

Thank you for all of your incredible work on implementing prevention measures in your schools and for your input regarding the upcoming holiday season. As you know, much of the country and the State of California are experiencing an extremely concerning escalation in COVID-19 activity. Within California we are already seeing an increase in hospitalizations as well. Locally, our 7 day case count has more than doubled in a short period of time and our positivity is increasing.

Considering the conditions across the country, state and increasingly in our own county, there are significant concerns regarding increasing transmission after the Thanksgiving holiday. Humboldt County Public Health remains supportive of schools continuing in-person education in the Red Tier. However, travel and gatherings are currently an enormous driver of local cases.

At this time, Humboldt County Public Health is strongly recommending that schools move to distance learning for the 14 day period following the Thanksgiving holiday. Although schools have done a remarkable job of implementing preventive measures to promote safety in on-site education, we anticipate a marked increase in local infections due to travel and gatherings occurring around Thanksgiving. This would threaten rapid identification and containment of cases, leading to increased transmission in the school setting.

Please find attached our updated travel guidance which is being released today. Thanks again for your input and your consideration of this recommendation.

Best Regards, Terry

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