



October 8, 2020

Reopening Update

Dear OVS Faculty, Staff and Families:

It's official! Ventura County has moved into a less restrictive COVID-19 tier, which could allow us to reopen for in-person instruction later this month.

Looking ahead, the county must now remain in the red tier in the state's four-color reopening plan for 14 consecutive days, at which time we could reopen on Wednesday, October 21, for grade 7 and Thursday, October 22, for grade 8 and grades 9-12.

As we deal with the changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that all members of the Ojai Valley School community adapt to new practices to ensure a safe environment for learning, living and working. At the core of these practices is protecting the health of our students, parents, faculty and staff. This means abiding by protocols set forth by the school and local, state and federal health authorities. If we all do our small part, we can ensure the larger community stays safe.

As such, before we resume in-person instruction we expect all faculty and staff members, as well as all returning middle and high school students to keep safe by...

- Limiting social interactions and avoiding gatherings outside of the home for the next 14 days to reduce virus exposure
- Monitoring health on a daily basis for symptoms of COVID-19
- Getting a COVID-19 test and presenting a negative result prior to the start of in-person classes. We expect this for high school students and encourage this for students in other grades. High school students will not be in cohorts, unlike their younger peers at the Lower Campus, therefore testing is an important tool for virus detection and keeping the community safe.

Once students return to campus, we expect everyone to keep safe by...

- Maintaining 6 feet of distance from others
- Wearing a face mask while on campus
- Monitoring health on a daily basis and notifying the Health Center if virus symptoms occur
- Not attending classes or participating in co-curricular activities if exhibiting any virus symptoms
- Washing hands regularly, using hand sanitizer and cleaning surfaces
- Minimizing travel, especially to and from areas with widespread virus transmission
- Encouraging others to follow these guidelines

As stated in our [Roadmap to Reopening](#), our success at maintaining a safe virus-free environment hinges on the actions of all parents, students, faculty and staff. We rely on these reciprocal obligations to one another, and we appreciate your support in keeping yourselves and our community safe. Please contact us with any questions or concerns at cfloyd@ovs.org and lclark@ovs.org.

Sincerely,

Craig Floyd,
Head of School
Upper Campus

Laurie Clark,
Head of School
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