership with five other Bay Area health agencies, issued an emergency, temporary new shelter-in-place order earlier today to take effect this coming Monday, December 7.

That order mandates the temporary closure of businesses including: indoor and outdoor dining (take-out, pick-up, and delivery would still be permitted); indoor and outdoor playgrounds; indoor recreational facilities; hair salons and barbershops; museums, zoos, and aquariums; movie theaters; and wineries, bars, breweries, and distilleries.

The full press release is [here](#).

On December 9, we will discuss with our Board of Education how the current conditions and these latest developments impact our ongoing planning and thinking relative to reopening schools. For now, reopening schools will not be possible until conditions improve and until our county moves back in to a less restrictive and lower risk tier. Nonetheless, we will continue to refine and strengthen all components of our reopening plans so that we are prepared to reopen safely and responsibly when conditions change for the better and when public health orders make reopening a possibility once again.

In the interim, we will continue to work to optimize distance learning despite its inherent challenges and constraints. We deeply appreciate all of you who have gone, and continue to go, above and beyond to support your children and our community in the face of 10 months of unrelenting shifts, changes, limitations, and stress. We will get through this, and I continue to believe that when we can once again return to in-person instruction, the resilience and insights we have developed will help us improve as a district and as a community.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent of Schools