

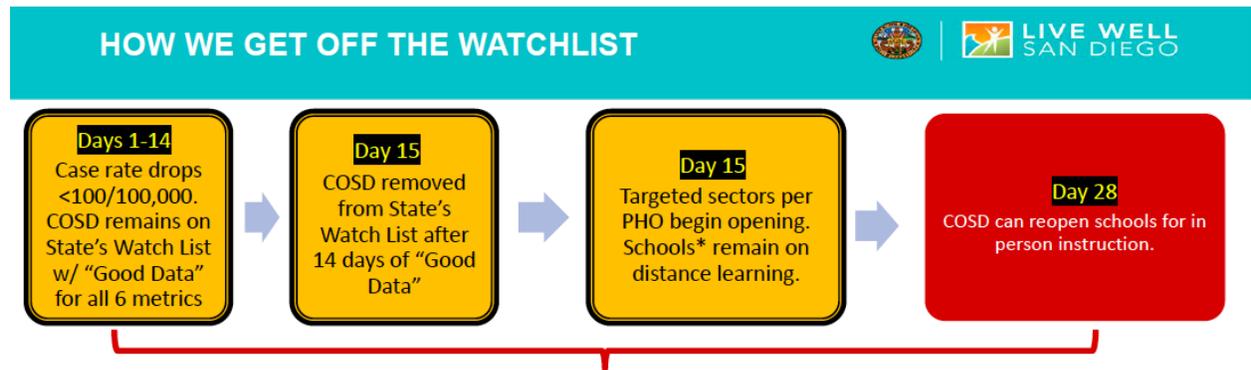


Dear Pacific Ridge Community,

Thank you to all of you who attended the first in our “Return to School Series” sessions on Monday. With more than 300 families present, I know everyone is hungry for information about the school year. If you were unable to attend, a recording of the session is available [HERE](#).

In the session, I stated that we would announce on August 10 whether Pacific Ridge School will start the year remotely or on campus. However, the very next day, the California Department of Health came out with new information that means there is no longer any reason for us to wait until Monday to make that announcement.

The image below was shared on Tuesday afternoon by the County of San Diego. It shows the steps that it will take for counties like San Diego, who are currently on the state’s COVID watchlist, to reopen secondary school campuses. First, the case rate in San Diego County must drop below 100 cases per 100,000 residents. Once below the 100/100,000 case rate, the County will be evaluated for 14 days. After 14 days of “good data” on six other metrics, the County will be taken off the watchlist. Then, the County must stay off the watchlist for another 14 days. After those 14 days (or 28 total days from the time the County first sees its case rate drop below the threshold), school campuses can reopen for in-person instruction. See the image below for more detail.



- While it only takes 3 days to get ON the Watch List, it takes 14 to get OFF of it
- San Diego County would need to have **240** cases or less per day for 14 days (less than 3,370 over 14 days) to be removed from Watch List for the case rate metric alone
- If/when we get off the Watch List, we can get back on if we pass any of the thresholds again so we must remain vigilant
- After 14 more days of “good data/metrics” County can reopen schools for in-person instruction. (*See [Reopening in Person Learning](#): If the local health jurisdiction (LHJ) has been on the monitoring list within the last 14 days, the school must conduct distance learning only, until their LHJ has been off the monitoring list for at least 14 days)

This does not apply to any elementary schools who have received waivers for in-person instruction

Having this information and knowing that September 1 is less than 28 days away, we have to acknowledge that Pacific Ridge School will start the year with remote instruction.

That said, we will be ready to welcome students to campus whenever we are allowed, and we will be ready to open remotely in the best possible fashion. Our Upper and Middle School leadership teams have been preparing programming and content for a remote opening, and our teachers will be spending our faculty orientation (starting on August 17) preparing lessons and building upon the online skills they practiced in the spring. We have co-curriculars ready to go for the opening of the school year, and we will do all that we can to create a great remote experience.

To continue our preparation for the year, I invite you to join us for our second “Return to School” event on **Monday evening, August 10, at 5:30 PM**. This session will be led by our academic teams and will cover many details about the start of the year. A zoom invitation will be sent soon. Please also look for an email update on our remote start from academic leadership on Monday prior to that event.

While starting the year remotely is not ideal, we are prepared to do it well. Thanks for your ongoing support and engagement; as the name of our school reopening plan suggests, together we can make this year a positive experience for our students and community. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Take care,



Bob Ogle
Head of School

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