

Ripon Unified Statement on Temporary Return to Distance Learning

We believe that in-person learning is best for young people and are grateful that this fall we have been able to bring so many students back to campus safely through a phased approach that increased student and teacher contact while protecting our school community.

Late last week, we were notified that a student that would eventually test positive for Covid-19 was on our high school campus throughout a three-day period, resulting in the exposure of seven classes of students. This one positive case impacted at least 213 students and six teachers who had to be sent home to quarantine. There could possibly be more contact outside the classroom exposure.

As a result of the logistical impacts and potential additional exposures, an emergency Ripon Unified School Board meeting was held December 3, and they voted unanimously for Ripon High School to temporarily return to distance learning starting Monday. Our Career Technical Education Classes that were previously attending in person will continue to come to the physical classrooms. We will re-evaluate the situation prior to the beginning of the next semester.

It is our goal to return students to our high school campus as soon as safely possible. In order to keep our classrooms open, we must keep stressing the importance of everyone following the recommendations from the State and County Public Health Departments including the following: Wash your hands, maintain physical distance from people outside of your household, wear a mask, and stay home when you feel sick.

Many procedures and protocols have been put in place to ensure staff and student safety. We continue to work closely with the San Joaquin County Public Health Department for support and assistance as well as utilizing the California Department of Public Health Department (CDPH) Covid-19 Industry: Schools and School-Based Programs document and current Covid-19 data, including the most recent Regional Stay-at-Home Order for guidance.

We love and miss having our students with us on campus and look forward to their return soon. Additional information about student meals and mental health support have been sent to Ripon HS students and families and we have enormous confidence in our teaching staff and their ability to pivot once again to keep our students learning.