

Office of the Superintendent

300 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Phone: (661) 822-2100

Fax: (661) 822-2159

February 24, 2022

Hello TUSD Families,

As the Superintendent for Tehachapi Unified School District (TUSD) I must advocate for the students of TUSD as well as preserve the education of all TUSD students. I remain hopeful that on February 28, 2022, Governor Newsom will implement measures that will immediately provide for parental choice regarding indoor masking in schools. Along with this letter, I have attached a letter that was sent today to Governor Newsom, urging him to immediately provide parents with a choice regarding masking for their own children.

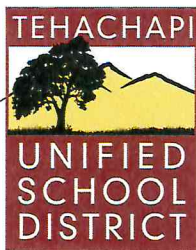
Over the course of the past few weeks District teachers, staff and administration have been stretched thin in attempts to maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff. These efforts are not unsustainable and at this time I am advising you that TUSD will be closed on Friday, February 25, 2022, and Monday, February 28, 2022, for public health and safety reasons related to the continued difficulty with enforcement of the current school mask mandate. The decision to close was made in consultation with Kern County Public Health and following engagement with public safety officials.

Our circumstances will be reassessed on Monday, February 28, 2022, following the anticipated announcement of changes by the California Department of Public Health related to the school mask mandate.

As more information emerges from our state in the coming days, I will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Larson-Everson



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February 24, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom,
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

I strongly urge you to revise the current K-12 student universal indoor mask requirement for schools. Instead, parental choice regarding indoor masking in school should be implemented immediately.

In Tehachapi Unified School District, we have a strong and explicit COVID-19 Prevention Plan. Through our vigilant implementation of this plan, we have been able to remain open and keep our students learning in school and in-person throughout this school year, in spite of the various surges of COVID-19 that have occurred throughout our broader community of Tehachapi. Over the course of the past several weeks, Tehachapi Unified School District has experienced a significant drop in cases of COVID-19 among staff and students. Our attendance for both staff and students has greatly increased and we are experiencing very nearly traditional daily attendance averages for both groups. These changes in COVID-19 cases for our district reflect and validate the improvements we have seen across our great state in the areas of hospitalizations, case rates and deaths due to COVID-19.

As an advocate for the students and parents of Tehachapi Unified School District, I urge you to immediately provide a pathway for parents to make a personal choice regarding facial masks in indoor school settings, based on what parents feel will best meet the needs of their children. I respectfully request that you immediately eliminate mask requirements for students and that you provide parents with choice, regardless of the vaccination status of their children.

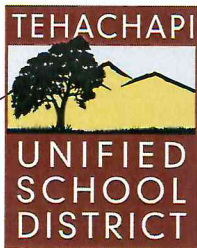
Sincerely,

Stacey Larson-Everson
Superintendent

CC: Shannon Grove
Senator, Sixteenth District
California State Senate

Dr. Mary Barlow
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Bakersfield, California

Vince Fong
Assemblymember Thirty-Fourth District
Legislature



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24 de febrero de 2022

Hola familias de TUSD,

Como Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Tehachapi (TUSD), debo abogar por los estudiantes de TUSD y preservar la educación de todos los estudiantes de TUSD. Mantengo la esperanza de que el 28 de febrero de 2022, el gobernador Newsom implementará medidas que brindarán de inmediato la opción de los padres con respecto al uso de máscaras en interiores en las escuelas. Junto con esta carta, adjunté una carta que se envió hoy al gobernador Newsom, instándolo a que brinde de inmediato a los padres una opción con respecto al uso de máscaras para sus propios hijos.

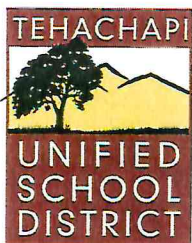
En el transcurso de las últimas semanas, los maestros, el personal y la administración del Distrito se han esforzado por mantener un entorno de aprendizaje seguro para todos los estudiantes y el personal. Estos esfuerzos no son insostenibles y en este momento les informo que TUSD estará cerrado el viernes 25 de febrero de 2022 y el lunes 28 de febrero de 2022 por razones de salud pública y seguridad relacionadas con la dificultad continua con la aplicación de la ley actual. mandato de máscara escolar. La decisión de cerrar se tomó en consulta con Salud Pública del Condado de Kern y luego del compromiso con los funcionarios de seguridad pública.

Nuestras circunstancias serán reevaluadas el lunes 28 de febrero de 2022, luego del anuncio anticipado de cambios por parte del Departamento de Salud Pública de California en relación con el mandato de máscara escolar.

A medida que surja más información de nuestro estado en los próximos días, continuaré manteniéndolos informados.

Atentamente,

Superintendente Larson-Everson



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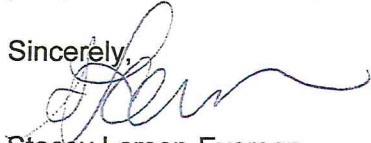
Dear Governor Newsom,

The Tehachapi Unified School District serves approximately 4,900 students in eastern Kern County in grades K-12, and has been a leader in getting students back into the classroom while following all of the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time to revise the current K-12 student universal indoor mask requirement for schools, and I vigorously urge the immediate implementation of parental choice regarding indoor masking in school.

In Tehachapi Unified School District, we have a strong and explicit COVID-19 Prevention Plan. Through our implementation of this plan, we have been able to remain open and keep our students learning in school and in-person throughout this school year, in spite of the various surges of COVID-19 that have occurred throughout our broader community of Tehachapi. Over the course of the past several weeks, Tehachapi Unified School District has experienced a significant drop in cases of COVID-19 among staff and students. Our attendance for both staff and students has greatly increased, and we are experiencing nearly traditional daily attendance averages for both groups. These changes in COVID-19 cases for our district reflect and validate the improvements we have seen across our great state in the areas of hospitalizations, case rates and deaths due to COVID-19. For these reasons, a change in the masking policies for schools is warranted.

As an advocate for the students and parents of Tehachapi Unified School District, I urge you to immediately provide a pathway for parents to make a personal choice regarding facial masks in indoor school settings, based on what parents feel will best meet the needs of their children. I respectfully request that you immediately eliminate mask requirements for students and that you provide parents with choice, regardless of the vaccination status of their children.

Sincerely,


Stacey Larson-Everson
Superintendent

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Senator, Sixteenth District
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Uncompromising Excellence