

# CAUSE ADVISORY

## CUSD's Response to Inclement Weather (During the COVID-19 SURGE & OUTBREAK)

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CUSD Employees and Leadership,

District stakeholders are receiving increasing warnings associated with the upcoming rain event forecast for our area. Employees and families are asking, "**How does the CUSD ensure that weather conditions are not permitted to drive up already surging COVID positive cases at the two CUSD schools currently experiencing outbreaks by county and state metrics?**"

As per SB County:

"The Storm Impact Consideration Map will be used by Emergency Managers to consider evacuation needs if there is an anticipated saturation rainfall event with a period of high intensity/short duration rainfall that reaches approximately 10 inches of rain over 2-3 days. The Interactive Storm Impact Consideration Map can be found at [www.readysbc.org](http://www.readysbc.org).

Currently up to 8 inches is in the forecast so it is below the threshold, but close. All Flood Control basins in the Thomas and the Cave burn areas are fully cleaned out and this first significant forecasted storm event will be falling on very dry watersheds. "

This weather event **is** anticipated to complicate the CUSD's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. But only if CUSD allows it. The Union wants to remind District stakeholders that several reasonable options (*alternatives*) exist; beyond asking students and staff to eat indoors where viral load increases very quickly. Just last week, CAUSE Leadership asked the District to reconsider some of those options. Specifically the Union's suggested this: .

### "Student Meals During Inclement Weather

1. CUSD students will be moved to REMOTE LEARNING on days when inclement weather is forecasted by SB County Emergency Management or like organization. The District will work off forecasts for the period 48 hours prior to the forecasted weather event.
2. During inclement weather, students will not be permitted to eat in their

classroom, as it is impossible to maintain appropriate social distancing and COVID mitigation requirements while dining.

The District rejected the suggestion (above) without meaningful discussion. But it is not too late to reconsider. Surrounding Districts provide an example of prudence and informed concern.

They have already announced a variety of proactive measures that ensure that weather conditions are not being permitted to drive up surging COVID-19 transmissions. For example:

- \* Vieja Valley is going remote for the inclement weather this week.
- \* Mount Carmel will dismiss at noon during inclement weather.
- \* Another local elementary school, Peabody, has made the decision to go 100% remote for rainy days.
- \* Cold Springs Elementary dismisses at noon every day, making lunch a non-issue. In MUS, they have endorsed a rainy day option that takes the previous day's weather forecasts into account, and uses those forecasts to determine the status of in-person learning. Basically, if there is a 50% or more chance of rain predicted the day before a school day, students are sent home with their devices and work, so as to facilitate REMOTE LEARNING during the weather event.

The above data has been previously shared with Elementary Principals and senior District Leadership. Moving forward, and with the weather event forecast to begin in approximately 24 hours, will the CUSD act to better ensure the HEALTH & SAFETY of District students, employees, and their families?

In Transparency,

~ CAUSE Leadership

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**\* C.A.U.S.E. - Yes We Can ! \***