

**SISD to delay 2021 school start to January 11**

SEGUIN, Texas (Dec. 16, 2020)— In an effort to quell COVID related cases and quarantines, Seguin ISD students will get an extended winter break, returning to school on Jan. 11.

The extra days come with an urgent request from Seguin ISD Superintendent Dr. Matthew Gutierrez.

“In order to help slow the spread of COVID within our community, I am asking that our students and staff self-quarantine from Jan. 1-10 and closely monitor their health. We have seen an increase in cases and hospitalizations following Thanksgiving and my goal is to help reverse this trend as we begin the new year. The extended holiday break is designed to create a buffer between Christmas and the first day of school,” he said.

Extended family gatherings and COVID fatigue have contributed to a slight increase in Seguin ISD’s confirmed COVID cases and quarantines during the month of December. Delaying the first day to Jan. 11 will allow families to evaluate the health and wellness of members who may be exposed to the virus over the holiday.

“The health of our students and staff is paramount for us to keep our schools open for face-to-face learning. Ultimately, this is our goal. In order to accomplish this for our community, I encourage our families to keep tabs on their health and get tested during the break if necessary. Anyone exhibiting COVID related symptoms should not return to school or work until cleared by a physician,” he said.

District employees will return to work on Jan. 7-8 to prepare for students’ return on Jan. 11.

“Our students and employees have done a tremendous job this fall. By following health protocols at the campus level, our schools have been safe learning environments. We want to continue this trend into the new year. My wish is that our Matador family has a blessed and restful holiday season with safety as a priority,” he said.

Seguin ISD posts COVID statistics online at <https://www.seguin.k12.tx.us/page/covid19.stats>.

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