

ALPINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health Officer Order:
Ordering the Temporary Closure of Diamond Valley School
for In-Person Instruction

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December 13, 2022

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, on the foundational principle that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible; and

WHEREAS, despite its adherence to the CDPH guidelines, Alpine County Unified School District (“District”) has, at present, reported to me that at least 54% of the student body is absent today at the Diamond Valley Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, The District has agreed to initiate closure pursuant to an emergency as that term is defined in Education Code section 41422 to ensure compliance with CDPH guidelines and safety on campus for all persons and in order to provide uninterrupted academic instruction through remote learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, effective beginning at the end of the school day, Tuesday, **December 13, 2022**, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 101085 and 120175 and Title 17 California Code of Regulations, Section 2501; Article XI of the California Constitution; California Government Code Sections 8634, and 8665, the Alpine County Health Officer:

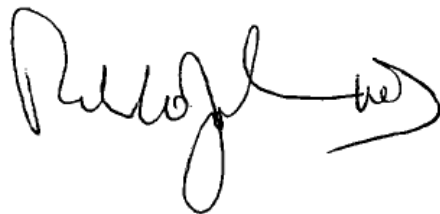
HEREBY ORDERS as follows:

1. The recitals above are incorporated herein as Findings.
2. Alpine County Unified School District’s **Diamond Valley Elementary School** shall close for in-person instruction at the end of the school day today.
3. Diamond Valley Elementary School shall reopen for in-person instruction on Tuesday January 3, 2023.
4. This Closure does not apply to the Early Learning Center or to facilities in Bear Valley.

This Order shall take effect at the end of the school day on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 and shall remain in effect until the beginning of the school day on January 3, 2023.

General Provisions

1. This Order is issued as a result of the “triple-demic” of respiratory illness throughout the USA, from COVID-19, seasonal influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), resulting in shortages of hospital beds, medical supplies, and overload of EMS transport systems.
2. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of these viruses within the County of Alpine, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to respiratory viruses. The current situation at Alpine County Unified School District, with the high percentage of students and staff who have been exposed to these respiratory viruses, make it unsafe for the school to remain open at this time.
3. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to respiratory viruses in the school, thereby slowing spread in the community and the County as well as, on a larger scale, to communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially.
4. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.
5. This Order is made because of the propensity of these viruses to spread person-to-person.
6. Copies of this Order shall promptly be posted on the County of Alpine’s Public Health Department’s website ([COVID-19 | Alpine County, CA - Official Website](https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/COVID-19) ([alpinecountyca.gov](https://www.alpinecountyca.gov))) and provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.



Date: December 13, 2022

Richard O. Johnson, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
Alpine County