



# Inspiring Hope and Empowering All Students to Courageously Pursue their Goals and Dreams!

November 20, 2020

Dear Union Elementary School District Families,

## Elementary Schools

Dos Rios  
Hurley Ranch  
Union

The Union Elementary School District Board thanks you for your continued support as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. Your cooperation in following the safety procedures and protocols has helped keep our students and our staff safe and healthy and has allowed us to safely offer in-person and on-line options. We have had zero cases of in-person COVID-19 school spread since returning to in-person learning on October 19, 2020.

**We urgently need your help.** Recently the numbers of COVID-19 cases have increased rapidly across our state and nation. Our community rate has increased at an even faster rate. This is happening at a time when many individuals and families travel and celebrate with loved ones. While all of us certainly understand the desire to meet up with family members who we have not been able to see since Spring, at this time, those gatherings present a high level of danger. With that in mind, we wanted to take this opportunity to urge you to not travel over the Thanksgiving Break weekend unless it is absolutely necessary. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has made it clear that travel increases the chance of you and your family catching coronavirus. Should you decide to travel, we implore you to follow all CDC travel protocols, which you can find here: <https://bit.ly/3pGgAWO>.

Should you decide to travel, many areas of the United States are now designated as Level 3 COVID-19 areas. This includes large areas of the Midwest and East Coast as well as a number of western states. Should you travel to any of those areas we are asking that you follow all CDC protocols upon your return, including getting tested and monitoring for symptoms no less than 14 days after return. You can find information on those protocols here: <https://bit.ly/2UFJUDg>.

Immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be using heightened screening protocols for all Union ESD staff members and in-person students returning from travel. We are asking families and staff to notify their school about any travel plans before heading out on break.

For those of you celebrating at home, we urge you to avoid large gatherings of people over the holiday. Per public health's recommendation, please celebrate only with your household. If you gather outside of your home, limit the size, gather outdoors, wear a mask appropriately, properly social distance, and wash your hands frequently. We also ask that you follow CDC protocols and guidelines by avoiding large gatherings of people, and to follow these protocols even for small family gatherings. You can find that information on how to safely celebrate Thanksgiving here: <https://bit.ly/2INlrEz>.

From the beginning of the pandemic Union ESD's top priority has been the safety of our students and staff, and it remains so today. We have also committed to providing safe learning environments for students who need them.

## Governing Board

*Delson Sunn*  
President

We will continue to vigorously, consistently, and effectively implement our safety procedures in our schools and to restrict non-essential district travel. **But we cannot stop the spread alone. We need help from each of you if we are to continue to offer in-person instruction options for our students, and to assure their health and the health of teachers and staff.**

*Nubia Briceno*  
Board Member

We know coping with the pandemic is not always easy, but we must work together and follow recommended health protocols if we hope to defeat COVID-19. We thank you for your continued help, and for your continued support of the Union Elementary School District.

*Susan Doucet*  
Board Member

Best regards,

Delson Sunn  
Governing Board President

Nubia Briceno  
Governing Board Member

Susan Doucet  
Governing Board Member