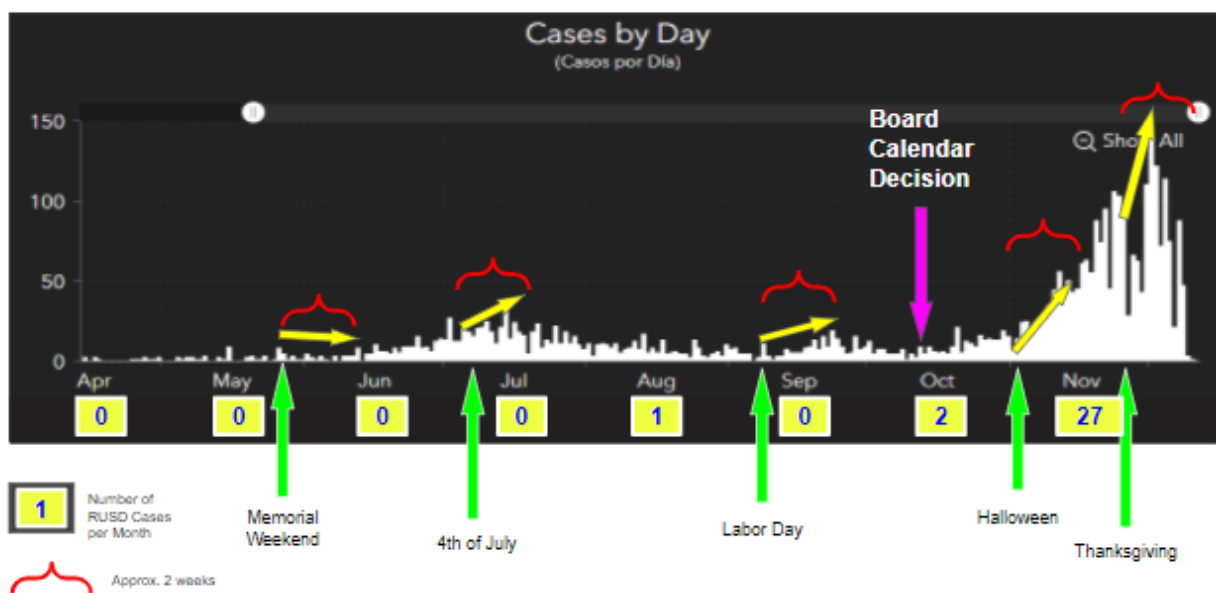


Dear Rescue Staff and Families,

As you may know, the Rescue Union Board of Trustees met Tuesday evening, December 15, 2020 to further discuss our plans for January. Originally, we were slated to begin Phase 2 of our more traditional schedule on January 4. Unfortunately, since the time our Board made that decision in mid-October, the landscape has changed significantly. As you can see on the chart below, when the Board made that decision, there were very few cases in our district or our county. Over the course of Halloween and Thanksgiving break cases have spiked, and every indication shows that the spike will continue and even increase over Christmas and New Year's. For that reason, based upon administration's recommendation and the Board's data analysis, Rescue Union School District's Board of Trustees made the very difficult decision to delay our return to full time to January 25 to allow time for the spike in COVID cases to adequately subside. This was a very difficult decision to make as our administrators, teachers, staff, and Board know beyond a shadow of a doubt that our students need to be in school full time. We also know that if we were to return to a more full time schedule during a significant spike in cases, we run the risk of dramatically increasing the numbers of students and staff needing to quarantine, which would then mean many more lost days of instruction and learning.

### El Dorado County COVID Case Trends by Holiday (Updated 12.11.20)



We will continue encouraging our TK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade children to wear face shields or masks, but they will not be required to wear them until January 25<sup>th</sup>. We also invite you to make sure you see the updated school calendar that is attached to this email. Please note that during the month of January, our hybrid students will have one scheduled Distance Learning day, and that will be Monday, January 11. Phase 2 will begin Monday, January 25 and go through Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Instructional days during Phase 2 will be on the early release schedules, which means elementary students will dismiss at 2:10 and middle school students will dismiss at 1:15. This schedule allows for our evening custodians to work earlier so that they can assist with the ongoing disinfecting throughout the day.

We thank you so very much for your continued flexibility and support during this pandemic. We care deeply about our students, families, and staff. We love our students and cannot wait for the day we can be at school full time every single day without worry of COVID.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy family and all that is precious to you. We also wish for you a happy and healthy 2021.

Most sincerely,

Cheryl Olson