

Good morning HUSD Families,

I am happy to welcome our kiddos back to school today. Just as a reminder we will have a modified day and limit outdoor activities.

As I mentioned in yesterday's email, a meeting was convened by the Sonoma County Superintendent, Dr. Steve Herrington, the Deputy Health Officer at Sonoma County Health Services, Dr. Karen Holbrook, and most of the district superintendents in Sonoma County. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the superintendents will use the air quality protocol, based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, developed by Santa Rosa City Schools after the 2017 fires. The agreement reached by all of the superintendents regarding the closing of school due to air quality is as follows:

**Protocol for Closing:** Sonoma County School Air Quality Guidelines

**Air Quality Index Monitor:** PurpleAir ([www.purpleair.com](http://www.purpleair.com))

**Level for School to Close:** 275

**Time of Decision to Close:** 5:00 am on day of closure

**Communication to All:** By 6:00 am on day of closure

**Why PurpleAir?** While there is only one EPA monitor in the Santa Rosa area, there are several PurpleAir monitors, allowing for better information about air quality in various parts of the County. This means that it is possible one school district might close, and another would stay open, depending on the readings closest to their schools.

**Why the level 275?** Although an AQI level of 301 is the threshold for "Hazardous" air quality for adults, since our students are ages 4-18, a lower level was considered appropriate. This came in consultation with Dr. Holbrook as well as guidance from the CDC with an understanding that air quality tends to worsen as the day progresses.

**Why decide at 5:00am?** As you have seen recently, it is impossible to make an accurate prediction of the AQI the night before. These major decisions must be made with the best information available, and that information is not available until the morning.

In summary, you will be notified (email, text/phone calls) of a school closure related to air quality by 6:00 am that school day. You will not receive a notification if school is open. The determination to close will be reached using the Sonoma County School Air Quality Guidelines and an air quality index (AQI) of 275 using PurpleAir (attached documents).

If you choose to keep your student home due to air quality issues, I completely understand. Please let Suzi, our office manager, know and she will code the absence as excused.

As always, thank you for your support and being a part of this wonderful community.

Best,

Rene

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_UMQnFt9JOYU1ZMeIhsYS1VcHIINFh3eUJFLWE5Y1prQjU4/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_UMQnFt9JOYU1ZMeIhsYS1VcHIINFh3eUJFLWE5Y1prQjU4/view?usp=sharing)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_UMQnFt9JOYdG95Q1FWZVVJcWIUMU5wVi1icVlkcGptcEVF/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_UMQnFt9JOYdG95Q1FWZVVJcWIUMU5wVi1icVlkcGptcEVF/view?usp=sharing)

**2 Attachments**

