



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

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Schools That Have Opened Can Remain Open in New Stay-at-Home Order

To: All Media

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Governor Newsom today announced a regional stay-at-home order based on ICU capacity at local hospitals. Positivity rates for COVID-19 in Merced County and across the state and nation hit record highs in the past week. Public health officials, along with local and state leaders, have very real concerns about hospital capacity with this surge.

Unlike the stay-at-home order issued earlier this year, schools that have opened may remain open, along with child care centers and preschools.

“We will continue to operate schools in Merced County as we have since they reopened this fall, by following public health guidelines to keep staff and students safe,” said Merced County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steve Tietjen.

Working with public health experts, schools have developed protocols and procedures to notify staff, students and any close contacts quickly and effectively of a positive COVID-19 case. There are also specific guidelines when to close classrooms, schools and a school district.

“Our schools remain a safe place for our students and we will all continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 while practicing public health guidelines, like wearing a face covering, maintaining physical and social distance and regular handwashing,” Tietjen added. “While I know this new stay-at-home order is not what any of us wanted, especially entering the holiday season, our efforts to limit mixing with people outside of our households and follow public health guidelines is paramount to reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.”

For more information on the state’s new executive order, visit www.covid19.ca.gov.

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