

November 15, 2020

Directors of the Board,

In an effort to ensure full transparency, we are providing this Friday update regarding data and decision making processes as they pertain to the UCSD Instructional Delivery Model. In this update you will find the following:

- Decision-making process
- Current student attendance data
- Current staff attendance data
- Student and staff quarantine data
- Covid 19 positivity rate and case counts in Polk County.
- Transition information for switching from hybrid to Required Continuous Learning
- Communication to families and staff

Decision-Making Process

The UCSD Return to Learn leadership team is meeting daily to review current data regarding student/staff attendance data, Polk County Covid transmission and infection rates, and staffing levels. Maintaining consistency for families, staff, and students is a priority while we also work to keep everyone safe. For that reason, we wish to maintain a hybrid learning instructional model as long as possible. We feel that mitigation efforts within our schools have created a highly controlled environment, where individuals are maintaining distance and wearing masks.

Despite these efforts, we have reason to believe spread may be happening within schools. A recent spike in secondary schools, in particular, shows the need to move these students online immediately while we prepare for the transition at the elementary grade levels one week later. We are concerned that the trend recently seen at the secondary level will follow at the elementary level. Additionally, the ability to staff schools properly is also a concern as the positivity rate among staff members who are testing is also rapidly rising. Critical departments such as nutrition services are close to a tipping point where too many additional absences would eliminate our ability to serve meals to students. Further, continued and prolonged internal coverage makes it difficult to maintain the proper level of service to students (i.e. English Learner support, reading support, etc.) and places a burden on staff members who cover for others.

Current Student Attendance Data

The data below represents the number of students we expect in the building on a given day and the percentage of those students who were in attendance. The data is for the last two weeks. Last year's average daily attendance was 95.15%. We are not yet showing more than a 10% decrease in what would be typical.

		JENSEN		KAREN ACRES		ROLLING GREEN		VALERIUS		WEBSTER		UMS		UHS	
		Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present	Students Expected	Percent Present
11/2/20	Mon	141	84.40%	149	93.96%	112	91.07%	131	92.37%	168	97.62%	392	91.29%	575	89.01%
11/3/20	Tue	141	91.84%	149	96.64%	112	97.77%	131	94.66%	168	98.21%	392	93.36%	575	91.69%
11/4/20	Wed	148	90.88%	147	98.64%	110	96.36%	121	93.80%	167	98.20%	393	92.82%	593	95.75%
11/5/20	Thu	142	89.08%	149	95.30%	112	94.20%	131	94.66%	168	96.13%	394	93.23%	575	92.31%
11/6/20	Fri	148	85.47%	149	93.62%	110	97.73%	121	88.02%	167	94.91%	393	90.87%	593	94.47%
11/9/20	Mon	148	85.81%	149	93.29%	110	95.91%	121	91.32%	167	91.32%	393	89.23%	593	92.07%
11/10/20	Tue	142	87.32%	149	94.63%	113	91.15%	131	93.13%	168	92.56%	394	90.75%	576	89.48%
11/11/20	Wed	148	89.19%	149	95.30%	110	90.91%	121	89.26%	167	90.42%	393	88.77%	593	91.97%
11/12/20	Thu	142	89.44%	149	95.30%	113	93.81%	131	90.84%	168	92.26%	394	93.12%	576	93.85%

Current Staff Attendance Data

WEEK	ALL ABSENCES total employees included: 773					
	AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES PRESENT EACH DAY	TOTAL ABSENCES	PERCENTAGE OF FILLED ABSENCES	FILLED ABSENCES	UNFILLED ABSENCES	NO SUB REQUIRED ABSENCES
08.24.20 - 08.28.20	98.00%	80	60%	14	21	45
08.31.20 - 09.04.20	97.00%	117	35%	18	33	66
09.07.20 - 09.11.20	97.70%	89	35%	19	25	45
09.14.20 - 09.18.20	98.11%	163	53%	49	44	70
09.21.20 - 09.25.20	97.28%	210	56%	69	51	90
09.28.20 - 10.02.20	94.64%	207	54%	67	56	84
10.05.20 - 10.09.20	94.31%	220	52%	55	50	115
10.12.20 - 10.16.20	94.72%	204	59%	64	45	95
10.19.20 - 10.23.20	94.20%	224	57%	76	58	90
10.26.20 - 10.30.20	93.32%	258	55%	65	54	139
11.02.20 - 11.06.20	92.34%	296	46%	71	83	142
11.09.20 - 11.13.20	90.87%	353	36%	76	135	142

WEEK	CERTIFIED TEACHER total employees included: 346					
	AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES PRESENT EACH DAY	TOTAL ABSENCES	PERCENTAGE OF FILLED ABSENCES	FILLED ABSENCES	UNFILLED ABSENCES	NO SUB REQUIRED ABSENCES
08.24.20 - 08.28.20	98.70%	18	92%	11	1	6
08.31.20 - 09.04.20	98.40%	23	96%	15	1	7
09.07.20 - 09.11.20	98.20%	31	75%	18	6	7
09.14.20 - 09.18.20	98.07%	67	80%	47	12	8
09.21.20 - 09.25.20	97.49%	87	83%	65	13	9
09.28.20 - 10.02.20	94.68%	92	87%	66	10	16
10.05.20 - 10.09.20	95.78%	73	74%	40	14	19
10.12.20 - 10.16.20	94.45%	96	82%	61	13	22
10.19.20 - 10.23.20	94.05%	103	81%	74	17	12
10.26.20 - 10.30.20	93.24%	117	76%	63	20	34
11.02.20 - 11.06.20	92.31%	133	67%	69	34	30
11.09.20 - 11.13.20	90.47%	165	57%	74	56	35

WEEK	ASSOCIATE total employees included: 141					
	AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES PRESENT EACH DAY	TOTAL ABSENCES	PERCENTAGE OF FILLED ABSENCES	FILLED ABSENCES	UNFILLED ABSENCES	NO SUB REQUIRED ABSENCES
08.24.20 - 08.28.20	95.40%	26	14%	3	18	5
08.31.20 - 09.04.20	94.60%	38	6%	2	29	7
09.07.20 - 09.11.20	96.70%	23	6%	1	16	6
09.14.20 - 09.18.20	97.23%	39	7%	2	25	12
09.21.20 - 09.25.20	96.38%	52	11%	4	32	16
09.28.20 - 10.02.20	91.35%	61	2%	1	42	18
10.05.20 - 10.09.20	92.77%	51	3%	1	28	22
10.12.20 - 10.16.20	93.48%	46	0%	0	25	21
10.19.20 - 10.23.20	93.48%	46	7%	2	28	16
10.26.20 - 10.30.20	90.07%	56	6%	2	29	25
11.02.20 - 11.06.20	91.21%	62	3%	1	37	24
11.09.20 - 11.13.20	90.08%	70	4%	2	54	14

Student & Staff Quarantine Data

	daily NEW staff positive	current TOTAL staff positive	daily NEW staff quarantine	current TOTAL staff quarantine	daily NEW staff mask monitor	current TOTAL staff mask monitor
8/23/20 - 11/9/20	20		35		13	
11/9/20	1		2		7	
11/10/20	0		3		9	
11/11/20	0	9	0	19	0	
11/12/20	3	11	2	21	4	
11/13/20	0	11	3	23	0	24
11/15/20	4	15	1	22	0	24
TOTAL NEW	28		46		33	
	daily NEW student positive	current TOTAL student positive	daily NEW student quarantine	current TOTAL student quarantine	daily NEW student mask monitor	current TOTAL student mask monitor
8/23/20 - 11/9/20	51		222		34	
11/9/20	7		44		13	
11/10/20	6		23		5	
11/11/20	2	25	19	166	0	
11/12/20	5	32	17	181	5	
11/13/20	3	35	11	190	0	34
11/15/20	0	35	5	195	0	34
TOTAL NEW	74		341		57	

Covid 19 Positivity Rate and Case Counts/100,000 in Polk County

The current 14-day average positivity rate in Polk County is 20.3%. Cases per 100,000 in the last 7 days is 650; in the last 14 days is 1,040 (Cases per 100,000 are current as of Friday, November 13, 2020.)

Transition Information for Switching from Hybrid to Required Continuous Learning

The UCSD Return to Learn Leadership Team is hopeful that we will be able to give families and staff “days” worth of notice (instead of hours) before transitioning to Required Continuous Learning, however, that is obviously not a guarantee given staffing concerns and community spread. We are planning to provide up to 2 days of asynchronous learning for all students to complete at home during their first 2 days of Required Continuous Learning in order to give teachers and staff members 2 days of preparation time to be ready for high quality synchronous and asynchronous Required Continuous Learning. These 2 days of asynchronous learning will look similar to current “at home” days in the hybrid instructional delivery model.

Additionally, building leaders have been working with staff members to be sure tools, resources, and schedules are fully prepared and ready to use in Required Continuous Learning. Leaders have been compiling tutorial videos and important documents for this transition since the beginning of the year, and they are now making sure all staff members have ready access to those.

Staff members are preparing students for the possibility of Required Continuous Learning in various ways. Some have begun teaching routines and ensuring students know how to access the Zoom/Google Meet links they will need, others are helping students organize their schedules and needed links in documents that they will be able to easily access from their Chromebooks, and others are preparing students for using new technology tools that will help them to collaborate and interact with each other during Required Continuous Learning. We are maximizing the time we have while students are still in person to ensure they have the tools and information they need to be successful in the Required Continuous Learning instructional model.

Communication to Families and Staff

Information regarding details of transition plans and requirements in Required Continuous Learning will be sent to families after the emergency school board meeting on November 15, 2020. Additional communication to staff will be sent during the afternoon prior to the school board meeting.

Pending board approval, UCSD plans to apply to the Iowa Department of Education for a waiver to provide Required Continuous Learning (fully online) between the following dates: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 through Thursday, December 3, 2020. Waivers are currently granted for up to 10 school days at a time. The UCSD Return to Learn District Leadership Team will meet on Monday, November 30, 2020 to determine if an additional waiver will be sought.