

# **COVID-19 & THE IMPACTS ON SAFELY RETURNING TO ALEXANDER VALLEY SCHOOL**

*An Updated Informational Guide on the variables and  
factors centered around the Safe and Sustainable return  
to In-Person Learning @AVS*

*10/12/20*

*Board Presentation*

# State Guidance Changing Timeline

- Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of Cal. Public Schools: June 8th
  - School Reopening Framework”Watchlist”: July 17th
    - Blueprint for a Safer Economy: August 28th
    - Guidance Related to Cohorts: September 4th
- School Districts receive news that they are required to manage and pay for all aspects of contact tracing/testing: September 11th
  - Four Tier School Reopening Options Chart Issued: September 15th
- Revised Purple/Red Tier Structure (2 weeks in Purple, 2 Weeks in Red): September 23
  - What’s Next?

# State Four Tier Monitoring Guidance

- Every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its rate of new case count and positivity rates. Sonoma County is currently in the **Purple Tier**. Data is reviewed by the State every Tuesday: Tier Placement are updated on Wednesdays.

<b>WIDESPREAD</b> Most non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	<b>More than 7</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>More than 8%</b> Positive tests
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	<b>4-7</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5-8%</b> Positive tests
<b>MODERATE</b> Some business operations are open with modifications.	<b>1-3.9</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2-4.9%</b> Positive tests
<b>MINIMAL</b> Most business operations are open with modifications.	<b>Less than 1</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>Less than 2%</b> Positive tests



# August 15th Data: Where we were then.(trending down, but still in Purple)

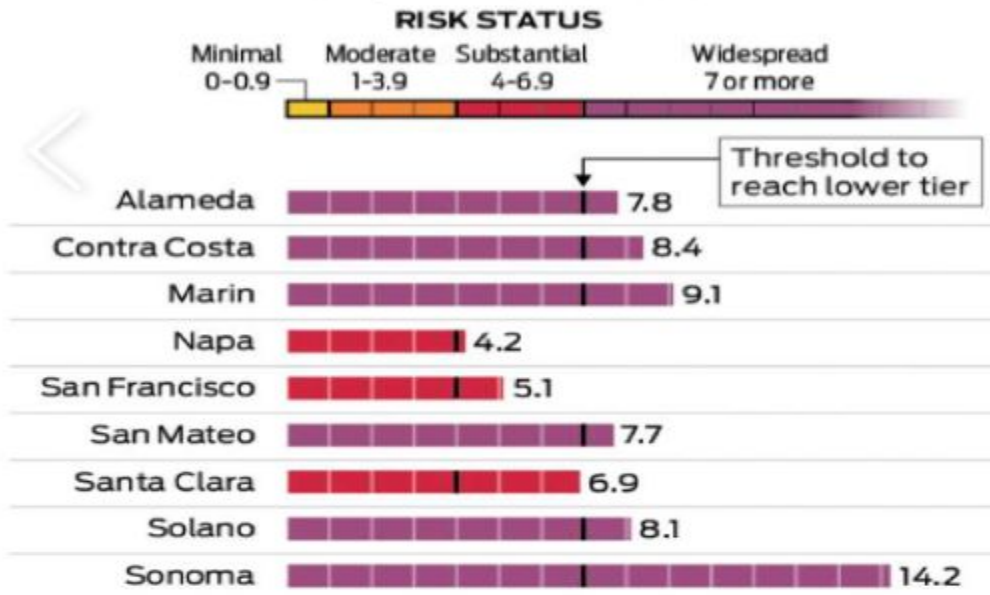
## Bay Area county tier assessments

State's weekly snapshot (figures adjusted based on population and testing volume):

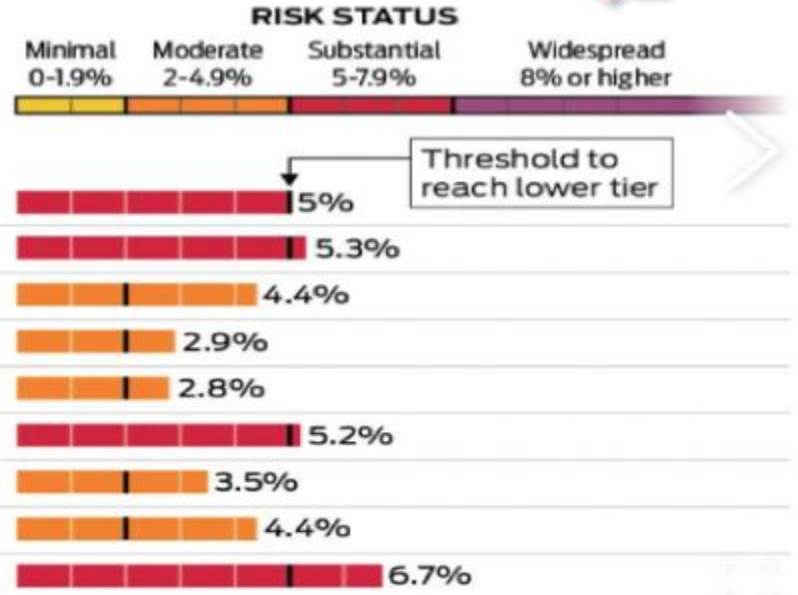
Note: If the indicators are in different tiers, the county will be assigned to the more restrictive tier.



### Coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents



### Positive test rate



Source: California Department of Public Health

Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

# Current Rules of Current Framework Guidance

- California Department of Public Health will weekly assess: **Adjusted Case Rate & Test Positivity Rate**
- Sonoma County remained in the **Purple tier** as of 10/6//20 and is projected to stay in this tier on the 10/13/20

## **\*Adjusted Case Rate (ACR)**

**Formula:** (7+ cases per 100K per day x 5(500K residents in SoCo) = 35 new cases per day x 7 days = new case count or (7 days x 35 cases per day) = 245 total Over 245 stay in **Purple** another week, under 245 for 2 consecutive week

Current Tier Status: From 9/1-10/13 in **Purple** 10/13-10/20 Projected **Purple**

**Scenario:** If case number goes below 245 from 10/20-10/27 we need to stay in **Purple** (week 1) 10/27-11/3 case count still below 245 we need to stay in **Purple** (week 2) 11/3-11/10 still below 245, WE MOVE to **RED** (week 1) If 11/10-11/17 case count is below 210 we stay in **RED** (week 2) On 11/18 County officially moves into **RED**. (allows schools to consider reopening)

## **\*Test Positivity**

**Formula:** (8% + test positivity rate to stay in **Purple tier**) 8% of all tests result in positive status

- Four consecutive weeks below 245 total case counts and less than 8% test positivity rates moves AVS to **RED** tier.
- Must remain in a tier for two weeks before advancing to a less restrictive tier and can only move forward one tier at a time.
- If a county's ACR for tier assignment and Test Positivity measure fall into two different tiers, the county will be assigned to the more restrictive tier.

# RED Tier

## Best case current scenario for Potential Reopening to In-Person Learning:

- Once we remain in **RED** tier for 2 consecutive weeks (based upon weekly assessment indicators) AVS could consider reopening to In-Person Learning. Based on best case scenario date:

11/18 (Wed) County “officially” in **RED**

11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving week

11/30/20 (Potential Reopening date) Pending Contact Tracing/Testing, and survey supportive data

- This scenario is based upon Sonoma County leaving the **Purple Tier**, as soon as that happens...we move to the **Red Tier**. If while in the **Red Tier**, the case count increases, Sonoma County could revert back to the **Purple Tier**, but at this time it is unclear if districts would need to shift back to Distance Learning. Also, once in **Purple Tier** again, it is unclear if we need to start the 4 week cycle over again.

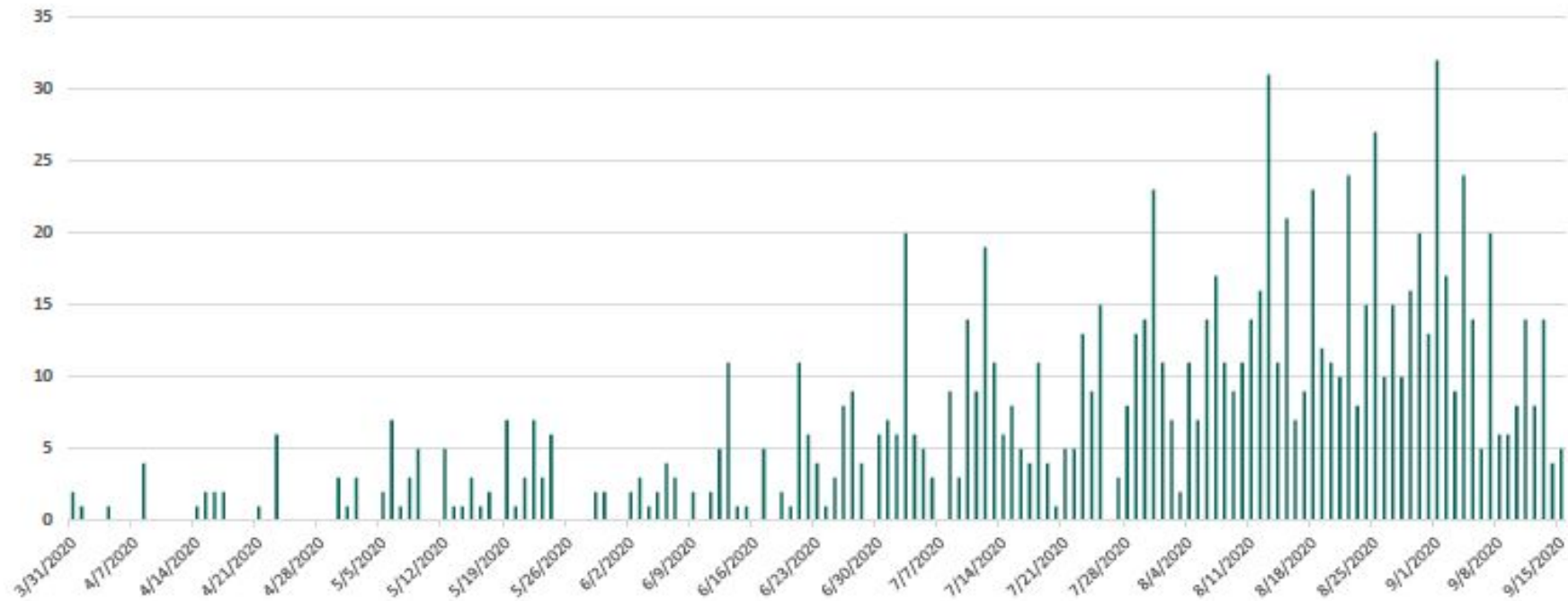
For Preschools that have already opened, what does the data show?



## School and Child Care Outbreaks COVID-19 Cases in Sonoma County

September 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

# Child cases (0-17) by report date





# Cluster 1

- Early care and learning center in North County
- 30 cases (as of September 15<sup>th</sup>)
  - 16 students (index)
  - 3 staff
  - 11 parents/siblings
- Outbreak ongoing; at least 11 contacts pending
- Facility closed for 2-week period on 9/3

# School and Child Care Outbreaks

- An additional 9 facilities (elementary/middle/high schools) have been mentioned in case investigations
  - Central county – 3 facilities
  - North county – 5 facilities
  - South county – 1 facility
- These schools are currently remote but have a total of 16 students, 2 staff, and 15 family members with confirmed cases
- 381 cases age 0-17 that are still under investigation by PH/Epi team

## Considerations of “Why to Reopen AVS to In-Person Learning”

- 1. The overall social/emotional/physical health of students**
- 2. Academic Instructional Program better for students and their learning**
- 3. Staff reconnecting with our students**
- 4. Teachers are able to teach in the environment they were trained to teach in**
- 5. Parent schedules and their ability to fully return to work**
- 6. In-Person Learning is a better environment to learn in (peer connections)**
- 7. Ability to address less screen time**
- 8. A sense of school community**
- 9. More validity in assessments; more efficient ways to track/monitor progress**
- 10. All students have equitable access to learning,**

# Obstacles Facing AVS on a Safe and Sustainable Reopening

- 1. Contact Tracing:** School district responsibility/Covid-19 Rep. (Confidential process) How does this work?
- 2. Staff testing:** Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff over 8 weeks, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time. Factors include: Cost, Availability, and other Logistics of securing tests: County unable to manage this within the current county wide Distance Learning Model. No *Rapid Point Testing* in place yet, current testing could take up to 7 days to obtain results.
- 3. OSHA audits/fines** issued for mishaps in testing/contract tracing/ensuring safe work environment. (SRPD Case on 9/23/20)
- 4. California Dept. of Public Health does not recommend opening** during widespread (Purple) status.
- 5. Asymptomatic Data Point** in students (Sonoma County week of 9/6-9/13)
  - The risk in a group of \_\_\_\_ that at least 1 child will have a SARS-CoV-2 infection is \_\_\_\_: [https://dkchanlab.shinyapps.io/peds\\_asx\\_covid/](https://dkchanlab.shinyapps.io/peds_asx_covid/)
  - 8 students = 7.6%      •16 students = 14.6% (Typical class size at AVS)      •32 students = 27.1 %
  - 117 students (current AVS enrollment) = The risk in a group of 117 students, there is a at least a 68.4 % that **1** child will have a SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- 6. Recent Case Data Point:** Preschools that remained open: As of 9/15 (25 children and 27 of their family members, 10 workers with 62 people total.)
- 7. Fiscal Impact on the District within the Scope of Liability** (as stated in PD on 9/19/20) <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/fix-to-legal-immunity-sought-for-california-schools-after-disputed-bills-f/>  
RESIG: Liability coverage specifically excludes communicable disease. AB 1384: Didn't clear the Assembly, Legislators will be revisiting this in January
- 8. Dr. Herrington and Dr. Mase recommendation:** schools stay in Distance Learning through December 2020.
- 9. Staffing Considerations:** Securing enough certificated and classified staff to return, some staff may not be medically able to return under these conditions?
- 10. In Person Learning /Distance Learning Equitable Staffing Levels** (Having enough staff for which families want which model) Staffing disrupted
- 11. Potential Transitional Disruptions after start-up:** 5% Classroom Closure Rule: {1 student tests positive: Classroom shuts down (14 day quarantine)} 5% of Classrooms of School Closure Rule: {2 or more classes infected, entire school is quarantined for 14 days} (siblings)
- 12. Flu Season:** Having the inability to distinguish the differences between flu cases and Covid-19.

# Next Steps and Considerations

- 1. Determine the Costs and Feasibility of managing all aspects of contact tracing and rotational testing**
- 2. Determine staff testing lead and other testing logistic trainings**
- 3. Survey Staff and Parents on the interest and prospects of returning to In-Person Learning (10 days prior to potential reopening date)**
- 4. Parent and Staff data to Reopening to In-Person learning needs to be in sync. We need staff for In-Person Learning and staff for potentially Distance Learning interested families (pending data). Not feasible for Teachers to do both In-Person and Distance Learning**
- 5. Determine systems for Distance Learning Staff and In-Person Learning Staff to collaborate, regardless of model, all students must be taught by a credentialed teacher.**
- 6. Communicate with Board, Staff, and Families on the status of the Reopening process**
- 7. Create clear communication plans on the 5% closure rule: 1 student with positive case: that individual class section closes for 14 days. Two class sections have a positive of one or more cases: The entire school closes and we enter back into Distance Learning.**
- 8. Students are not required to be tested, but will need daily Wellness Checks found in our Guide to Reopening AVS slidedeck develop Summer of 2020.**
- 9. Monitor neighboring counties positive student case rate as they may return to “In Person” Learning before us**
- 10. Monitor AB 1384 Legislation (Jan. 2021) and follow current cases brought against Cal. school districts for Covid-19 contraction of cases through a school.**

# Recommendation Option: Best Case Date Scenario: 11/30/20

(Note: every week in Purple, extends potential reopening date forward by 1 week.)

**Option Considered at 10/12/20 Board Meeting, but will revisit this option again on November 9th, 2020:** Once we have been in the RED Tier successfully for 2 weeks, During the successful completion of week 1 of 2 of the RED Tier status, activate a survey for staff and parents via “next steps” about their decision on potentially returning to “In-Person” learning when safe to do so. Calibrate staff and parent survey results to determine feasibility of reopening to “in-person” learning, should we have 2 weeks in the Red Tier.

## **Current Option allows:**

- Time to meet with AVUTA/AV20 to discuss the many aspects related to in-person instruction under Re-Opening plan
- Time to review and monitor the feasibility of conducting contact tracing and the testing of staff without the assistance of Sonoma County Public Health. Without Rapid Point of Testing, contact tracing could be a challenge.
- Monitor other districts data on case counts after their possible reopenings (What will the data show us?)

## **Key Dates:**

October 12th: Board Meeting

November 6th: End of Tri.1

November 9th: Board Meeting

December 18th: Winter Break