



Re: Governor's Regional Stay Home Order

December 3, 2020

Dear Grimmway Academy Families,

As you may have heard, today Governor Newsom issued a Regional Stay Home Order (click [HERE](#) for details). The Regional Stay Home Order will go into effect within 48 hours **in regions with less than 15% ICU availability**. The order prohibits private gatherings of any size, closes sector operations except for critical infrastructure and retail, and requires 100% masking and physical distancing in all others.

The order will remain in effect for at least 3 weeks and, after that period, will be lifted when a region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. This will be assessed on a weekly basis after the initial 3-week period.

Currently, The San Joaquin Valley Region (which includes Kern County) has an ICU capacity of 19.7%. ICU capacity below 15% in a region activates the Regional Stay at Home order.

What does this mean for Grimmway Schools?

Even if our region moves below the 15% threshold, both campuses can remain open since we reopened when Kern County was in the "Red" Tier. As we have been doing since last March, we are closely tracking the data in Kern County – particularly the communities of Arvin and Shafter and will make scheduling adjustments, as necessary.

Given our data and the importance of having our scholars on campus for in person learning as much as is safely possible, **Cohort A will resume in person learning on Monday (12/7) at both GA campuses (GA Arvin, GA Shafter). Cohort B will resume in person learning on Tuesday (12/8). Cohort D will maintain its normal daily schedule.**

What does the National Data tell us about COVID and schools reopening?

What the national data is telling us about schools reopening is that - if strict safety guidelines are in place, especially wearing face coverings, maintaining a safe social distance, daily health screening, and adhering to all other health department protocols – that schools

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appear at this point to have a lower rate of COVID infections than the surrounding communities in which they are located.

Here is what the early data is showing us about the relative transmission of COVID in schools that have reopened nationally:

- ***At this point, there does not appear to be a consistent pattern between school status and infection levels.***
(<https://education.org/facts-and-insights> COVID 19 and schools: Six Months of closure and reopening p. 5)
- ***The data does not indicate that schools are a main driver of community transmission.***
Children are more likely to get the virus outside of school settings.
(<https://www.unicef.org/media/86881/file/Averting-a-lost-covid-generation-world-childrens-day-data-and-advocacy-brief-2020.pdf> p. 5)
- ***The best defense against COVID spread appears to be mask wearing.***
Please note several studies here, including a few in which people living in close quarters with infected people were protected by masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>. For this reason, it is important to continue to be vigilant and maintain discipline with all of our safety protocols, especially proper mask usage.

Please continue to model these health protocols as much as possible with your children at home.

What is our school and local community data relating to COVID 19?

Total positive COVID cases since March 2020 (employees + students compared to total headcount as of 12/3):

GA Arvin:	1.7%	City of Arvin:	6.78%
GA Shafter:	1.1%	City of Shafter:	8.20%
Grimmway Schools:	1.5%	Kern County:	4.82%

*Based on contact tracing, we are aware of zero cases of COVID being transmitted while at school (as of 12/3).

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I want to strike a note of caution, however. The data is subject to change based upon local community or school site outbreaks. Our threshold for shutting down our campuses due to a COVID outbreak is a 5% 14-day positive testing percentage for all employees and students combined on one school site. Our most current 14-day percentage stands at 0.36% overall (GA Arvin = 0.11%, GA Shafter = 0.26%). We will continue closely monitoring the data and will make decisions accordingly.

As always, we appreciate your support and trust in us.

With gratitude and optimism,

Casey Yeazel
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Guiding Documents

- (a) CDE Guidelines (Click [HERE](#));
- (b) CDPH Guidelines (Click [HERE](#));
- (c) CDPH FAQ (Click [HERE](#));
- (d) CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year (Click [HERE](#));
- (e) Assembly Bill 77(AB-77) & Senate Bill 98 (SB98) (Click [HERE](#));
- (f) CDPH Guidance for Cohorts (Click [HERE](#));
- (g) Grimmway Schools Health and Safety Policy (Click [HERE](#))

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