

- Trisha Dellis, Acting Superintendent

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Happy Friday, I am Trisha Dellis, Acting Superintendent for Carmel Unified and we are doing our weekly messages to you to keep you apprised as to how we are moving forward in these uncertain times in our district, and so this Friday's message is regarding reopening in the fall.

I think that is most likely the biggest question on most people's minds right now, "what does that look like"? And believe me, we've been grappling with it every day as we meet with district and site administrators to have these conversations about what this plan or that plan might bring. Part of our conversations is that we have to take into account all the different guidelines that we are required to follow when we bring students back to school in the fall. So, I need to say that you need to know that we are listening to the Governor, we are listening to State and County Health departments as they give us direction. We also have the CDE who put out last week our Stronger Together document we are all perusing through all 62 pages or something like that, and we also have our weekly Superintendents Meetings that I attend and our County Health department, Dr. Moreno attends those meetings as well. So he is giving us direction as far as all of the different guidelines and structures we have to put in place. Some of those are the social distancing 6-feet, and you can imagine how challenging keeping students apart 6-feet in a classroom or on a school bus might be. We are also looking at having to take temperatures of staff and students every day, and also face masks, which seem to be a really hot topic especially for our younger students. They might be required to wear those on campus, so we are sort of figuring out what all the different layers look like in those conversations.

So a lot to consider and many people involved telling us what we have to do to keep people safe, and we take that very seriously. In addition I would say over the last several weeks our principals have been dialoguing with their teachers, and their classified people on their campuses to get their input. The District has been pushing out to those groups as well we have a strong relationship with our unions, and so our union partners are working with us to keep our staff safe. Our staff and teachers have concerns, as they should, to their well being as well. So, really trying to pull in as many parties as we can to get that input of what it might look like. We have survey's, a staff survey went out last night and we are sending out a parent survey in the next day or two to get your feedback as to what might be important to you as you look at the fall and how that might impact your family and your children as we make these decisions. Ultimately the Board, our School Board will need to make a decision to approve the plans that we bring to them at the July 22nd Board meeting, and so there are a few weeks between now and then for people to engage and dialogue with us and let us know what your big concerns are about your family and your children. With that I am going to wrap it up, you know my email address and please shoot me an email if you would like a direct phone call, I am calling people directly and requesting their input that way as well. We want to hear from staff, we want to hear from the community, parents, students we are here for you and we want to make this a safe productive year coming up.

Thank you.