We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

YCOE had been preparing to reopen schools using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Yolo County Health guidelines for putting best practices and safety measures in place. The health and safety of our students and staff at school continues to be our highest priority. However, late last week, Governor Newsom announced that school districts in counties on the state’s monitoring list are not permitted to reopen in person until the county has been off the monitoring list for 14 consecutive days. As you may know, Yolo County was placed on the state’s monitoring list on July 8. Additionally, Yolo County recently passed a devastating milestone--we have now had over 1,000 COVID-19 positive cases among our residents.

With Governor Newsom’s announcement, YCOE will need to open school in August with a Virtual Distance Learning Model. At this time, we do not yet know when the health conditions in our county will permit our programs to resume in-person instruction, nor do we anticipate a quick resolution. YCOE will continue to work in tandem with the Department of Public Health to provide support to our school districts and direction in our own programs based on our local conditions.

We have learned a lot about how to provide Virtual Distance Learning since schools were closed last March. Your family will be receiving a survey regarding your experience with Distance Learning that we will use to inform our planning efforts. For now, please note that when we begin school in August, our Virtual Distance Learning will involve:

- Daily live instruction and interaction with your student’s teacher.
- Every student having access to the Internet and technology to engage in daily instruction with their teacher.
- Support staff providing support services for our students whether virtual or in-person for specialized services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we progress through this pandemic. We need to continue to support one another so we can rise stronger as a community. If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please feel free to contact: Carolynne Beno, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services at carolynne.beno@ycoe.org or (530) 668-3770.