

Re Entry Task Force Recommendation to NCS Board of Directors Dec 9 2020

To: Novato Charter School Board of Directors

From: Re Entry Task Force

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Date: December 9, 2020

RE: Temporary suspension of on-site hybrid instruction, temporary return to full remote instruction.

Goal: Faculty/Staff/Student/Community Health and Safety

Objective: To respond to current COVID-19 pandemic with an abundance of caution in respect to protecting community health

Background:

NCS response to COVID-19 Pandemic:

In March 2020, NCS suddenly transitioned, per state orders, to a fully remote instructional model. NCS aligned practices with NUSD and remote instruction continued at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The week of October 26th on-site instruction in a hybrid format began with students from both kindergarten classes on campus in a half cohort model. The 1st and 2nd Grades began the week of November 9th and the 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades began the week of November 30th. During the fall Marin County moved from the Purple Tier of the Blueprint for Reopening California to the Red, then Orange and then back to the Red Tier. The week of November 30th, Governor Newsom introduced the Five Regions of California that will fall into Stay-Home orders when ICU bed capacity falls below 15% for that region. Marin County is included in the Bay Area Region along with Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma. On Friday, December 4th, public health officer Dr. Matt Willis, issued a joint statement along with other local county health officers, that a Stay-Home order would be issued beginning Tuesday, December 8th instead of waiting until local hospitals near maximum capacity levels. On Tuesday, December 8th Marin County returned to the Purple Tier of Blueprint for a Safer Economy <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

NCS Re-Entry Task Force:

In June 2020 the Task Force began meeting, at least weekly, to evaluate campus safety readiness in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force worked throughout the summer and fall to ready campus, meeting the public health guidance to minimize risk of disease transmission. The primary responsibilities have been attending health related meetings, interpreting and implementing safety measures on campus and

communicating with stakeholders. The Task Force authored and implemented the NCS School Site Safety Protection Plan that was approved by the Marin County Public Health Department and the Marin County Office of Education. In response to the 12/8 Stay-Home order and the surge of cases, NCS faculty and staff communicated increased concern for on campus instruction, especially surrounding the holiday season with anticipated increases in gatherings and therefore exposures.

Recommendation:

The Re-Entry Task Force recommends returning to a fully remote instructional platform for grades K through 5th, beginning on Monday December 14th until Tuesday, January 19th. This recommendation means that teachers will reduce exposure by making 12 on-site teaching days into 12 remote teaching days. Students will have 6 on-site days (2 per week) switched to remote instructional days. While NCS has aligned with our authorizer's (NUSD's) general practices, we have deviated by not having the student numbers to offer a Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) thus requiring our teachers to teach remote only and on-site students simultaneously. This decision is not taken lightly and the task force has spent considerable time considering the needs of our students and parent community. This recommendation is made out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our community, faculty, and staff and in response to faculty and staff concerns for their, and their families health, during a period of rising cases and increased social interactions during the holidays. Amid the current surge in Covid-19 cases in our state and county, we recognize that limiting interactions is the best way to avoid community spread of the virus. The Re-Entry Task Force will continue to meet regularly to monitor the situation with the priority of safe on-site instruction. Our recommendation is as follows:

- Monday, December 14 NCS Grades K-5th will return to full remote instruction platform
- Tuesday, January 19th NCS Grades K through 5th returns to On-Site Hybrid regardless of State color Tier
- Tuesday, January 19th NCS Grades 6th through 8th begin on-site hybrid instruction as long as Marin is not in purple Tier

The task force is committed to maintaining this recommended return to in-person instruction timeline unless there are changes to County guidelines and/or NUSD's continuation of in-person instruction.