

# Reopening Update for the 2020-21 year

With current COVID-19 restrictions, MVWSD remains in distance learning. However, we continue to plan for a return to in-person instruction. Below are some answers to questions regarding the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Updates at: [mvwsd.org/returntolearn](https://mvwsd.org/returntolearn)

## What are the current state/county guidelines for reopening?

As of January 13, under the Purple Tier (our current tier), schools serving students in grades K-6 may reopen for in-person instruction in counties with adjusted CR under 25 cases per 100,000 population per day. Waivers were eliminated as a part of new guidance. **MVWSD is planning to return students (in phases starting with the youngest students) to in-person learning 14 days after Santa Clara County enters the Red Tier.** We do not currently have a date for this as it depends on county COVID caseload.

## What does Gov. Newsom's reopening plan mean for us?

It is not clear that the Governor's plan to offer \$2 billion in one-time funds or \$450 per student to help offset reopening costs will come to fruition.

## Where are we with vaccinations for staff members? For students?

School employees would be vaccinated in Phase 1B, after health care workers and first responders. The County recently announced that educators can be eligible for vaccinations after Feb. 28 as supplies allow. Vaccinations for school staff are crucial for reopening schools. COVID vaccinations for children are not yet planned. No decisions or guidance from the county/state is available on whether students or staff will be required to have a COVID-19 vaccination before returning to school.

## What work has MVWSD done on reopening since the fall?

Each school has done extensive work on the specifics of safety protocols and what in-person learning will look like on each campus.

The district has refined its learning options from what was discussed this fall. Families will be able to choose between "Connected/ 100% Distance Learning" and "Blended/Hybrid Distance and In-Person." Updates include:

- Both Distance and Blended Learning Options will guarantee 4 days live instruction (face to face, or distance).
- Both in-person and online students will be taught simultaneously by classroom teachers using computer, Zoom and iPad.

Please see [here](#) for more details on the revised learning options.

## What hurdles exist for reopening?

- The timing of our reopening date, which is contingent on county COVID-19 cases, is critical because waiting too long into the spring has diminishing returns since we expect a disruption to learning while students reacclimate to in-person school.
- Our ability to reopen schools and stay open is dependent on substitutes being available to cover for ill teachers and staff members (such as instructional assistants, food service workers, etc.). Currently, substitutes are in short supply as is the case with school districts across the U.S.
- Our ability to stay open will be dependent on all staff and students strictly adhering to safety protocols, such as wearing masks at all times.