

Community Letter, January 7, 2021

Dear Echo Horizon parents/guardians,

First and foremost, Happy 2021! I hope you all had restful and joyful breaks.

It is time to give you the first COVID-19 update of 2021, based on today's telebriefing with Dr. Barbara Ferrer. Due to the continued widespread transmission of the virus, Dr. Ferrer is strongly recommending that school do NOT resume in-person learning for the next three weeks. This means that we will move to our fully online programming starting on Monday morning, January 11 and continue online the week of January 18 and January 25. Our projected next possible start date will be Monday, February 1.

The good news remains that elementary schools that have been open through the waiver program remain havens with minimal spread for which Dr. Ferrer commends us, but what is going on outside in the community is too risky for us to reopen our doors just yet. Please join me in thanking our amazing facilities team of Mayra, Jose, and Miguel, and our nurse, Laura, for their tremendous efforts in keeping our school clean and safe.

Last but not least, Dr. Ferrer gave an update on vaccines. The County is presently in Phase 1A that prioritizes health care workers. Educators are prioritized next, at the top of Phase 1B. Dr. Ferrer believes that they will complete health care workers this month, and move to educators in February. That said, there is still no roadmap for how it all happens, so I have yet to share any details with our Echo Horizon faculty/staff. We will keep the community posted on the educator vaccination process as we learn more. Presently, there is not yet a plan to vaccinate children under the age of sixteen.

I know that the constant change and uncertainty is disruptive and I wish I could wave a magic wand and make all of our lives easier, but that is the nature of this unpredictable pandemic. Our priority remains community health and wellbeing and we will continue to follow the guidance of the experts at the LACDPH. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Director, our counseling team, or any one of us should you have any questions.

With gratitude from your faithful CCO's,

Peggy, Sandra, and Laura