

2021-2022 COVID-19 SUSD Safety Plan

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Eric Fredrickson, Superintendent

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Sylvan Union School District

605 Sylvan Avenue

Modesto, CA 95350

(209) 574 - 5000

Type of LEA: Public School

Number of schools: Thirteen (13) schools - ten (10) elementary and three (3) middle schools

Enrollment: 7,762 In-person students grades TK-8

187 Long Term Independent Study Students (TK-8)

Date of proposed reopening: Currently open as of Nov 2, 2020, under school waiver process

County: Stanislaus County

Grade Level (check all that apply)

✓ TK ✓ 2nd ✓ 5th ✓ 8th 11th

✓ K ✓ 3rd ✓ 6th 9th 12th

✓ 1st ✓ 4th ✓ 7th 10th

For Local Educational Agencies (LEAs or equivalent) in ALL TIERS:

✓ I, Eric Fredrickson, post to the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent) the COVID Safety Plan, which consists of two elements: the COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP), pursuant to CalOSHA requirements, and this CDPH COVID-19 Guidance Checklist and accompanying documents, which satisfies requirements for the safe reopening of schools per CDPH Guidance on Schools. For those seeking to open while in the Purple Tier, these plans have also been submitted to the local health officer (LHO) and the State School Safety Team. I confirm that reopening plan(s) address the following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department:

✓ **Stable group structures (where applicable):** *How students and staff will be kept in stable groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the stable group. Please provide specific information regarding: How many students and staff will be in each*

planned stable, group structure? (If planning more than one type of group, what is the minimum and maximum number of students and staff in the groups?)

- All students in grades TK- 8th grade will return to in-person learning on August 9, 2021.
- Students in transitional kindergarten through grade 8, will cohort to the extent possible and where issues arise the stable grouping will be used.

✓ Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: *How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.*

- Parents/guardians, community members, and other visitors must report to school entrance. When a member of the public enters a lobby area or other shared space, the member of the public and the employee must wear a face covering.
- Visitors who conduct business at the school site and are on site in a limited capacity, including but not limited to, educational specialists, outside educational/therapeutic agencies, IEP/504 team members, school site council members, college/university supervisors, will complete a visitor/vendor COVID screening questionnaire.
- When scheduling external groups, organizations, individuals, site administrators and/or certificated managers will limit the number of non-essential visitors to campus. When an activity is deemed “essential” by the manager or site administrator, and external groups/organizations are necessary, all individuals must meet one of the following safety measures:
 - The volunteer must be fully vaccinated, or
 - The individual shall show proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event.
 - Proof of vaccination and/or negative COVID test shall be required (by a medical provider or entity)

✓ Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: *How CDPH’s face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced for staff and students.*

- Face coverings will be used in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#) unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines, particularly in indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.
- Exemptions:
 - Students and staff who will not be required to wear a face covering are those with medical exemptions or specific medical or disability based reasons verified in writing by a medical professional.
 - Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, as confirmed by a medical professional, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
 - Persons younger than two years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated, and anyone who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance are exempt from wearing a face covering.

- Students and staff will be frequently reminded to not touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Information will be provided to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.
- Employees will be required to wear a face covering when indoors and when unable to physically distance (6 feet or more). A face covering may include a face mask, or face shield with a drape.
- A face covering or face shield should be removed for meals, snacks, or outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced.
- SUSD will exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school.
 - Alternative educational opportunities (Independent Study) for students who are excluded from campus will be provided.
- Face masks will be provided at all times to staff and students who do not have their own.
- All employees , upon request, will be provided a N95 face covering/respirator.

✓ **Health Screenings for Students and Staff:** *How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.*

- All health screening information is confidential.
- SUSD requires that staff and students who are ill or symptomatic or who have recently had close contact with a person who is symptomatic, pending test results or has tested positive for COVID-19, to stay home.
- School staff will monitor staff and students throughout the day for signs of illness and send home students and staff with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any student who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms will remain at home or if any student becomes ill while at school, the protocol for COVID-19 symptomatic students will be followed.

✓ **Healthy Hygiene Practices:** *The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their safe and appropriate use will be promoted and incorporated into routines for staff and students.*

- Signage will be posted throughout the campuses to remind individuals of health hygiene practices.
- Staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
 - Teach students and remind staff to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow.
 - Students and staff will wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after classes where they handle shared items, such as outside recreation, or art; and before and after using the restroom.

- Staff will model and practice handwashing.
- Staff and students will follow guidelines for hygiene and sanitation including:
 - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - When soap and running water are unavailable, students and staff will use hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Follow appropriate respiratory etiquette, which includes covering for coughs and sneezes.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Handwashing stations with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer in each classroom and shared areas/spaces.
- Additional, portable handwashing stations will be provided in areas with less than adequate access to other hand washing stations.
- Information contained in the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings will be provided to staff and families, which discusses the circumstances in which face coverings must be worn and the exemptions, as well as any policies, work rules, and practices the employer has adopted to ensure the use of face coverings.
- SUSD will provide and ensure staff use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines and all required protective equipment.
- During snacks, breakfasts, and lunches food and drinks will not be shared among students.

✓ **Identification and Tracing of Contacts:** *Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.*

- When possible, to reduce risk of exposure, staff will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, they will wait as long as practicable. Staff will ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation recommended for cleaning. Staff will keep disinfectant products away from students.
- SUSD will report a positive case of COVID-19 in a student or staff member to the Stanislaus County Public Health Provider Line within 24 hours of notification at 209-558-5678. The HR Department will notify public health to report employee positive cases; school nursing or administrative staff will notify public health to report student positive cases. SUSD will notify staff and families of students, who were in close contact of confirmed or suspected cases, of any positive case of COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
- When an employee tests positive for COVID-19, any employee who was in close contact with the positive case, will be notified by HR or administrative staff and may be asked to quarantine or self-isolate depending upon the timeline of exposure. HR or administrative staff will ask for a list of close contacts and contact the listed employees. Confidentiality will be maintained for all employees and students and specifics, including the name or

role of the employee, who tested positive, will not be shared. Employees who have concerns about exposure are encouraged to contact their medical provider.

- Any staff member testing positive for COVID-19 or who is suspected of having COVID-19 will be asked a series of questions related to contact tracing.
- A COVID-19 Contact Record Log will be maintained by the HR Department for staff and by the nursing or administrative staff for students. This log will track when SUSD was notified of testing positive for COVID-19 or who is suspected of having COVID-19, the date SUSD was notified, the date the nurse/administrator or HR Department contacted the infected person, the date Public Health was contacted and the infected individuals quarantine window.
- SUSD will work with Stanislaus County Public Health using SPOT, a syndromic and COVID surveillance system for case reporting and tracking. A close contact is described as anyone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 during their infectious period. An individual's infectious period starts 48 hours before symptom onset or, if someone is asymptomatic, 48 hours before the positive COVID test was taken. The individual is required to isolate during the infectious period (typically 10 days from onset of symptoms and 24 hours without a fever and improving symptoms). Modified quarantine periods may be utilized, as directed by county public health (with testing mandates) for both staff and students.
- Isolation - Recommendations for students (regardless of vaccine status) who are COVID positive or presumed positive:
 - Students who test positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from school for at least 5 days.
 - Isolation can end and students may return to school after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving, and a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.
 - If a student is unable or chooses not to test and their symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end and the student may return to school after Day 10. No test is required.
 - If the student has a fever and/or other symptoms are not resolving, isolation must continue and the student may not return to school until the fever resolves and symptoms improve.
 - Students must wear face coverings around others for a total of 10 days after the positive test, especially in indoor settings.
- Quarantine - Recommendations for students (regardless of vaccine status) exposed to someone with COVID-19 in a K-12 school:
 - There will no longer be individual contact tracing. We will implement group contact tracing.
 - Schools should notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness
 - Notification should occur to "groups" of exposed students (e.g., classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.) rather than contact tracing to identify individual "close contacts."
 - It is recommended that exposed students take a COVID test between Day 3-5. If this test is positive they will follow the isolation guidelines stated above.

- Quarantine - Recommendations for staff who are unvaccinated and exposed to someone with COVID-19:
 - Staff are required to quarantine for 5 days from the last date of exposure
 - On Day 5, they will complete a diagnostic test with a negative test result prior to returning to work on Day 6.
 - If an employee is unable to complete a diagnostic test, they will be quarantined for 10 days from the last date of exposure and are able to return to work on Day 11.
 - If a child or staff member is symptomatic with COVID symptoms they will be sent home and advised to see a medical provider for testing. If the medical provider tests the individual and the test result is negative the person can return to the school after the resolution of symptoms. If the medical provider writes a note and provides a reasonable alternative diagnosis the individual can return to school immediately based on the medical provider's guidance. If a student or staff member is unable or unwilling to get a COVID test or get a doctor's note they must remain in isolation for 10 days and be symptom free.
 - SUSD will follow mandates and laws as established by county, state and federal government, as they pertain to public schools, regarding the actions taken in response to a COVID-19 related illness including but not limited to isolation, quarantine, notification, and medical documentation.

✓ **Physical Distancing:** *How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff. Please provide the planned maximum and minimum distance between students in classrooms.*

- All additional, non-essential furniture and supplies have been removed to maximize all space possible.
- Student desks have been spread out to the extent possible.
- Class sizes have been reduced to allow for less individuals in each room.

✓ **Staff Training and Family Education:** *How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.*

- This plan including the COVID-19 Prevention Plan and COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist will be posted on the SUSD website.
- SUSD website, Parent Square, and social media platforms will be utilized to educate families on school precautionary procedures related to COVID-19.
- General COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols will be posted on the SUSD website.
- SUSD will make sure staff and families are aware of COVID-19 symptoms, when emergency medical attention may be required and facts related to COVID-19 such as people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness and symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
- Teachers will provide COVID-19 prevention and information to students.

- All staff will receive onsite training of the specifics of this application.

✓ **Testing of Staff and Students:** *How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Below, please describe any planned periodic asymptomatic staff or student testing cadence. Please note if testing cadence will differ by tier:*

- If exposed at work to a confirmed, positive COVID case, employees will be offered COVID-19 testing at no cost during their working hours. If an employee intends to get tested due to potential exposure to a confirmed COVID case, the employee will notify and work with the immediate supervisor to ensure coverage for the employee's position.
- COVID-19 Testing Options:
 1. SUSD offers free testing through Quest and/or eMed or other testing providers. Employees may contact the HR Dept at (209) 574-5000, ext 2700 to inquire about ordering and/or completing testing options due to exposure. Other testing kit and program options are currently being vetted for additional testing options.
 2. Stanislaus County Health Services Agency currently offers free testing. Stanislaus County Public Health recommends testing for COVID-19 if an individual meets one of the following criteria:
 - a. If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including fever, chills, cough, congestion, sore throat, difficulty breathing, headache, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell;
 - b. If you were in close contact (within 6 feet for over 15 minutes) or think you were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19;
 - c. If you work in an environment with high risk for exposure, such as a hospital or medical clinic, long-term care facility, homeless shelter or prison, factory, or farm;
 - d. You work in an occupation where you are frequently in contact with the public, including jobs such as first responders, teachers, personal caregivers, housekeepers, construction workers, food service/restaurant workers, gas station and grocery store workers.
 3. Testing can be obtained through the county public health agency: Stanislaus County Testing Information and Sites Link: <http://schsa.org/coronavirus/testing/>
- Students who display COVID-like symptoms or who have been a close contact to a positive COVID case will be advised to obtain a rapid or PCR test from their medical provider, through the county public health department, or provide visual confirmation of an at-home COVID testing kit. The at-home COVID testing kit will need to clearly display the student's name and testing date as an attestation that this is the individual who took the test and the date the test was administered. Stanislaus County Testing Information and Sites Link: <http://schsa.org/coronavirus/testing/>

✓ **Identification and Reporting of Cases:** *At all times, reporting of confirmed positive and suspected cases in students, staff and employees will be consistent with Reporting Requirements.*

- SUSD will notify local health officials, staff and all families within 24 hours of notification, during business hours,

- of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The HR Department will notify public health to report employee positive cases; school nursing staff will notify public health to report student positive cases.

✓ **Communication Plans:** *How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.*

- In coordination with the County Public Health Officer, SUSD will use electronic mail/distribution to immediately communicate to affected stakeholders of potential virus exposures. This communication will be consistent with legal counsel guidance regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

☐ **Consultation:** *(For schools not previously open)*

Please confirm consultation with the following groups (CSEA and SEA) - **Not Applicable as SUSD is already open under the school waiver process.**

For Local Educational Agencies (LEAs or equivalent) in PURPLE:

(For schools not previously approved under the Waiver Process)

☐ **Local Health Officer Approval:** The Local Health Officer, for (state County) _____, County has certified and approved the CRP on this date: _____. If more than 7 business days have passed since the submission without input from the LHO, the CRP shall be deemed approved.

Approval “Not Applicable” as SUSD has been approved under the school waiver process and is currently open (per page 10 and 12 CDPH Guidance dated January 14, 2021).