



November 16, 2020

Dear Webb Families,

As we approach the winter holidays, we are writing with an update on public health trends in Los Angeles County and how they will impact our timeline for welcoming students back to campus.

In mid-September, we were tracking a number of positive signs indicating the pandemic was slowing, reduced transmissions of COVID-19 and reduced hospitalizations. We expressed our intention then to return students to campus in January, just after the New Year. Unfortunately, since that time, we've experienced a reversal—widespread transmission throughout Los Angeles County and Southern California.

Each week we meet with our Medical Advisory Board to review public health information from local agencies and the state of California. The Board has been instrumental in helping us draw insights from the data, as well as assisting us in continually updating our health and safety protocols for our ultimate return to campus. The Medical Advisory Board agrees with the determination of both local and state public health officials that schools should remain closed for regular instruction at this time.

Moving forward, in order for schools to be allowed to offer full in-person programs in Los Angeles County, we must move out of the state of California's most restricted tier (purple) and stay in the next tier down (red) for at least two weeks. When this threshold has been reached, LA County Public Health will allow a phased-opening for schools, or a gradual return to normal operations over a period of time. Given current projections, it is unlikely LA County will be in this position until late January.

We are also in the process of working to confirm that these reopening metrics can apply to our boarding program as well. On September 29, the state of California issued a directive preventing boarding schools from opening their residential programs for the time being. While some boarding schools opened on-campus living in advance of that ruling, the state has made it very clear that we may not legally open our residential areas without additional guidance. We have sent [this communication](#) to the state in order to get additional clarification and to advocate for us to be able to open when local public health authorities and our Medical Advisory Board deem it safe to do so.

Like all of you, we are disappointed we cannot safely return to campus in early January, as we had planned. We will continue to closely monitor the situation with our Medical Advisory Board and now plan for a possible return to campus following February Break.

In the interim, however, following public health guidance, we hope to offer some on-campus activities during time modules three and four. After Thanksgiving Break, we expect to offer a slate of sports conditioning activities and practices. Students currently enrolled in volleyball, football, cross country, water polo, dance company, functional fitness, tennis clinic, soccer clinic or basketball clinic, should [read these instructions](#) about how to indicate interest and ability to participate in these on-campus offerings. All participants will be required to adhere to strict safety protocols, including daily health screenings, social distancing, face-coverings and more. Please note that we continue to monitor community spread and will suspend plans for these activities if we do not feel it is safe to proceed. We also hope to offer other academic and student life opportunities on campus in the New Year.

We know that families will have many questions. We will be hosting a webinar on Thursday 11/19 at 6:00 PM (PT). [Click here to RSVP](#) for the webinar. We will have the following people on hand to help provide answers:

- Taylor Stockdale, Head of Schools
- Dr. Theresa Smith, Associate Head of Schools
- Dr. Rahmi Mowjood, DO '90, Trustee and Member of Webb's Medical Advisory Board
- Mel Bauman, Director of Counseling & Health Education
- Rick Duque, Dean of WSC
- Michael Hoe, Director of Studies
- Sarah Lantz, Dean of VWS
- Steve Wishek, Director of Athletics & Afternoon Activities

We remain positive and determined to return all our students to campus as soon as it is possible. We will be in touch with you again after the start of the New Year with more details about our planned return to campus following February Break. In the interim, please reach out to us with any additional questions and concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Taylor B. Stockdale
Head of Schools

Dr. Theresa Smith
Associate Head of Schools

The **Webb** Schools